

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
April 14, 2026**

Present: Kyle Prince, Mayor
Belinda Rempel, Deputy Mayor
Jen Durell, Administrator
Wade Krushel, Village Foreman

Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 6:52 p.m.

Guests: **Peter Casurella – Southgrow**
Southgrow primarily works in Economic Development – 1 of 9 agencies across the province. Southgrow is who represents the South zone. Southgrow is controlled by Municipalities and driven by Municipalities. They work mostly on doing projects on behalf of Municipalities that Municipalities can't do on their own.

Work on research for projects and speaking to investors to bring in economic boosts to the area. Speaks of work to support member Municipalities and support for regional developments specifically for Villages as there is not enough volunteers, staff, etc to focus on economic development on the local level.

Southgrow also offers a grant hotline for municipalities, and the assistance they can provide to Munis for grant applications. Any organization (including non-profits) can get advice for projects and help identify grants, grant stacking, grant writing workshops, etc. Their primary focus as of late is working on individual economic development plans for communities. Their average leverage ratio shows 9.5 overall in the 12 years of financial records provided. Cost would be \$391.25 annually based on a per capita basis.

29 member communities, plus outside organizations are members currently. Board meetings are held quarterly. Meetings tend to be closer to Lethbridge but move around so folks can attend. 5 member executive committee is voted on by all board members. Next meeting is April 23 at Picture Butte Golf Club. In order to obtain membership, any municipality needs to send letter to the board asking for membership.

Deputy Mayor Rempel asks about Terragraph Technologies Project. Peter explains that it is a short-wave Wi-Fi that works well

if a clear line of sight is available. Speaks of the solutions that are available within our area.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the agenda as presented. Carried

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the February 24, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2026 Regular Council meeting as presented. Carried

To accept the minutes of the February 24, 2026 Budget Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2026 Budget meeting as presented. Carried

Business Arising:

a) Bylaw #775 – Establish a Library Board Bylaw

Council was presented with Bylaw #775 – Establish a Library Board Bylaw for their consideration. Discussion was held

Motion made by Mayor Prince to instruct Administration to amend the bylaw as discussed. Carried

b) Urban Rabbits

Discussion was held

Motion made by Mayor Prince to table the urban rabbits discussion until June 9th, 2026. Carried

Village Foreman Report:

Public works reports that the carwash will be opening soon as things seem to be in working order. Hours to be determined. Work on cleaning up boulevards continues. Preparing underway for family fun day. Tree trimming will be upcoming. Massey Ferguson tractor is now up and running again – flushed and new filters. Had a power surge at the Sewer lagoon and knocked out power to the lagoon pumps. Ran on the generator for a few hours while power was restored. Had MPE out to repair the fuses that had blown.

Administrators Report:

Submitted the tax notification list for 2026 to AB Land Titles. Received calls regarding the 2026 assessments; these have been referred to our Assessor. Work continues on the budget and planning goals. Submitted the final update to the elections register to Elections Alberta as required after the 2025 general election.

Administration has signed a new data sharing agreement with Elections Alberta for the upcoming by-election. This will allow us to share data between the Village and Elections Alberta for the purposes of maintaining and updating the Voters Register, which is now required as per the Municipal Government Act.

Attended quite a few meetings in the last month. Attended the first Tri-County Community meeting hosted by FCSS. This meeting was for introductory purposes, but ultimate goals are to increase outreach across multiple partner agencies serving Picture Butte, Nobleford, Barons and Lethbridge County. Administration has booked a refresher course on the Alberta Emergency Alert system which is to take place at the end of April. Administration has received an update from the engineers regarding the 2026 Improvements Project – The project had gone out for tender in March, though there were only two companies who submitted RFQ’s (Request for Quotations) for the project and both were over the budgeted amount. MPE Engineering was to set up a meeting with the lower bid to see if there was any clarification we could provide to save on costs and/or amend the quotation as submitted.

Correspondence:

- FCSS Report to Municipalities – Family Support Services
- FCSS – Annual Funding Contribution
- February Bank Reconciliation
- Turin Community Club – Family Easter Toy and Ham Bingo Fundraiser
- March Bank Reconciliation
- CPO Monthly Report – March 2026
- Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services – Annual Policing Share Cost
- Dylan Bressey – Bill 28 Announcements
- Municipal Affairs – Letter from Minister Williams regarding Bill 28
- AB Munis – Preliminary Analysis of Bill 28
- AB Munis – Upcoming EOEP Training
- Municipal Affairs – Assessment Model Review
- Municipal Affairs - Bill 26 Fact Sheet

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

Financial Reports:

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the months of February and March, 2026.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the accounts payable for the months of February and March, 2026.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the monthly statements for February and March, 2026.

Carried

Committee Reports:

a) **ORRSC**
Nothing to report

b) **Green Acres**
Nothing to report – all confidential.

Administration received a letter from Green Acres requesting a letter of support from the Village for them to apply for further external funding for the Piyami Lodge rebuild. There are no financial considerations involved from the Village; simply a letter stating we support them in making application for external funding.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to instruct administration to write a letter of support for the Green Acres Foundation for application for external funding to support the Piyami Lodge rebuild. **Carried.**

c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Nothing to report.

d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Nothing to report.

e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Nothing to report.

f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Levy is increasing for the Village for this year. Financial statements were discussed, as well as personnel policies

g) **Ag Society**
Spoke of bookings upcoming. Elks oyster dinner June 20. Family Fun Day, hosting a show-and-shine and dinner. Call Wendy Hebenik for bookings for the market. Ag days discussed – to be held June 6th. Want to get local vendors in for a market.

h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Attended the annual Hazard Season Outlook, hosted by Alberta Emergency Management Agency. Had a meeting with the Regional Emergency Management Agency (REMA) to go over software proposals for incident management. Both software

systems demonstrated were suitable for use; just waiting on updated pricing models before a decision is made. The REMA will be meeting again at the end of April. Director of Emergency Management workshop is also booked for the end of April.

- i) **Carmangay Library**
Nothing to report.

New Business:

- a) **Failure to File Campaign Disclosure Statement**
Council was presented with a report outlining the failure of Robert Baird to file a campaign disclosure statement following the 2025 municipal general election by the deadline of March 1, 2026. This report is presented as information only under Section 147.7(3) of the Local Authorities Election Act.
- b) **Historical Video Partnership**
Council was presented with an RFD for a request to film a historical video. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the historical video request to be funded in a 50/50 partnership with the Barons and District Historical Society. Carried

- c) **Date for Tax Auction**
Council was presented with the fair market assessment for the following properties that will be offered at the Public Auction. Council is asked to set the public auction date and set the reserve bids for these properties that are in tax arrears. It is suggested that the Public Auction date be set for June 24, 2026.

<u>Plan/Block Lot</u>	<u>Reserve Bid</u>
Plan 2605X, Block 1, Lots 18, 19, P20	\$50,000.00
Plan 5929HQ, Block 20, Lot A	\$85,100.00

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to set the tentative date of June 24, 2026 as the Public Auction date for the above noted properties that are in tax arrears and that it should be held at 10:00 am at the Village Office.

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Prince to set the reserved bids as presented for the properties that are to be sold at the Public Auction.

Carried

- Closed Session:* a) none

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

Mayor – Kyle Prince

Administrator – Jen Durell