

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
October 9, 2019**

- Present:*** Ed Weistra, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Michelle Tarditi, Councillor via teleconference
- Absent:*** Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
Byron Fraser, Fire Chief
- Recording Secretary:*** Laurie Beck, Administrator
- Call to Order:*** Call to order at 5:08 p.m.
- Guests:*** Rescheduled to next meeting.
- Approval of Agenda:*** **Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**
- Minutes:*** To accept the minutes of the September 10, 2019 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.
Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2019 Regular Council meeting. Carried
- Business Arising:*** None
- Village Foreman Report:*** A new chain saw was purchased as the old one was failing to start. The Village yard is now all cleaned up and all the tires have been disposed of appropriately. Fortis was here trimming the trees around the water plant as they are installing a new line. Sprinklers are blown out for the season and bathroom is all winterized. Safety is due at the end of October on the tandem truck – does the Village want to store it in the Village compound until Council determines what they wish to do. Lots of work moving snow over the last couple of snowstorms. Purchased a blade for the truck – should be installed next week. Total cost of this is approximately \$7,800.00 with installation.
Motion made by Mayor Weistra that the Village sell the tandem gravel truck. Carried
- Administrator Report:*** Attended the AUMA Convention in Edmonton. The Keynote Speaker this year was Rick Mercer who was a very dynamic speaker. Some topics discussed were finding different ways of

generating revenue, the fiscal challenges that the government is facing, reduction to the MSI Capital grants, providing for more streamlining of services and more collaboration between municipalities. The Village received the 2019 MSI Operating Grant in the amount of \$49,633.00. A meeting was held at the Village office between Supt. Gordon Sage, S/Sgt Glenn Henry and Sgt. Paul Bedard regarding some changes to the RCMP service delivery. A meeting will be held sometime this month for Mayor Weistra and Administrator Beck, who sit on the committee working on the development of the Intermunicipal Development Plan. Received an email from the insurance company stating that village premiums could rise between 10% and 25%. Liz Biddlecombe attended mandatory training on Basic Emergency Management in Coalhurst. Alberta Municipal Affairs initiated a new performance measure for municipalities. The Village of Barons triggered one of the thirteen indicators which defines financial, governance and the community. The indicator identified was the tax collection rate. The benchmark for all municipalities is 90% of all outstanding taxes were being collected. As such, AB Municipal Affairs noted that this indicator is below the established benchmark and therefore the Village will not appear in the report.

- Correspondence:***
- County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council – Annual General Meeting Invite
 - Ab Municipal Affairs – Cancellation of D1 Requisitions
 - Town of Coaldale – Invitation to Municipal Law Seminar
 - Society of Safe and Caring Schools and Communities – Orange Shirt Day
 - Bylaw Enforcement Report – August and September
 - Nobleford and District Emergency Services – Train Derailment Summary
 - SouthGrow Monthly Report

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of September, 2019.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the month of September, 2019. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statements for September, 2019. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
No report at this time.

b) Fire Department

The Fire Department has been kept busy during the first snow events in the area. Members were out for approximately twelve hours helping those that were stuck or stranded. The decision was made to open the firehall to those that were stranded with the community helping by providing food, etc. In light of this, it is recommended that the Village provide a donation to the Fire Department. Council recommends that a blurb be sent to the Sunny South News.

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to provide a donation of \$500.00 to the Barons Fire Department. Carried

c) Green Acres

Worked on motions and policies. All board members had to do a performance review of the Chief Executive Officer for Green Acres. Also held an organizational meeting.

d) CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)

The majority of the meeting was spent brainstorming as to how one client could be helped as they were struggling with their marketing. Discussed ideas.

e) FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)

A meeting will be held in Taber in November and believe it will be an All Councils Meeting. There was a speaker who spoke about “Teen’s to Go”, a program offered for school children. The speaker spoke of different ideas – mainly keeping the kids motivated and in school.

f) Mayors and Reeves

One MLA was questioned about items such as HALO, collaboration, proposed per capita fees for services by RCMP. In addition, discussion was held regarding merging wind and solar power, education on gas wells, the AUMA and Climate change.

g) Chinook Arch Library System

Next meeting will be in December.

h) AG Society

It was reported by Councillor Tarditi and Mary Bishop inquired if the Village looks after the inside of the hall as there are a few items that need fixing – in the basement, in three separate places, the ceiling requires some shims as there is a gap on the floor. On the

stage there needs to be a brace to help stabilize the header. In addition to those identified, a piece of plywood was taken down in the basement and some of the bricks are starting to loosen and fall. This space needs to have the plywood put back which will cover up the crawlspace. On the outside of the hall, there are a few areas where the tin needs to be screwed back under the roof (soffit/fascia) as well as bolts are missing on the paneling in some places. Both Mary Bishop and Councillor Tarditi were reminded of the agreement between the village and the AG Society – the village is responsible for the outside maintenance and the AG Society is responsible for the inside.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to stand by the agreement that is between the AG Society and the Village and that the AG Society is to look after the inside repairs.

Carried

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 2020, Fortis will need to know to begin the process.

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to keep the Fortis franchise fee at the same rate for 2020. **Carried**

b) **Oldman Watershed Council**
The Oldman Watershed Council is looking for a minimum donation of \$200.00 to continue and maintain the watershed health work.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to not give a donation to the Oldman Watershed Council at this time. **Carried**

c) **Loss of Compensation – Revenue Canada**
As of January 1, 2019, Revenue Canada has determined that elected officials will no longer see the tax exemption on their total compensation from their respective municipalities and are now subject to deductions for Canada Pension Plan. Considering this decision, Council is asked to look at options.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to provide an increase in the monthly stipend to cover the difference of the loss of tax exemption and to increase the mileage rate to .60 per kilometer. Carried

d) Site Inspection

Administrator Beck spoke with Mike Gervais, AHS regarding clean-up of the Plan 2605X, Block 3, Lots 31 – 34 inclusive. To date, no report has been received indicating if the site is free from asbestos. Council is asked to consider have an assessment to ascertain whether or not there is indeed contamination of asbestos. Any costs associated with the assessment would be applied to their taxes.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to not have a site assessment done but to contact the Village lawyer and proceed with obtaining a court order for clean-up with restitution added onto the order. Carried

e) Water Security Forum –

SouthGrow sent out a letter requesting Barons to participate in a united group that can advance water security projects in the region.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to not attend the Water Security Forum. Carried

Executive Session:

**Discussion – Conventions
FOIP 17(1)e**

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to go incamera at 6:02 p.m. Carried

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to come out of camera at 6:04 p.m. Carried

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck