

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

Present: Daniel Doell, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Clinton Bishop, Councillor
Jen Durell, Administrator

Absent: Brian Passmore, Village Foreman

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing: **Bylaw #754 – Land Use Bylaw Amendments**
In attendance: Diane Horvath, Planner, ORRSC, B & R
Gullickson, C. Brierbach, S. Sarazin, B. Baird, W. & R. Vrooman,
S. Prost

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to open the Public
Hearing. Carried**

Mayor Doell gives preamble re: rules of order.

Ms. Horvath speaks of reason for Public Hearing.

Ms. Sarazin would like to know if there is a specific area looking to change or is it all throughout the Village.

Ms Gullickson would like to know the difference between commercial and industrial. Ms. Horvath speaks to the differences, as well as the changes and what they mean. No change to individual properties, but more of a blanket throughout the Village.

Mr. Baird speaks to concerns for elderly residents and concerns about them needing to move away rather than stay where they are. Wants assurances that Seniors will be allowed to remain and not be forced out. Concerns raised re: taxation and protections from mill rate increases for those in commercial properties. Speaks to waivers of taxation.

Ms. Sarazin questions who will enforce these changes.

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to close public
hearing. Carried**

Guests: **Angel Zucchiatti - Spring Clean-up**
Not in attendance.

Bob Baird – Processes

Speaks of budget and having a well thought out budget. Says it's a confusing process. Will Council be holding a public hearing to weigh into budget sessions? Will citizens be able to add input before budget is planned. Wants to know of sewer project and strategic reserves. Speaks of water system aging. Thinks it's important to focus on. Speaks of isolation valves not working as per Village Foreman. Says system has been banded together. Speaks of water lines being underground and not visible. Wants to see an effort made to look after the water system during budget sessions. Wants to see study done on water system. Says that major water system fixes will be a slap in the face to the village residents. Says a valve that doesn't work is a step away from catastrophic failure. Wants documented framework re: environmental issues on main street. Speaks to committee and wanting a committee created to do the study of the soil on main street.

Speaks of council remuneration. Wants more transparency. Wants better reports from committees. Says that there is no connect when information isn't given. Wants to see Council agendas made public. Wants to see everything that is not covered by FOIP. Says its taxpayer money that Council is spending.

Made comments about the Village website and says that there is a lack of content. Would like to see all policies, bylaws, etc. on the website. Spoke of the proposed vexatious bylaw and says the onus should be on the citizens to keep themselves informed.

Rebecca McDonnell-Vrooman – MDP, Communication, Vexatious Bylaw

Speaks of MGA definition and the requirement to pass the MDP. Speaks of Section 8 and 8.2 of the MDP. Wants the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to explain the liabilities that impacted their decisions to not pass the volunteer policy. Deputy Mayor Gorzitza spoke of the need of WCB coverage and Insurance liability of all volunteers

She would like a date as to when she would get an answer as to why they still didn't pass a volunteer policy.

Ms. Vrooman states that she thinks that the Village website is not user friendly. Says that there is no access to emergency contacts, as well as significant delays to post on the website. Wants an answer as to why minutes aren't posted in a timely fashion. Mayor Doell says he'll give an answer within four weeks.

Spoke of council meeting minutes and Bylaw #753. Wants the Mayor to clarify Bylaw #753 and what its intent was. Mayor Doell stated he'll give answers in 8 weeks.

Spoke of boil water order. Says information was slow to get out and wasn't informed until the following day. Wants to know how the Village will increase communication in the future during this type of situation. How could the boil water order be handled differently. An answer is demanded from the Village re communications. Mayor Doell stated next meeting.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Councillor Bishop approve the agenda as presented. Carried**

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Organizational Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Organizational meeting with the proposed amendments. Carried

To accept the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting with amendments as proposed. Carried

Business Arising: a) **Donation to Heaven Can Wait rescue**
Council was presented with an RFD (Request For Decision) relating to the request for donation to Heaven Can Wait Rescue, as they had taken in 2 of the dogs seized from 120 King Street.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to donate \$200.00 to Heaven Can Wait rescue in recognition of their assistance in providing shelter, veterinarian care, and subsequent adoptions for dogs. Carried

b) **Blackfoot Signage Project**
Council was presented with an RFD (Request For Decision) relating to the Blackfoot Signage Project.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to approve the application for a 12' x 48' sign through Community Futures for the Blackfoot signage project and install the signage upon

successful application at a cost of \$80.00 with the grant funding. **Carried**

- c) **EOEP Training**
Council was presented with an RFD (Request For Decision) relating to the EOEP Training.

Filed for information.

- d) **Bylaw #754**
Council was presented with Bylaw #754 – Land Use Bylaw Amendments for their consideration.

Presentation was made by Diane Horvath, Municipal Planner from ORRSC.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to read Bylaw #754 a second time this 14th day of November, 2023.

Carried

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council, a motion made by Councillor Bishop this 14th day of November, 2023.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to read Bylaw #754 a third and final time and finally passed this 14th day of November, 2023.

Carried

Village Foreman Report:

Foreman Passmore spoke of the recent water break – had spoken with Nobleford Town Foreman Logan Howes re: what occurred. Speaks of road overlay and being completed for the year. Additional overlay to take place next year. Speaks of the RCC being a good choice on Main Street. Power poles are electrified, so decoration mounts will be placed in the coming weeks. Lots of branches down after the wind storm – still a tree down on Milnes street but is located in the ditch and is not impacting the street.

Administrator Report:

Fortis Alberta was in the Village and has now completed the electrification of the poles for the Christmas decorations. Administrator Durell has been working on obtaining an accurate count for the replacement of street signs and street blades. Administrator Durell will be obtaining quotes within the next few weeks for same. Administrator Durell has contacted the RCMP relating to the vandalism of the stop signs in the Village – each sign is \$250.00 to replace. Attended another meeting regarding the Regional Emergency Management Partnership. The Village Auditors

had to re-schedule their pre-audit and are now coming Nov 15 – 16. Civic Solutions will also be here November 16 to work on the annual Tangible Capital Asset reporting. There was break in the water line that was suspected to have fed the grain elevators, which has been repaired. The Village was unaware of this line prior to the break. AB Environment and AHS commends the Village for our response to the break and being proactive in completing the repair and issuing the boil water advisory. All reporting is now complete for same, with both AB Environment and AHS pleased with the response and results. Administrator Durell attended a community information evening at the Barons School which was a great event. Administrator Durell attended a meeting with MPE Engineering regarding the sewage lift station project. Administrator Durell was informed that due to the 4 month lead time the manufacturer of the “FLYGT” system requires for fabrication, the project was pushed back so as to save money on additional bypass pumping and heating costs over the winter. The drafting is now all completed, with drawings to come to Council for their information in December. The project is planned to go to tender in January, with tender to close in February. Groundbreaking planned for April, and projected completion in June. MPE Engineering reports that some temporary workspace will be necessary to complete the trunk main portion of the project and will be in contact with adjacent landowners for same.

Correspondence:

- September Bank Reconciliation
- Lethbridge County – Council Board Appointments
- ORRSC – Notice of Change in Subdivision Fees
- Oldman Watershed Council – 2022 – 2023 Annual Report
- October Bank Reconciliation

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to accept the correspondence as presented. Carried

Financial Reports:

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of October, 2023.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to approve the accounts payable for the month of October, 2023. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statement for October, 2023. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Next meeting will be in December. Mayor Doell will attend.

- b) **Green Acres**
Attended meeting and discussion was held re: land that Green Acres is looking to purchase for future sites. Abbey Road Terrace construction is well underway. Discussion was held regarding Piyami Lodge and renovations to be done. Will need to start discussions over again as the Ministry has changed.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Increase in loan delinquencies. Requests for loan forgiveness increased. New loans to new businesses. Has increased KPI – handed out more loans than initially planned for this year and the fiscal year isn't over. Community Futures also helps with business planning, e-commerce, etc. Wanting an increase in rural communities rather than just Lethbridge.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Conference upcoming in Edmonton – wanting to get seniors and youth involved more with one another. Mayor Doell will be in attendance Nov 22 – 24.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Topics discussed were accessibility, wanting to bring in new housing quickly, bringing in new buildings for temporary and long-term use.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Next meeting in December
- g) **AG Society**
Christmas Market was successful. Turkey Bingo is upcoming on the weekend. AG Society is exploring air conditioning for the building. Grant is available for up to \$120,000.00, 80% grant. Plumbing repairs have been made with auto flushes on urinals. A few more bookings have been taken as well. AGM is upcoming in January.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Spoke of Terms of reference, draft bylaws.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Next meeting in December.

New Business:

- a) **Lethbridge County ACP Grant Application**
Council was presented with a request from Lethbridge County asking for the support of Council for their ACP grant application for the Lethbridge County Regional Waste Commission.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to support Lethbridge County in their ACP Grant application in the spirit of Intermunicipal Collaboration. Carried

b) Garbage Services Contract

Council was presented with the Coalhurst Garbage Services agreement for consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to instruct Administration to take this back to Coalhurst to renegotiate the agreement as written and remove the fuel surcharge. Carried

c) Bylaw #755

Council was presented with Bylaw #755 – Revised Chicken Bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to read Bylaw #755 a first time this 14th day of November, 2023. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to read Bylaw #755 a second time this 14th day of November, 2023. Carried

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council a motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to hold a third and final reading of Bylaw #755, this 14th day of November, 2023. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to read Bylaw #755 a third and final time and finally passed this 14th day of November, 2023. Carried

d) Utility Request from Seniors

A letter was received by Council requesting consideration for relief of Utility Charges from the Barons Senior Citizens Society.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to develop an annual application process to waive utility costs for the Village service organizations that would show a demonstrated need for the relief of charges. Carried

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell