

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
February 13, 2024**

Present: Daniel Doell, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Clinton Bishop, Councillor
Jen Durell, Administrator
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman

Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Guests: **Gavin Nummi, Engineer – MPE Engineering**
Gavin Nummi attended the Council meeting to discuss the Sewer Lift Station and Trunk Main replacement project and present the final draft of the drawings for same. Discussion was held.

Gavin reports that the award for tender should be by the March 12 Council meeting. They are working on obtaining a temporary workspace from the adjacent landowner. Will update in 2 weeks on same. MPE projects that the project will take 3-4 months to complete – substantial completion by September, final completion by October.

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza says the project sounds good and that we've been lucky with our current pumphouse. Comments that this new lift station will be state of the art when completed.

Councillor Bishop wants to know if there is any risks upcoming to timelines. Gavin says no, so long as we don't have any issues with the adjacent landowner. Procurement and construction may be impacted by wet weather, but the challenges will be identified in the tender documents and the contractors will be aware. If the contractor is delayed, then there is recourse in the tender documents.

Councillor Bishop wants to know if our current easement should be amended. Gavin says that it is possible and advisable and will ask Bridgeland to enquire of same.

Councillor Bishop questions about cost for disruption to adjacent farming operations. Gavin says it is eligible for the grant funds and we should not be out of pocket for same.

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

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024 Regular Council meeting as presented. **Carried**

Business Arising: a) **Bylaw Enforcement Agreement**
Council was presented with the proposed agreement for Bylaw Enforcement with the Town of Coalhurst. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to approve and sign the Bylaw Enforcement Agreement as presented. **Carried.**

b) **Proposed Land Use Bylaw Amendments**
Presentation was made by Kattie Schlamp, Planner from ORRSC. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to instruct Kattie Schlamp to draft a bylaw to allow for Sea-cans in residential areas. **Carried.**

Village Foreman Report: Foreman Passmore reports things have been ok. Sewage lagoon has been having issues as of late – generator has been good, but it will be better when generator kicks on and off by itself. Power outage last week prompted generator to run all weekend long as power was not restored till Monday last week. Pumps were losing prime and had to replumb the inlet for pump 1 as vibrations from the pumps are causing the plumbing to slowly disconnect. Lots of plowing as of late.

Administrators Report: Administration has been in contact with the Zone Director of Track Maintenance for CPKC regarding their untidy property in town. CPKC reports that the untidy property will be remedied. They also spoke of the railroad ties on the property and advised that there was potential that this could be remedied this year. Work continues on the Year End reporting and Final Audit. The Village Auditors will be here Feb 20th and 21st to complete the onsite audit. The Village has been approached to work in conjunction with the Barons School to collaborate on a project with some seed funding from AHS to promote healthier communities. We have decided to look into purchasing some outdoor exercise equipment and to install this at our Municipal playground. The signs for the signage project have now been ordered and we are under budget for the

same. Had a meeting with our FortisAlberta representative and discussed our utility costs, options, etc. Attended two webinars regarding the LGFF Capital transition. Registered both Administration and Public Works for an upcoming Drought Workshop in Lethbridge being held by the Oldman Watershed Council at the end of February. The Assessment roll is now in, and work continues to input the 2024 assessed values. We are seeing a 36% increase in assessed values overall.

- Correspondence:**
- January Bank Reconciliation
 - AB Environment – Drought Management Plan
 - Heaven Can Wait Animal Rescue – Thank You
 - FCSS – Report to Municipalities
 - Safety Codes Council – 2022 Annual Internal Review Approval
 - Community Peace Officer Monthly Report
 - Green Acres – 2024 Requisition

Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the correspondence as presented. Carried

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of January, 2024.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the accounts payable for the month of January, 2024. Carried

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve the monthly statement for January, 2024. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Next meeting is in March
- b) **Green Acres**
Had a meeting and went through financials for the apartments. Discussion of Piyami Lodge is main focus – The provincial government owns it, Green Acres manages. The building needs a lot of work and Green Acres is advocating for the replacement of same. Many discussions taking place with Ministers.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Had a meeting at end of January. Alberta is the only province where Community Futures hasn't re-negotiated a new agreement with the Federal Government. Community Futures needs another \$150,000 for operating costs and are pressuring the Provincial Board to increase funding for all Alberta chapters.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**

This month is volunteer month and thanking everyone for their volunteerism. FCSS has a program upcoming for low income individuals to assist with income tax filings.

- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Spoke about water projects at the last meeting. Lots of discussion of drought management, and the Province currently stating that Alberta is at a level 4 of 5 on their Water Shortage Management Plan.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Only meet every 3 months.
- g) **AG Society**
Had an AGM last month. George Hebenik has been elected new chair of the AG society. Will be wrapping up planning for events. Attended 4H event to judge public speaking.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
HIRA's (Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment) are now completed. Attended a meeting on January 26 – Discussed the draft Bylaws and the Ministerial Order application. Next meeting upcoming at the end of February.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Will be coming to Barons to hold library functions. They were hoping for a March start date, but are now projecting April will be the pop-up which will be at the Seniors Centre

Councillor Bishop also reports on elected officials training that himself and Mayor Doell are taking. Last course of 4 will be Feb 15, 2024.

New Business:

- a) **Utility Relief Program Request**
Council was presented with an application by the Barons Memorial United Church for the Utility Relief for Non-Profits program. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to provide relief from utilities for the Barons Memorial United Church for the 2024 calendar year. Carried

Closed Session:

None

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell