

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
September 12, 2023**

Present: Clinton Bishop, 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 7:00 p.m.

Guests: **Bob Baird – Fire at 330 Queen Street, Municipal Development Plan, Emergency Advisory Committee**

Concern was raised regarding the fire department, and lack thereof. Suggestions were made as to how the Village could possibly mitigate risk in the future.

Concern was raised as to whether the Village and Council were operating with regard to the Municipal Development Plan.

Concern was raised about the Emergency Advisory Committee. What are residents responsibilities in these situations.

Baird expressed other points to Council for their consideration.

Susan Sarazin – Letter, Transparency

Concerns regarding transparency. Would like to see agenda be put out to the public in advance of the meeting.

Speaks of letters written.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Organizational Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Organizational meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Regular Council meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the June 22, 2023 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2023 Special Council meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Regular Council meeting. Carried

Business Arising:

a) **Village Scrap Metals**

Council was presented with the findings of Administration relating to the collection and disposal of scrap metals by the Village.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept admin findings as information only. Carried

b) **Volunteer Policy for Special Projects**

Council was presented with the findings of Administration relating to the possibility of implementing a Volunteer policy.

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to establish a volunteer committee.

1 for, 2 opposed. Motion defeated.

Village Foreman Report:

New cap placed on dump station to repair. Bathrooms are now locked due to vandalism. Winterization to take place with sprinklers and sani dump. Taste in water since fire – says FD only pulled from 2 hydrants on Queen st. Spoke to Logan, Logan says fire would have stirred up sediments in the lines. South reservoir in Nobleford is done now, but work is continuing on the north reservoir. Suggests we put in a hydrant on Queen Street as a flush point and for extra firefighting coverage. As per ab environment we need to ensure all our lines are able to be isolated and shut down. Speaks of water pressure – maintaining 65-70 lbs of pressure at the plant. Says that we have 3 water valves that don't work and water shut offs wouldn't be able to be done. Would have to shut down water in the entire village to get that accomplished. Speaks of pump 1 going down at the sewer lagoon, and adequate maintenance being done on the sewer pumps. Speaks of changing rotating assemblies on the pumps. Pump 1 is now operational again. Every sprinkler has had to be replaced this year due to damage. Pressure transducer maintenance has been done now for

this year. Elm tree maintenance is due to be done Oct 1, now with new man lift we should be able to tackle the trees. Wants to focus on Elm Trees as they need work. Wants to clean up both Elm trees as well as poplar treetops. The new genie lift will be better for maintenance purposes as one can keep working. Speaks of LA Paving to be out this month to do paving work. Will be helping him with removal of the asphalt work, but LA Paving will be doing the cutting and re-paving. Will get better timeline. Tin work is ongoing, but there is no timeline as the job is now becoming more labour intensive. Speaks of Paul leaving at the end of September - suggests that Paul stay on til October due to tree trimming, or we hire a second townman. Speaks of need for second person re: replacing pumps at the sewer lagoon, safety concerns, extra hands, etc. Asks if public works can park equipment into the fire hall for the time being as we are currently getting a little cramped in the public works shop.

Administrator Report: All MSI grant applications have now been approved. All grant money has been received now, including the outstanding amounts from 2022. Administration received a letter from Municipal Affairs regarding the MAP cycle 2. As we participated early in Cycle 1, we won't be called upon until later in cycle 2 which runs from 2024-2027. Administration has met with the Village Lawyer a few times recently. Family fun day was a big success this year. The food bank donations collected totaled 194 lbs. of food worth \$682.88, plus \$495.50 cash. This was distributed accordingly. Administration has now hired a casual office employee, who started on July 10. Training is going well. Bylaw Enforcement seized 3 dogs from 120 King Street after reports of one dog attacking a neighbour. This was also reported to Alberta Health Services. Tenants evicted from 120 king street property as per AHS order and property now boarded up. Administrator Durell attended the LGAA conference in June. Lots of learning and networking opportunities. Always enjoyable to attend. Insurance renewal documents have been submitted, including the additions to the equipment policy. Administrator Durell has booked more Emergency Management training and will be attending ICS 300 in October. This is the final course required for compliance with the AB Emergency Management Act. Peace Officer Herasemluk was away for training throughout August, though he has completed some investigations and patrols. Administrator Durell received a verbal complaint from a resident who requests that Council to consider amending Dog Bylaw to force owners to fence their property to ensure dogs remain on their property. Administration has reinvested our GIC's that matured in July. The Property Tax deadline has now passed as of August 1, and penalties have been applied to accounts outstanding. Administrator Durell spoke with Fortis Alberta regarding the Christmas lights project. Administration has been informed that Coaldale Operations should be out within the next 4 weeks to complete the electrification of the poles. The recent residential fire investigation has

now been completed. As per the notes from Lethbridge Fire/EMS Dispatch, the response time for Nobleford Fire was 15 minutes from time of acknowledgement of the call-out to when they arrived on scene. The bills for the response are now in and have been applied to the tax account. Administrator Durell contracted Lethbridge County to grade Blayney Avenue while we awaited delivery of our grader. Blayney Avenue is in much better condition now. The Town of Nobleford has asked us to participate in voluntary water restrictions, as the Oldman River basin is quite low, which is impacting volume in the canals. Nobleford wishes to preserve what is in the reservoirs and keep appropriate flow. Notices of such were mailed out and posted at Canada Post and in the Village Office window to advise residents. The grader has now arrived – just waiting on insurance documents to come back so we can subsequently register this and put into service. The Village of Carmangay contacted Administrator Durell; they are still interested in using Foreman Passmore to supervise their Village Foreman for water sampling and testing. Carmangay Council be discussing such at their next regular meeting and notifying us if they want to proceed into an agreement for services. The Village Auditor is now booked for our annual pre-audit, which has been set for November 1 & 2. Administrator Durell and Deputy Mayor Doell will be attending the AB Municipalities Conference from September 26 – 29, which is always a great opportunity to learn more from our peers and network with our Municipal partners.

Correspondence:

- AB Municipal Affairs – Public Library Boards
- AB Municipal Affairs – MAP Cycle 2
- Cross Roads Soil Solutions – BACGOF product
- June Bank Reconciliation
- July Bank Reconciliation
- Deborah Reid-Mickler – AB Muni’s Nomination – Village’s South
- Town of Coalhurst – Miners Days Invitation
- AB Municipal Affairs – 2023 MSI and CCBF program
- Picture Butte Jamboree Days Invitation
- Green Acres Foundation – Board Appointment
- Lethbridge County Fire Services – Investigation Report
- ATCO Gas – Franchise Agreement
- AHS – Lab Integration
- Barons Legion #160 – Legion Week

Financial Reports:

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for the months of June, July and August, 2023.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the accounts payable for the months of June, July, and August, 2023. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to approve the monthly statements for June, July, and August, 2023. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Spoke of expansion of municipalities at last meeting. Was very informative about the process.
- b) **Green Acres**
Green Acres takes the summer off from hosting regularly scheduled meetings. Meeting upcoming next week.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
One meeting with CFLR. Pushed for administration staff to provide for financing for rural areas as well as the City of Lethbridge. Mayor Bishop wanted them to have booth at Family Fun Day but CFLR says they don't have the resources to do so. Next meeting is September 13th.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Meetings held regarding input on FCSS programming. The Board voted on a proposal for the Village of Stirling to apply for an ACP Partnership Grant on behalf of FCSS, and is currently working on spreading that out to the Municipalities that FCSS services and asking for their support in the endeavour.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Break for summer. Forgot to invite Mayor Bishop to the meeting in September. Next meeting is in October.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Discussed financial statements at last meeting.
- g) **AG Society**
Very happy with Family Fun Day and the events that took place. AG Society has had a busy summer with hall bookings. AG Society wishes to send their Thanks to Council and Public Works for the upgraded tin on the kitchen. Next meeting upcoming on September 14th.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Attended a meeting with the participants of the Regional Emergency Management Partnership and the consultant hired to build the program for us. Had a very productive meeting discussing the timelines, expectations and deliverables. Next meeting upcoming on October 6th.
- i) **Carmangay Library**

Lots of events happening at the library. Wants engagement to their website carmangaylibrary.ca. Will be opening a food bank at the Carmangay Library for residents to access should they need.

New Business:

a) Bylaw #753

Council was presented with the Anonymous, Abusive, Frivolous, and Vexatious Complaints Bylaw #753 for their consideration.

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to amend the bylaw to include a ratification process for council to have input in the decision-making process.

1 in favour, 2 opposed. Motion failed.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to put this matter over to our next meeting. Carried.

b) MPC Recommendation for Land Use Bylaw Amendments

Council was presented with amendments to Section 2, Table 2.2.1 as suggested by Mayor Bishop for their consideration.

Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to instruct Administration to research this further in consultation with our Municipal Planner. Carried.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to recess at 8:30pm for 15 minutes. Carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to return to the meeting at 8:45 pm. Carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm to commence at a later date. Carried.

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 8:45 p.m.