

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
April 8, 2025**

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: **Will Vrooman – AG Society Gardening Committee – Possible locations for greenhouse boxes**
Will Vrooman speaks of looking for locations for greenhouse boxes to be placed. These would ideally be placed by the School or the old Hotel Site. Speaks of a preference being on the Hotel Site so they could have access to water, with by the School being a last-resort location due to the lack of traffic.

Foreman Passmore questions what about mowing the property, and the potential impact by Public Works if Public Works comes to mow the premises.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to instruct Administration to enter into a use agreement with the AG Society to use the property known as Plan 2605X, Block 3, Lot 31 for the placement of garden boxes. Carried Unanimously

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

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the March 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2025 Regular Council meeting as presented. Carried Unanimously

To accept the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Special Council meeting as presented.

Carried Unanimously

To accept the minutes of the April 8, 2025 Budget Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2025 Budget meeting as presented.

Carried

Unanimously

Business Arising:

- a) **Bylaw # 765 – Revised Traffic Bylaw**
Council was presented with the revised Traffic Bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to read Bylaw #765 a third and final time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Daniel and Ron for,

Clinton against.

Carried.

- b) **Bylaw # 766 – Alternative Methods for Advertising Statutory Notices on Planning and Development Matters Bylaw**
Council was presented with the Alternative Methods for Advertising Statutory Notices on Planning and Development Matters Bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to read Bylaw #766 a first time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to read Bylaw #766 a second time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried.

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council a motion made by Councillor Bishop to hold a third and final reading of Bylaw #766, this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to read Bylaw #766 a third and final time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried.

Village Foreman Report: Wrapped up trimming the elm trees. Also trimmed back some of the ash trees which were overhanging the roads. The sewer lagoon project is almost done. Some site training is to take place next week. Next week will be when the pump tests will take place. Have been working on some spring cleaning and stump grinding.

Administrators Report: Submitted the tax notification list for 2025 to AB Land Titles. Administration has received multiple complaints of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use within the Village – Have forwarded this on to Bylaw Enforcement for further investigation. Will also attempt to outreach to either Bylaw Enforcement or the RCMP and the School district to educate young students about the hazards. Received calls re: 2025 assessments – referred to assessor. Work continues on budget and planning goals. Attended quite a few meetings in the last month. Administration has been approached for a few community initiatives – One being a Village wide garage sale, and whether we would be hosting one. Barons School has reached out to inquire about doing Acts of Community Kindness – Will coordinate with them to do a “Village Clean-up” day and have the students rake leaves, clean up trash, etc.

Correspondence:

- March Bank Reconciliation
- Green Acres Foundation – Report to the Community 2024
- Bylaw Enforcement – March Monthly Report
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Education Property Tax
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Provincial Priorities Act and Municipal Sector Update
- Alberta Emergency Management Agency – 2024/2025 Municipal Emergency Program Review
- Alberta Police Governance – Summary of Policing Legislation Information Sessions

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

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of March, 2025.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the accounts payable for the month of March, 2025.

Carried unanimously

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to approve the monthly statement for March, 2025. **Carried unanimously**

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
No report at this time.
- b) **Green Acres**
Meeting upcoming at the end of April
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Community Futures now offering AI courses for businesses to integrate AI into their business practices. Free to attend.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
FCSS asking if they can also use hotel site for kids games in the summer.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Spoke of federal election upcoming.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
No report at this time.
- g) **AG Society**
Working on replacing the sign on the highway – larger letters and more visibility.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Met on March 24. We had our annual review from Alberta Emergency Management, which we passed. Discussed the emergency plan and the regional partnership bylaw. The hope is to have the bylaws all signed by the respective Councils by the beginning of May, so that the inaugural meeting of the regional committee can take place towards the end of May. Invites have gone out for same. Discussion about upcoming training dates. Next meeting to take place in early June.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Working on grant funding to get more programming. The library will be switching the day they are coming to Barons from Thursdays to Fridays.

New Business:

- a) **Bylaw # 767 - Regional Emergency Management Bylaw**
Council was presented with the Regional Emergency Management Bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to read Bylaw #767 a first time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried unanimously

Motion made by Mayor Doell to read Bylaw #767 a second time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried unanimously

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council a motion made by Councillor Bishop to hold a third and final reading of Bylaw #767, this 8th day of April, 2025. Carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to read Bylaw #767 a third and final time this 8th day of April, 2025.

Carried unanimously

b) Account Write Offs

Two outstanding accounts with charges stemming from 2021 and 2022 need to be written off.

E. Schmidt, Utility Account # SCHME001 – \$391.68

E. Litovitch, Utility Account # LITOE001 – \$339.67

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to write off two accounts whose combined total is \$731.38.

Carried unanimously

c) Discussion of Policy for Council Devices

Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to amend the policies and bylaws as needed to allow for council to choose from predetermined devices, or personal use devices with compensation offered at a value equivalent to the value of device which is to be made available to Council.

Carried unanimously

d) Bylaw Enforcement Discussion

Discussion was held.

Councillor Bishop expresses dissatisfaction with the level of service from Bylaw Enforcement.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to send a letter to Coalhurst Council outlining the concerns and complaints of the service level we are receiving without resolution.

Carried unanimously

e) LGAA Annual Conference

Administration would like to attend this year's annual conference scheduled for June 17th – 20th, in Canmore, AB.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to have Administrator Durell attend the LGAA Conference in Canmore, June 17th – 20th inclusive. Carried unanimously

Closed Session:

- a) **Offer to Purchase
FOIP ACT – Sections 16, 24, and 25**

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to go incamera to discuss the Offer to Purchase as per FOIP Act – Sections 16, 24, and 25 at 8:21 pm.

Carried unanimously

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza departed at 8:34 pm

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza returned at 8:36 pm

Mayor Doell departed at 8:54 pm

Mayor Doell returned at 8:57 pm

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to come out of camera at 9:04 p.m.

Carried unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to send a letter outlining Councils position.

Carried unanimously

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 9:17 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell