

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
December 9, 2025**

Present: Kyle Prince, Mayor
Belinda Rempel, Deputy Mayor
Robert Baird, Councillor
Jen Durell, Administrator

Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 7:01 p.m.

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Mayor Prince to move item 12(a) out of the closed session and into new business as item 11(e).**
Carried unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the agenda with the amendments as discussed.
Carried Unanimously

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Regular Council meeting as presented.
Carried Unanimously

Business Arising: **a) Policy #085 – Council Devices Policy**
Council was presented with Policy #086 – Council Devices Policy for their consideration. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to adopt Policy #085 – Council Devices Policy as presented. **Carried unanimously**

b) Bylaw #773 – Remuneration Bylaw
Council was presented with Bylaw #773 – Remuneration Bylaw Amendment for their consideration. Discussion was held

Motion made by Mayor Prince to read Bylaw #773 a first time this 9th day of December, 2025. **Carried unanimously.**

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to read Bylaw #773 a second time this 9th day of December, 2025.

Carried unanimously.

Village Foreman Report:

Snow removal has been taking up a majority of time as of late. Attempting to keep roads and walks passible. Unfortunately there was an incident with the plow truck where it hit the ditch. No injuries and no damage to the truck or equipment. A big thank you to Tom Diplock for his assistance in getting out of the ditch. Plow truck sander was down for maintenance but it is back in operation. Work continues as weather permits to attempt to diagnose the car wash system to see if it is repairable. The water pooling at the Greenhouse remains a mystery. Have spoken with previous town men, our engineers, consulted maps, etc. and to our records, there is no water line under Railway Avenue. Testing has been done on the water, and there are no chlorine residuals, as well as the pH is different from the water at the plant, so it leaves us stumped as to where the water may be coming from. Water pumphouse and sewer lift station are both running smoothly. Christmas lights on Main Street will be going up this week.

Administrators Report:

Had Xplore out to upgrade our internet connection. Unfortunately, Xplore cannot deliver the speeds we would need for the Council Meeting Streaming Strategy, so we are now exploring other options, such as the TELUS hub or Starlink for increasing the bandwidth. Attended the ABMuni's convention in Calgary which was a great networking and learning opportunity. Highlights of which were the session regarding Intermunicipal Collaboration, as well as the Municipal Affairs Address and the Minister's Dialogue sessions. The Village Auditors were here November 18 and 19 for the pre-audit. We have completed the hardware upgrades at the office with the municipal software transition taking place. Attended a meeting with FCSS to discuss priorities for 2026. Also attended the Regional Emergency Management Partnership Tabletop exercise, which was a resounding success.

Correspondence:

- Chinook Sexual Assault Centre
- National Police Federation Report and Slide Deck
- ORRSC – Assessment Review Board Member Training
- Land and Property Rights Tribunal – Assessment Review Board and Subdivision Appeal Board Training
- October Bank Reconciliation

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the correspondence as presented.

Carried unanimously.

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

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the accounts payable for the months of November, 2025.

Carried unanimously

Motion made by Councillor Baird to approve the monthly statement for November, 2025.

Carried unanimously

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Decided to go to a more conservative funding model. Variable charges have dried up since 2021/2022. No more IMP's and IMDP's. Going to a member pay system which will cover static expenses. Budget went up 14% this year, which translates to a \$700 increase for Barons. Vice Chair was reelected; Chris Northcott was reelected president.
- b) **Green Acres**
Starting annual Christmas parties. Mostly confidential financials.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Interesting meeting. Provides loans to small businesses as well as Blackfoot signage program. Mostly confidential financials
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Attended FCSSAA conference. Most FCSS groups are small, whereas ours comprises of 16 member communities and benefits from the large pool. FCSS Director was elected as co-chair of the FCSS Directors Network.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Not much to report. Have not heard back from Alberta Liquor and Gaming on when they will come do a presentation. Library boards are now being passed over for Casinos if they have members of staff on the friends of the library board. Supposed to have a presentation from Healthy aging in the new year. No answers about first come, first serve water rights from the Minister. Heard about issues with Chinook Arch telecom system.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Attended via Zoom. Meeting was garbled. Revisions to existing policies and elected executives. Conversations re: budget.

Mayor Prince attended the trustee extravaganza. Lots of great discussion. Has been brainstorming about starting a library board

in Barons so they can access grant funds, and partnering with the Carmangay Library for increased programming and access.

g) **Ag Society**

Nothing to report at this time.

h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**

The Regional Partnership held their first tabletop exercise on December 3rd at the County Office. The exercise was a great success and was very informative. It was fantastic to see the plan at work and to show how we all work together to manage disasters/emergencies. The ministerial order approval has finally been granted, so the Regional Partnership and our individual commitment to same has now been solidified.

i) **Carmangay Library**

Getting to know everyone was nice. Very exciting things upcoming in the summer. Library attendant is doing a fantastic job as per librarian. Wants to expand the library. Discussed funding for the potential of getting a summer student in Barons this summer. Has Wi-Fi sticks on loan.

Wants to discuss at budget to enhance our requisition to Carmangay library.

New Business:

a) **Utility Relief Application**

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 Mayor Prince to provide relief from utilities for the Barons Memorial United Church for the 2026 calendar year.

**For: Councillor Baird and
Deputy Mayor Rempel
Against: Mayor Prince
2 for, 1 against. Carried.**

b) **Interim Budget**

Council was presented with the 2025 Interim Budget for their consideration.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the 2025 Interim Budget as presented. Carried Unanimously.

c) **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 5th, 2026 inclusive.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to close the Village Office and Public Works on December 23rd at 12:00 noon and remain closed until January 5th, 2026 inclusive.

Carried Unanimously

- d) **Bylaw #774 – Regional Assessment Review Board Bylaw**
Council was presented with Bylaw #774 – Remuneration Bylaw Amendment for their consideration. Discussion was held

Motion made by Mayor Prince to read Bylaw #774 a first time this 9th day of December, 2025. Carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to read Bylaw #774 a second time this 9th day of December, 2025.

Carried unanimously.

- e) **AB Food Rescue Discussion**
Council was presented with emails from AB Food Rescue. Discussion was held.

Mayor Prince abstains from discussion due to a potential conflict of interest as per Section 172.1 of the Municipal Government Act.

Mayor Prince departed the meeting at 7:57 pm

Motion made by Councillor Baird to instruct administration to start lease negotiations with AB Food Rescue for the purposes of renting space for their operations.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to have a 5 minute recess at 8:15 pm

Carried

Mayor Prince returned to the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to reconvene the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Carried unanimously

Closed Session: a) **Wages and Christmas Bonuses - ATIA Section 29 (1)(a)**

Motion made by Mayor Prince to go incamera at 8:32 p.m under the ATIA Section 23(1)(a).

Carried Unanimously

Motion made by Mayor Prince to come out of camera at 3:07 p.m. Carried Unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve a 2.2% cost of living increase for the Public Works Foreman effective January 1, 2026. Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve a 6.5% for the Administrator, effective January 1, 2026. Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Councillor Baird to approve a \$1/hour increase for the support staff, effective January 1, 2026. Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to provide a Christmas bonus of \$500.00 for Administrator Durell and \$250.00 for Public Works Foreman and for the Casual Employees. Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 9:11 p.m.

Mayor – Kyle Prince

Administrator – Jen Durell