

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
May 12, 2026**

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

Absent: Wade Krushel, Village Foreman

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 6:58 p.m.

Guests: **Jackie Seely – STARS Air Ambulance**

STARS was founded and flew first mission to Lethbridge in 1985. No cost to patient for STARS flights. Speaks of how STARS was founded. STARS stands for Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service. Bases are located across Western Canada – Calgary, Edmonton, Grand Prairie, Saskatoon, Regina, and Winnipeg. Speaks of types of incidents that STARS responds to and the chain of survival partners (fire depts, search and rescue, AB Health fixed wing, RCMP, etc). 375 missions flown in Lethbridge County in the last 5 years.

Mayor Prince asks if these are scene calls or interfacility transfers.

The majority of flights are interfacility transfers – primarily for traumas and surgeries. Usually patients go into Lethbridge to the hospital by ground ambulance and are then transferred for larger hospitals. On average 75 missions per year – Lethbridge is busiest location in the province for missions.

Speaks of direct operating costs – 12.2 million per base to operate; total of 36.6 million annually. Receives 15 million from AHS annually. STARS lottery funds 59% of direct operational costs. 95% of Alberta Municipalities are donating to STARS. Speaks of why donations are structured at a per capita level and the difference between regional partners vs provincial leaders in their funding structure. 27 regional partnerships across Alberta.

Helicopters are staffed by 2 pilots, 1 flight paramedic, 1 flight nurse. Also have a transport physician on staff who may also be on the helicopter to assist. Speaks of STARS staff competing on a world level and coming in top 3 in the world for skills. Speaks of what STARS brings, especially to a rural setting. STARS also does

virtual care consultations with medical professionals to provide medical and procedural guidance in facilities and on scene.

Speaks of Lethbridge County, Nobleford, and Picture Butte contributing to STARS. Requests \$1 - \$2 per capita with a 4 year pledge (2026 – 2029).

Mayor Prince asks if Coalhurst or Coaldale is participating. Jackie replies not yet.

STARS is gradually expanding and is always open to expansion in the south. Works with HALO Air Ambulance to manage scene calls and transfers of patients to get them the critical care they need.

Approval of Agenda:

Administrator Durell asks Council for their consideration to add item 11 d) to New Business.

**Motion made by Mayor Prince to add item 11 d) to the agenda.
Carried**

**Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the agenda with the addition as requested.
Carried**

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular Council meeting as presented.
Carried**

To accept the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Budget Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Budget meeting as presented.
Carried**

To accept the minutes of the April 29, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the minutes of the April 29, 2026 Special Council meeting as presented.
Carried**

To accept the minutes of the May 5, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2026 Special Council 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 read Bylaw #775 a first time this 12th day of May, 2026.

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Prince to read Bylaw #775 a second time this 12th day of May, 2026.

Carried

b) Urban Rabbits

Discussion was held

Motion made by Mayor Prince to rescind the motion made at the April 14th, 2026 Council Meeting regarding Urban Rabbits.

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the request for urban rabbits.

For: none

Against: Deputy Mayor Rempel and Mayor Prince.

Motion failed.

c) Boulevard Parking Discussion

Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to instruct Administration to develop a survey regarding boulevard parking and to extend the moratorium until September.

Carried

Village Foreman Report:

Public Works reports that he proudly raised a new Village Flag with a new cable at the Village Office. Reports that the storm door is to be reinstalled this week at the Village Office with a spring chain so the door cannot fly away and bend again. Water plant and lift station are both running smoothly. Clearwater Controls is scheduled for chlorine room maintenance and calibration on the 14th of May. Finished part two of the in-person coursework for the level 1 water and wastewater operators course. Foreman Krushel is now eligible to write the small systems government test, and is very pleased to do so. Carwash is now open – Hours of operation

will be 8 am to 6 pm on weekdays, and 10 am to 6 pm on weekends. Happy washing!

Administrators Report:

Assessment appeal date has now passed – no appeals were filed this year on the municipal side, though we had 1 change in assessment and 1 appeal on the linear assessment. Submitted the FIR and Audited Financial Statements to Municipal Affairs. Summer rates for water are now in effect. Met with the Village Lawyer regarding the hotel site once again, and the affidavits have now been filed. Attended Alberta Emergency Alert Training and Administrator Durell is now an authorized user of the Alert Ready system, so we will be able to publish emergency alerts for not only ourselves, but our neighbors as well should the situation arise. Had an initial meeting with the Village Engineers and the contractor for the 2025 Improvements Project and initial planning is underway. Attended many meetings in the past month. The Southern Alberta Summer Games registration will be open May 13th til June 11th, 2026, with the games scheduled for July 8th – 11th in Bow Island. Events range from cribbage and various shooting categories, to soccer, swimming, basketball, ball hockey, photography, and more. Registration is open to athletes from 6 years old up to 90 +, with other activities scheduled throughout the week. For those interested in more information, they can visit southernalbertasummernames.ca

Correspondence:

- April Bank Reconciliation
- Town of Bow Island - Southern Alberta Summer Games Opening Ceremonies Invite
- FCSS – Smile Cookie Week
- TELUS – NG911 Status Update
- Statistics Canada – 2026 Census Underway
- Chinook Arch – Board Report

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 month of April, 2026.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the accounts payable for the month of April, 2026. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the monthly statement for April, 2026. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**

Nothing to report. Meets Quarterly.

b) **Green Acres**

Attended the board retreat. Met with ADM and discussed grant funding. Final approval for the Piyami Lodge rebuild has come.

c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**

Nothing to report.

d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**

Mostly business as usual. Coaldale won the smile cookie competition against Taber. Taber sold the most cookies, but Coaldale raised the most money.

e) **Mayors and Reeves**

Presentation by AB Assisted Living on seniors abuse and prevention and new policies coming in. No abuse cases identified in the County but is a growing concern province wide. Discussion was had about the feasibility of closing down facilities with ongoing abuse concerns.

f) **Chinook Arch Library System**

Nothing to report. Meets quarterly.

Mayor Prince attended Lethbridge City Council to support Chinook Arch library systems, as the City of Lethbridge has a veto vote on whether to allow for a budgetary increase. Decision postponed til June 10th or 11th.

g) **Ag Society**

Meeting upcoming.

h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**

Attended a meeting for the Regional Emergency Management Agency (REMA) where we discussed the hazard season outlook, received a presentation from CPKC regarding their emergency response capabilities, as well as discussed the training calendar for the remainder of 2026. We also were updated as to the colouring contest being held in conjunction with Emergency Preparedness Week (May 3 – 9). The workbook was distributed through Palliser Schools, as well as through the municipal offices to any children aged 12 and under. Submissions must be received by May 31 at the Village Office, with the winner from each community receiving an emergency preparedness “starter kit” including a backpack, sleeping bag, stuffy, flashlight, activity book, and card games. Each community (Coalhurst, Picture Butte, Nobleford, ourselves and Lethbridge County) is participating, and submissions should

be returned to the respective “town office”. The materials for the contest, as well as all the printing costs for the workbooks were all covered by corporate sponsors. Also attended the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (REAC) meeting on April 30th – Discussed was an overview of who we are and what we do, as well as some discussion regarding the 2026 budget for the REAC. Director of Emergency Management workshop was postponed until June.

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

Motion made by Mayor Prince to recess for 5 minutes at 8:43 pm. Carried

Motion made by Mayor Prince to return from recess at 8:51 pm. Carried

New Business:

- a) **Southgrow**
Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to instruct Administration to draft a letter requesting membership with Southgrow. Carried.

- b) **Discussion of Changes to AISH and ADAP**
Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to instruct Administration to draft a letter to Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services to express concerns regarding the changes to the AISH program and the impacts to our ratepayers. Carried.

- c) **Nobleford Fire Agreement**
Council was presented with a new agreement for fire service coverage with the Town of Nobleford. This is just a renewal of the current agreement that we have with the Town of Nobleford to extend for another five (5) years. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the agreement with the Town of Nobleford for fire services. Carried

- d) **Bylaw # 776 – Utility Rate Bylaw**
Council was presented with Bylaw #776 – Utility Rate Bylaw for their consideration. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to postpone discussion to a later date. Carried.

Closed Session: a) none

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 9:32 p.m.

Mayor – Clinton Bishop

Administrator – Jen Durell