

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
October 13, 2020**

Present: Ed Weistra, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor

****Councillor Tarditi left before the meeting started****

Absent: Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
Byron Fraser, Fire Chief

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Durell, Assistant Administrator
Laurie Beck, Administrator

Call to Order: Call to order at 5:59 p.m.

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Regular Council meeting. Carried

Business Arising:

a) **Hotel Site**
The Village's lawyer has not been able to serve the owner of the property but has advised the Village that clean-up plans should continue. A quote has been received from Sherlock Environmental for the cost of completing a hazardous material survey and pre-demolition of the hotel site. The estimated cost is \$1,987.20 plus GST. Sherlock Environmental has completed sampling on the hotel site with the exception of the basement which could not be safely sampled at this time. Once access can be safely achieved, samples will be taken. The samples taken so far have been sent to the lab and a report should come back no later than the end of October.

Village Foreman Report: Tree trimming has taken place with hopes to continue if the weather holds. Getting equipment ready for the winter. No real issues so far. Drain master has done the hydrovac on the main water lines to see the depth, condition, and material of the lines. Still have to do the camera on the lines and inspections.

Bathrooms are now closed and winterized, including the shutoff of the power at the campground.

Administrator Report:

Flu shots will be held at the Barons Seniors on October 26, 2020. Appointments must be made online prior to this date. Attended meeting with Lethbridge County and other municipalities to start discussion on a new Fire Agreement. The newly adopted Intermunicipal Development Plan is now on the village's website. The Public Sale notice has been placed in the September 30th edition of the Alberta Gazette as well as the newsletter. All affected parties have been sent a letter and the Alberta Gazette notice to notify them of the impending public sale. Administration has picked up additional Personal Protective Equipment for employees and Council. Facemasks, shields, and gloves are available. There have been a few concerns expressed with the Village's Bylaw Enforcement. Both incidents have issues that are contrary to Village Bylaws and have been asked for compliance. MPE Engineering was late getting the application form to the Village for signature as it was due October 1st. The application was sent October 8th. It is hoped that Municipal Affairs will still consider funding the sewer lagoon upgrade project despite being late. The Barons School principal called and asked if the village had rakes that the school kids could use. They are implementing a new program whereby the kids will do community service such as raking leaves, shoveling sidewalks, etc. Additional rakes have been purchased as the Village was in need. The Village also purchased garbage bags and will buy some snack for the kids to recognize their contribution to the community. An invite was sent to Barons to see if Council or Administration would be interested in touring the upgrade to Nobleford's sanitary lagoon facility. In light of the increase in COVID-19 numbers, Administrator Beck will ensure all staff in the office wear face masks at all times. The Village received a letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs that a Municipal Accountability Program (MAP) review will take place in 2021. This review was started in 2019. All communities 2,500 and under will participate in this MAP.

Correspondence:

- Bank Reconciliation August, 2020
- Joseph Schow, MLA re Municipal Operating Support Transfer
- AEMA – change in the leadership
- Emergency Ambulance Dispatch Presentation

Financial Reports:

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of September, 2020. An income/expense statement ending September 30, 2020 was presented to Council.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the month of September, 2020. **Carried**

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statements for September, 2020. **Carried**

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
No report at this time.
- b) **Fire Department**
Grant approval has been received for the purchase of a new response vehicle for the fire department. Fire department members are continually training. The Fire Department will be doing a mock exercise at the Co-op. There have been a few new members who have joined the fire department. New LED lights installed at the firehall as well as power to the washer and dryer. In light of Byron Fraser being 10 years as Fire Chief, a good suggestion would be for Council to recognize those volunteers by a gift card and certificate and council personally presenting to them at a regular practice.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to recognize the long service members of the Barons Volunteer Fire Department. **Carried**

- c) **Green Acres**
Meeting held via Zoom. Updates re: COVID-19 numbers in their lodges and how they are successfully managing sanitation and visitation protocols.
- d) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Meeting via Microsoft Teams. Discussed the \$40,000 given by government. There is \$1.2 million to give out but government had not decided how it would be distributed. An investigation team has been put in place to look at fraudulent activities re: \$40,000 loans. A few loans were approved.
- e) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Virtual meeting held. Michelle McKenzie reelected. Presentation made by AHS addiction and recovery centre re: programming and services (Alberta Addictions and Recovery Centre). Had face to face meeting in Taber with FCSS. Spoke about red tape reduction, getting programs through for family resource centre. Updated dashboard for social services. Annual General Meeting to be held

on Nov 27th. Executive director was to meet with minister, but the minister backed out last minute. On FCSS website, one can now access social services information by area/community.

f) **Mayors and Reeves**

Met via Zoom. Still encountering problems with changes to EMS dispatch. Regular committee reports. MLAs all spoke of EMS dispatch changes and how frustrated they are. All fifty (50) communities involved have sent letters to minister, and their respective MLA's. Attended tour of Lethbridge EMS dispatch – extremely impressed with services provided from the dispatch facilities in Lethbridge.

g) **Chinook Arch Library System**

No report at this time.

h) **AG Society**

No report at this time

i) **Emergency Advisory Committee**

No report at this time.

j) **Carmangay Library**

No report at this time.

New Business:

a) **Fortis Franchise Fee**

If the village wants to change the franchise fee percentage amount for 2021, Fortis will need to know to begin the process.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to keep the Fortis franchise fee at the same rate for 2021. Carried

b) **Bylaw #724 – ATCO Gas Franchise Agreement**

The agreement between ATCO Gas and the Village is due to expire this year. The last term was for eleven years. Council was presented with Bylaw #724 and the application for renewal of the natural gas franchise agreement.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to read Bylaw #724 a first time this 13th day of October, 2020. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to sign the application for renewal of a natural gas franchise agreement between ATCO Gas and the Village of Barons. Carried

c) Municipal Operating Support Grant

The governments of both Alberta and Canada are providing funding to support municipalities which has experienced operating impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Village of Barons will receive \$39,529 in additional funding through this program. Items such as personal protective equipment, communications such as iPad's, computers, radio's, and staffing are considered eligible expenses. In addition, bulk water and carwash are eligible because of operating deficits. Funding must be incurred between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 and any funds not used must be returned to the government of Alberta.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to sign the agreement between the Village of Barons and the Government of Alberta for the Municipal Operating Support Transfer (MOST) grant.

Carried

d) Bylaw Enforcement

Coalhurst has moved Bylaw Enforcement services to a more enhanced position to that of a Community Peace Officer. The Village of Barons will see a small increase for a better service.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to sign the agreement to continue contracting the Town of Coalhurst for Bylaw Enforcement.

Carried

e) Administrator Vacation Request

Administrator Beck would like to request vacation from November 16 through to November 26, 2020 inclusive.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the Administrator's vacation request.

Carried

Executive Session:

Administrator Contract

FOIP 17(1)e

Council member

FOIP 17(1) e

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to go incamera at 6:37 p.m.

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to come out of camera at 6:51 p.m.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to sign the agreement between the Administrator and the Village. Carried

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to request the resignation of Councillor Tarditi. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to set a byelection date of January 6, 2021 to fill the vacant council position. Carried

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck