

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
December 10, 2024**

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 7:00 p.m.

Guests: *None*

Approval of Agenda: Administrator Durell requests an amendment to the agenda under New Business to discuss the Town of Coalhurst's invitation to their Regional Council Workshop.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to amend the agenda to add item (f) Regional Council Workshop.

Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to amend the agenda to add an item titled "Communication and Support to Council Policy" under New Business.

Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve the agenda with the amendments as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the November 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2024 Regular Council meeting as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Business Arising: a) **Harassment Policy #078**
Council was presented with Harassment Policy #078 for their consideration. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to adopt Policy #078 – Workplace Harassment, Bullying and Violence policy as

presented.

Carried Unanimously

- b) **Bylaw # 763 – Revised Councillor Code of Conduct**
Council was presented with the revised Councillor Code of Conduct for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to make further amendments relating to respectful online conduct.
Carried unanimously.

- c) **Bylaw # 764 – Revised Establish an MPC**
Council was presented with the revised establish an MPC bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to make further amendments to amend section 7, and to add a section requiring the publishing of minutes.

Carried Unanimously

Village Foreman Report:

Lots of plowing. Had more sand delivered in preparation for winter. Got the Christmas lights up, including at the front entrance. Had an issue at the sewer plant - Pump 1 went down but this has since been fixed and things are running smoothly now. Completed the water and sewer connection for 326 Queen Street. Still obtaining quotes for the water plant roof – have asked 2 companies for quotes but no one has come back yet.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to change the scope of the project to include a flat roof replacement.
Carried Unanimously.

Administrators Report:

Attended an info session for Elections Alberta regarding the changes that were made to the Local Authorities Election Act. The Sewer Project is at a standstill now as we are waiting for the final electrical components to arrive for installation. The commissioning has been postponed until January as the pump supplier is required to be on site when commissioning happens, and the 80 hour run test is conducted but unfortunately the pump supplier's office closes for Christmas as of December 15th and they were booking 3 weeks ahead. The Autodialler is ready for installation, as are the remote monitoring components.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to amend the agenda to include the repeal of the rental policy under business arising.
Carried Unanimously

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to repeal the Rental Policy #66.

Correspondence:

- November Bank Reconciliation
- Town of Coaldale – Night of Lights Invitation
- AB Government, Housing Division – Designation of Affordable Housing Accomodations
- Oldman River Regional Services Commission – Christmas Greetings
- Oldman River Regional Services Commission – GIS Orthophoto
- Adriana Feenstra – Christmas Food Hampers
- Community Peace Officer Monthly Report – October
- Community Peace Officer Monthly report - November
- Oldman River Regional Services Commission – 2025 Membership Fee

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

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitz to approve the monthly statement for November, 2024. Carried unanimously

- a) **ORRSC**
Had their board meeting on Thursday. Costs are increasing by 8%
- b) **Green Acres**
Had a meeting to discuss the Provincial Governments hesitation to renovate Piyami Lodge. Discussions about the other properties and whether or not they will expand their existing buildings. Going back to the Ministers for a commitment for funding for Piyami.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Relatively normal on the loan front – a few approvals. Looking for new ways to increase operating funding. Local community futures meeting with those from BC to discuss supports for purchasing businesses.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**

FCSS attending the seniors seems to be a success.

e) **Mayors and Reeves**

Had Mayors and Reeves on Dec 5. Nathan Neudorf attended and spoke to those in attendance. Nathan Neudorf is hosting a movie night at the Movie Mill on the weekend.

f) **Chinook Arch Library System**

Discussed financials and the 2025 budget. Had a library in Stand Off which hasn't reopened since covid – Having to hire trenching to put in wireless which was a large cost. Moneys is being donated from another library board as they have a grant they need to use. The chair of the board has stepped down but remains on the board, and a new chair has been appointed. Discussed committee appointments. Next meeting in Jan

g) **AG Society**

Held turkey bingo despite bad weather attendance was good. Looking to buy a commercial sanitizer for the kitchen. Looking to partner with the Village for grants.

h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**

Next meeting is set tentatively for January 15 for a status update.

i) **Carmangay Library**

1st Thursday of the month at the seniors may be changing as the board meeting dates have changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays. Just had their party last week. Had to replace some melted siding from the house fire next door.

New Business:

a) **Utility Bills Regarding Postal Strike**

In light of the ongoing postal strike with Canada Post, there will be some difficulties sending out the utility bills for the “out of town” addresses and collecting payment on accounts as they are paid by cheque which is mailed. Discussion was held.

b) **Public Safety Policy Discussion**

As there has been an increase in violence and aggression shown to Village Staff, as well as threatening behaviour, would Council consider implementing a safety policy for staff. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to develop a public safety policy to outline procedures for Public Works Staff when engaging in activities that may pose a hazard to residents who refuse to vacate a designated work area. The policy will include clear guidelines for

communication, escalation, and documentation to ensure the safety of both staff and residents.

Carried Unanimously

- c) **Policy #046 – Exceptions to the Smoke Free Places Act**
Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to repeal Policy #046 – Exceptions to the Smoke Free Places Act and designate all Village owned equipment and buildings as non-smoking.

Carried Unanimously.

- d) **Interim Budget**
Council was presented with the 2025 Interim Budget for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to approve the 2025 Interim Budget as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

- e) **Village Holiday Schedule**
As in previous years, the Village Office and Public Works have been closed between Christmas and New Year's. It is proposed that the Office and Public Works be closed between noon on December 23rd to January 2nd, 2025 inclusive.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to close the Village Office and Public Works on December 23rd at 12:00 noon and remain closed until January 2nd, 2025 inclusive.

Carried Unanimously

- f) **Regional Council Workshop Invitation**
Council has received a letter from the Town of Coalhurst inviting them to attend a Regional Council Workshop to discuss regional priorities. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to send Mayor Doell to the Regional Council Workshop hosted by the Town of Coalhurst.

Carried Unanimously.

- g) **Communication and Support to Council Policy**
Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct administration to draft a communication and support to Council Policy.

Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to go incamera at 8:35 p.m under FOIP Act – 17(4)(f) and FOIP Act (17)(4)(d). Carried Unanimously

Mayor Doell returned to the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Carried Unanimously

It is recommended to provide a cost-of-living increase of 4% for Public Works. It is also recommended that the Administrator be provided with a \$15,000.00 wage increase to keep in line with current rate standards for comparable positions.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve a 3.1% cost of living increase for the Public Works Foreman effective January 1, 2025. Carried Unanimously.

Carried Unanimously.

Carried Unanimously.

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Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell