

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
March 14, 2023**

- Present:*** Ed Weistra, Mayor
Daniel Doell, Deputy Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Councillor
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
Jen Durell, Administrator
- Recording Secretary:*** Jen Durell, Recording Secretary
- Call to Order:*** Call to order at 1:01 p.m.
- Guests:*** None
- Approval of Agenda:*** **Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**
- Minutes:*** To accept the minutes of the February 14, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2023 Regular Council meeting. Carried.**
- To accept the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Budget meeting as presented.
- Motion made by Mayor Weistra to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Budget meeting. Carried.**
- Business Arising:*** a) Sacred Sounds Health Centre Proposal
Administration has been informed by Sacred Sounds that they are still working on their business plan as requested but will require 2 more months before they will be ready for presentation to Council.
- Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to bring this issue to the Council Meeting on May 9, 2023 for a decision, as a business plan has yet to be received by Council. Carried.**
- Village Foreman Report:*** Foreman Passmore is currently away at his annual AWWOA Conference in Banff. Foreman Passmore reports no real changes. Foreman Passmore has been busy with plowing and sanding this

last month. Foreman Passmore had Alberta Environment down for the annual inspection of the water plant earlier in March, which went well. Some recommendations were made by AB Environment for maintenance and upkeep. AB Environment suggests we switch to an air gap system at the bulk water station, which would change the current hose system to a retractable funnel configuration that would prevent any suction of water back into the system in the event of a loss of pressure. Otherwise, general maintenance of the Village continues.

Administrator Report:

Assessments have been mailed out now. Administrator Durell attended some Emergency Management training at the beginning of the month and now holds the ICS-200 certificate. There is further Emergency Management training to take place on March 23, 2023 relating to Alberta Emergency Alerts system, which Administrator Durell is unable to attend, however there will be other training sessions upcoming. Administrator Durell met with the Village Lawyer regarding the unsightly/untidy property to sign affidavits and as the affidavits are now filed with the courts, we can commence enforcement actions. Administration will be contacting the Bylaw Officer, as well as any other parties required to commence the clean-up action. Administration has met with a commercial realtor regarding the property known as the Fire Hall and has spoken to a surveyor to proceed with the subdivision of the Centennial Rock garden. The realtor has recommended that the Village have the property appraised, as well as having an environmental study done in preparation for listing the property for sale. An estimate was sent from the surveyor regarding the costs of the subdivision, which is more than the \$1,000.00 initially approved by Council. Work is continuing with year end reporting, and the grant application process will be started shortly. One of our GIC's is maturing in April; Administrator Durell will re-invest the principal plus interest for another year. Administrator Durell has been researching the costs of building a skating rink within the Village, and based on preliminary figures, grant funds will have to be shuffled in order to cover the cost of such.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to investigate the estimated cost of \$2,950.00 for the subdivision process of the Fire Hall property and obtain line item quotes for such.

Carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to instruct Administration to contact an appraiser to obtain a real value estimate of the property known as the Fire Hall. Carried.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to forego an environmental study of the Fire Hall property at this time. Carried.

Correspondence:

- Town of Tofield – Letter of Support
- Municipal Affairs – Updated MSI and CCBF funding
- Municipal Affairs – 2021 Red Tape Reduction Report
- Alberta Health Services – Administrator 90 day Report
- February Monthly Statement

Financial Reports:

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for the month of February, 2023.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the month of February, 2023. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statement for February, 2023. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Held a meeting for leadership appointments, as there have been some retirements within the board and executive committee.
- b) **Green Acres**
Meeting is upcoming on March 29th.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Deputy Mayor Doell attended a course last weekend related to his duties with Community Futures.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Annual General Meeting upcoming on April 5th, 2023.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Mayor Weistra took part in an interview with CBC Radio regarding the state of Municipal fire services and the struggles small municipalities are facing relating to lack of volunteers and increased requirements.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**

Next meeting upcoming in April.

g) **AG Society**

Discussed the success of Ag Days. Planning for next year has already begun, with the idea of booking a trailer that shows the process of farming “from farm to table”, which would cost approximately \$2,000.00 to rent for Family Fun Day. Renovations are being undertaken at the hall. There will be no Fire Department Spring Bingo this year. The AG Society has donated money to the Barons Legion so they can also undertake some much needed renovations. Annual AHS inspection has been done, and the kitchen at the Community Hall has passed inspection.

h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**

None

i) **Carmangay Library**

None.

New Business:

a) Letter of Commendation

The Village has received a letter of commendation regarding Mayor Weistra’s interview with the CBC in relation to the state of Volunteer Fire Services and the struggles smaller municipalities face.

b) Joint Use Planning Agreement

Due to changes made to the Municipal Government Act, the Village is required to have a Joint Use Planning Agreement with Palliser Schools in place by June, 2023. Administration has been in contact with the Superintendent to start the process of creating and formalizing this agreement.

c) Royal Canadian Legion Military Service Recognition Book

Each year the Village of Barons sponsors a business card ad in the Military Service Recognition Book for the Legion.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to place a business card ad in the Royal Canadian Legion Military Service Recognition book in the amount of \$315.00. Carried.

Closed Session:

None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 1:54 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Jen Durell