

## **Responses to Citizen's Meeting on Nov 16/2020**

**Michelle questions why equipment has not been upkept.** – Equipment has been upkept to the best of our abilities re: finances, manpower, etc. Documentation is to be recorded by Public Works when something is done on any equipment as there are maintenance sheets that are to be filled out regularly.

**Michelle asking if we had CVIP's for the trucks.** – CVIP's are not required as we own no qualifying commercial vehicles, or vehicles that qualify under current legislation.

**Definition: A commercial vehicle is defined by the National Safety Code as “Trucks, truck-tractors, semi-trailers, trailers and combinations thereof exceeding a registered gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 11, 794 kg when operating intra-provincially OR the above types exceeding a GVW of 4,500 kg when operating extra-provincially.”** - <https://www.alberta.ca/information-for-commercial-vehicle-owners.aspx>

**Vrooman states Brian is afraid of the zoom boom. Ed says Brian states that zoom boom is fine. Minor leaks but nothing unrepairable. Vrooman states hydraulic lines easy and cheap to fix.** – Zoom Boom has a single minor leak in one hydraulic line, and only when its in operation. Brian is aware of this leak, and this is why Zoom Boom was taken “out of service”. This is why the trees that Vrooman demanded be cut down in front of his property haven't been tended to yet – Brian is also unsure if trees are on Village property vs Vrooman's property. Brian states leak is so minor that he has never even had to add hydraulic fluid to the Zoom Boom. Brian also states he is not afraid of the Zoom Boom, but rather he is only nervous of heights.

**Rebecca asking cost of upkeep vs rental. Actual costs unknown.** – Repairing onsite is clearly more cost effective, as the cost of renting a zoom boom of similar capabilities can range from \$325.00 – \$444.00 per day or \$387 - \$1,122 per week or \$781.00 - \$2,295.00/ month.

**Foster asks if Brian is a licensed mechanic. Ed replied unsure but believes not.** – Brian is not ticketed but is comfortable and capable of working on current equipment as his job description requires. When he feels he is unable to, this work is contracted out to applicable repair facilities.

**Vrooman asking why Brian hasn't been reported for working on equipment uncertified.** – What is there to report? He is not working on dangerous equipment or goods, and he recognizes his limitations. He is not operating a garage or repairing outside equipment.

**Michelle asking for walk-arounds prior to using each piece of equipment.** – Brian completes walkarounds prior to using each piece of equipment.

**Rebecca asking why Brian cannot refuse work w. zoom boom as per OHS. Ed unaware of Brian refusing work.** – Brian can refuse work if he feels unsafe as per OHS Legislation and as per Village's Occupational Health and Safety and safe work practices policy. Brian has never refused work to date. We are OHS compliant.

**Rebecca arguing why Ed cannot be prepared for the meeting.** – Council was not prepared as this meeting was sprung on them. No information was forthcoming from Will regarding what topics were going to be discussed, so no preparation could have been done. This emphasizes why council requests 14 days - so that we can do our research and be prepared to answer the questions being brought forth.

**Bob asking what cost of mechanic would be to fix zoom boom deficiencies.** – Exact figures unknown but when researching, shop rates vary from \$75.00 to \$150.00 per hour depending on the facility. Hydraulic leak is minor. Realistically the cost of labour and service call charges would be more than parts itself.

**Baird asking when WCB audit was done last. Is Brian ticketed to run equipment?** Ed and Ron have no knowledge of a WCB audit being completed during their tenure. – There has been no WCB audit done.

**Barry Sarazin asks if anyone has ever been hurt on the job, or if there has been a WCB claim. Foster states he was electrocuted when on fire dept. Arguing that it was Laurie's fault that he was never paid from WCB as she told them not to pay him.** – There has not been a WCB claim in 10+ years with the exception of Mr. Foster, and never one from Public Works, Administration, etc.

As to George Foster's WCB claim, we submitted our employer paperwork as required immediately upon hearing of the incident. Administrator/Village had nothing to do with or could influence the decisions made by the WCB – that was between Foster and the WCB. But in the interest of respecting FOIP guidelines, we will not speak further to Mr. Foster's claim.

**Foster asks what type of training that the council has received since being appointed.** - Ed replied that all but Michelle has received Councillor training when first appointed, Ed and Ron have also completed Emergency Management training, but to date, Michelle has not. **Foster asks why she hasn't. Michelle states that she hasn't done Emergency Management training because of COVID. Michelle states that further councillor training wasn't offered as she had requested additional training.** – All Councillors training is budgeted for and all have the opportunity to receive Elected Officials training when elected. Council have the opportunity to attend further workshops at the discretion of Council to which Michelle has attended in the past (AUMA Conference, etc). Emergency Management training has been completed by Ed and Ron online, but Michelle has not taken the online training to date. This is at no cost to the Village to do and is done online. Each councillor has their own laptop.

**???? asks who is to issue evacuations in case of emergency, like a train derailment. Michelle responds that Liz Biddlecombe, Ed, Ron, and Miriam are the ones who would respond.** – The response would be directed by Liz Biddlecombe - the Director of Emergency Management, with support from Miriam Sigurdson – Deputy Director after consultation with those who are responsible for issuing such an order, as meaning Council.

**Michelle asks about grant for beautification.** - Ed replies \$2000 annually. – The actual cost in the budget is an allocation of \$1,000 for trees and \$250.00 for beautification such as the flowers in the planters yearly.

**Vrooman suggests using that grant funding to upkeep current trees rather than buying new trees or using said money to repair equipment used to upkeep trees.** – all grants that are applied for must be used for their intended purposes. If a grant is obtained for tree/plant purchasing (beautification), then this money can only be used for that.

**Barry asks if zoom boom is used primarily to do trees – says his RV needed new roof after damage from trees. Barry says zoom boom is an asset to the Village and unkempt trees are a liability to residents property.** – Zoom Boom IS an asset to the Village. It is used for multiple purposes such as tree maintenance, changing the flags on the flag poles, putting up the Christmas lights/decorations, etc.

**Baird speaking of due diligence with WCB audits and when Brian gets hurt – why hasn't village done due diligence on asking for an audit.**

The Village has had an exemplary record of no accidents so does not feel the need for such an audit. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as glasses, ear plugs, eye wash station, etc. are readily available to all staff.

**Foster says his RV damaged by trees as well. Says Laurie chastised him for cutting trees on his property.** – As far as the office was aware, Foster was cutting trees on the boulevard, which would be Village owned trees. There is no prohibition of residents cutting their own trees on their own properties.

**Vrooman says its ridiculous to come to office to get permit to cut tree when the tree is on your property.** - Ed used an example of a resident who cut down a tree and knocked out power to the entire Village, which the Village then had to pay the repair costs for the powerlines. **Reno asks if tree permits can be done away with and just asking for permission instead.** Ron speaking on differences between trimming/cutting of trees on property VS trees on village property; **Reno in agreement that there is a difference between your own property and Village owned property.** Ed agrees that residents should be able to cut down trees on their property. – Tree policy is in place to protect the Village’s assets (trees). Trees act as a wind break for the village and help to make the Village more inviting and attractive. Tree permits are only required for trees on Village property.

**Barry asks about Elms and why they can’t be cut without permission.** – Elms can only be cut during specific times of the year because of Dutch Elm Disease. DED is spread via Elm Bark Beetles which are attracted to “fresh wounds” on the elm tree. This is why certain trees can only be cut during the colder months when the insects are not active (October 1 – Mar 31). Permission is required by the Provincial Government because of the risk of transmission of DED from infected trees to non-infected trees outside of those guidelines. All elm wood must be buried, burned, or chipped unless contaminated with DED. - <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/2960254a-6025-4a25-a5d8-3c779ebfa6f1/resource/631f4744-33de-42ba-9efb-8b31d1c7cf63/download/af-dutch-elm-disease-prevention-control-measures-2017-11.pdf>

**Barry asks for policy re: cutting trees because of elm trees and risk of dutch elm.** – Alberta is classified as Dutch Elm Disease free – Province monitors trees continually to assess risk. Each year, a provincial audit is done of the trees in the Village by a certified arborist hired by the Province.

Village Policy #071 – Tree Care and Maintenance policy provides direction for maintenance and care of Village owned trees.

Bylaw #666 – To manage the preservation and replacement of and to regulate the pruning and removal of trees on Municipally owned lands - covers all Village owned trees, permitting requirements for residents, fine schedule, etc. Enacted May 11, 2010.

**Michelle says tree policy must be reviewed – no paying for permits.** - Ed agrees there should be no cost for permit/permission. – Permits are only required for Village owned trees on Village property. Permits are not required for trees on private property, with exceptions for Elm tree requirements re: Dutch Elm Disease.

**Baird asked who decided to permit tree cutting. Ed unsure.** – Bylaw #666 – “The Tree Bylaw” was enacted in May 2010 by unanimous consent of Council. This was done because residents were taking down or purposely damaging healthy trees adjacent to their properties on the boulevards because they didn’t want them.

**Street conditions – Baird says Ed was personally attacking him in Mayors Message in November newsletter.** - Ed states it was not directed to Baird but because of someone else’s concerns.

**Baird asking for a Bylaw Enforcement plan along with written policies and procedures. Who decides who the bylaw officer goes after?** – Bylaw officer does patrols when in the Village, comes into the office and receives direction from the Office for some matters (such as dog and business licensing), as well as takes complaints from residents regarding many possible contraventions and/or infractions. Most patrols will initiate the enforcement if something is identified. Bylaw Enforcement is generally complaint based. The Bylaw Office is generally responsible for enforcement of those bylaws related to land.

**Baird and Vrooman both say Bylaw receives instruction from office as to who the officer goes after.**

Ed denies that Bylaw is directed solely by the office and reiterates that many residents contact the office with Bylaw related concerns, which are then forwarded to the Bylaw Officer by the Village Office. -

**Vrooman says “im sure”.** – Office receives many complaints from residents about bylaw related concerns. These complaints are then forwarded to the Bylaw officer for investigation.

**Michelle states she has witnessed in the past bylaw excusing others and going after certain individuals.** – Bylaw acts on reports/tips that comes in from residents. She may be perceived to be ignoring things, but in fact those are already being dealt with and there is no further action that can be taken currently or the process has already started (ie: the hotel site). It is the opinion of both the Administrator and Bylaw that education must come first before enforcement.

**Baird still angry over bylaw coming to his property. Says it was Laurie who ordered bylaw to come to his house.** – As per the Bylaw Officer, she attended based on what she herself witnessed when conducting a regular patrol. No direction came from the Office.

**Baird has issues with current enforcement – Baird strongly questioning Ron for parking bus on boulevard, as well as his truck “backwards” on the boulevard – claims community could be beautiful but is bothered by the fact that Bylaw Officer drove across town to speak to him about his tent trailer. Baird claims she avoids the hotel site completely and singles him out.** – Bylaw officer aware of ongoing Hotel site issues and has reached the capacity of action for her position as it is now before the legal system. As per Bylaw officer, she does not single any one person out, as she is unaware as to where individuals live until there is some sort of interaction stemming from her duties.

**Says Bylaws are too broad and singles everyone out for too many infractions. Says he has no issues with Ron’s bus or Irvin Duncan’s truck. Why is Irvin still receiving fines for charges that were allegedly thrown out in court? Michelle says Council will look into it. Baird singles out Ron for bus and parking truck but doesn’t understand why Irvin still has tickets. Baird claims council is asleep at the wheel. Duncan’s Daughter -in-law (?) says Duncan apparently has attended court and the charges were thrown out – says that this was not dealt with at the office and that these fines need to be removed.** – After thorough investigation, the fines still posted on Duncan’s account stem from Bylaw infractions from 2016. There were further infractions in 2018, which to our knowledge were issued as provincial fines by the then Community Peace Officer (CPO) from Coaldale. The village has not taken Mr. Duncan to court regarding the fines from 2016. He may very well have had the 2018 provincial fines thrown out, but no information was received by the Village to indicate the outcome. The municipal (bylaw) fines from 2016 still stand as unresolved. No further bylaw fines have been issued since 2016. It will be Council’s decision on whether to dismiss these fines.

**Cheyenne Beierbach requests that a Bylaw enforcement plan be sent to each household. Bylaws should be posted on website.** – The most pertinent Bylaws are already on the website. Others can be posted but would take some time to add all of the active bylaws (not just the ones that pertain to residents like the unsightly/untidy, land use, noise bylaw, etc)

**Reno asking if Bylaw Enforcement can be informed by Council rather than Laurie.** – Bylaw is not “informed” by Laurie. Any and all complaints stem from residents making said complaints to the office or via telephone calls which are then forwarded to Bylaw. It is not Council’s job to conduct “day-to-day” business – this is the job of administration.

**Excerpt taken from “What Every Councillor Needs to Know!” booklet put out by Alberta Municipal Affairs, October 2017.**

**Your role as Council**

Council is the governing body of the municipal corporation. As a councillor, you will exercise the powers of the municipality through decisions passed by bylaw or resolution at a public meeting and define the policies and direction that your municipal administration will put into action.

The purposes of a council are:

- a) to provide good government,
  - a.1) to foster the well-being of the environment,
- b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality,
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
- d) to work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services.

The MGA also provides municipal government with natural person powers for the purpose of exercising their authority. Natural person powers give municipality's similar flexibility to that of individuals and corporations in managing their organizational and administrative affairs. These powers may help a municipality – without the need for more specific legislative authority – enter into agreements or acquire land and equipment. For example, if a municipality has authority to establish a public transit system, it may use natural person powers to contract services and purchase buses. It is important to be aware that natural person powers are limited by legislation.

#### **Council's principal role in the municipal organization:**

A council is responsible for [MGA Section 201(1)]

- a. Developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality; Council's primary role is to ensure that services are provided to citizens and property owners. This involves establishing policies about what programs and services are to be delivered, the level at which they are delivered, and the budgetary requirements. Council evaluates the policies and programs through information obtained from the CAO and feedback from the citizens.
- b. Carrying out the powers, duties and functions expressly given to council under the Act or any other legislation. Council is responsible for ensuring that the municipality acts within its enabling legislation. A municipality can be taken to court by any person if it is perceived to be acting outside its legal authority. As well, council is responsible for ensuring that the municipality meets all requirements established in legislation, such as the requirement to hold public hearings on certain matters, develop a budget and levy taxes, appoint an auditor, etc. The legislation establishes minimum requirements; however, council can go beyond these minimums, provided that they act within their legislative authority.

**Section 201(2) of the Municipal Government Act states clearly that a council must not exercise a power or function or perform a duty that is by this or another enactment or bylaw specifically assigned to the chief administrative officer or a designated officer.**

As indicated above, council develops and evaluates its policies and programs; it is the CAO that implements them. To carry out these roles, the MGA provides the following: General duties of councillors [s. 153]

Councillors have the following duties:

- a. to consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;

- a.1) to promote an integrated and strategic approach to intermunicipal land use planning and service delivery with neighbouring municipalities;
- b) to participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality;
- c) to participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by the council;
- d) to obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the chief administrative officer or a person designated by the chief administrative officer;
- e) to keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public;
  - e.1) to adhere to the code of conduct established by the council under section 146.1(1);
- f) to perform any other duty or function imposed on councillors by the MGA or any other enactment or by the council.

Your job as a councillor is to work with other council members to set the overall direction of the municipality in your role as a policy-maker. The policies that council sets are the guidelines for administration to follow as it handles the operations of the municipality. Much of your time on council will be spent considering new policies and programs and reviewing the current ones to make sure they are working as they should. In the spirit of collaboration, a municipality may enter into an agreement respecting services with Indigenous peoples or a Métis settlement and is required to consult with Indigenous peoples or Métis settlement when developing certain land use plans.

### **Let employees do their jobs**

The CAO is your only employee in most instances. You may have a bylaw which states that designated officers report directly to council. All other municipal employees report to the CAO. **Staying out of the day-to-day operation of the municipality allows councillors to concentrate on policy-making and program monitoring.** Councillors should work with the CAO to keep informed on what the municipality is doing and will depend on the administrator to provide information so that they can make sound decisions. **Effective councils set policy; they do not micro-manage or perform any administrative duties.** Refer to section 201(2).

### **Team Approach**

Working as a team with the rest of council and administration will contribute to making your time on council a success. It isn't always going to be easy. Your influence as a council member rests on your ability to persuade other members of council to consider your point of view. When an issue is being studied, be sure to express your views as part of the debate.

Disagreements among council members on specific issues are common. The respectful exchange of ideas and opinions leads to good decisions. While working through these debates, keep in mind that you all share the same desire for your municipality to be strong, safe, and viable. You may have different views about how to get there, but you do share broader common goals.

Most votes on a council resolution do not require a consensus of all councillors. As a result, there will be many occasions where a decision is made that you did not support with your vote. However, once the resolution has been passed, it becomes the official direction of the municipality. The health and ongoing success of a municipality is largely dependent upon the ability of councillors to respect and support the decisions of council in principle, despite your personal views during the debate.

These are things that a councillor must know to do their job with integrity. As a councillor, you are elected to look after the interests of the entire municipality. Council's effectiveness depends on you providing input as a representative of the people who elected you.

**Michelle asking for a report from Mr Duncan stating these tickets were thrown out and asks if this can be brought in so issue can be rectified.** – See above explanation re: Duncan’s fines.

**Barry states Bylaw should be contacted directly rather than being directed by Council and/or the Office. Susan agreeing as that person may have an opinion.** – Bylaw is supposed to be contacted directly by residents, otherwise it becomes third party reporting. Unfortunately, most residents contact the office with the expectation that the office will contact bylaw enforcement for them and make the complaint, which it does.

**Baird asking if CAO holds peace officer status. Ed responds no. Asking why CAO considers herself a peace officer – can’t tell what bylaw it is that states the CAO is also a peace officer. Michelle says it definitely has to be looked into.** – There is no Bylaw that states that the CAO has CPO (Community Peace Officer) status. However, she does have the authority to enforce any bylaws as per her job description. Bylaw #657 – Unsightly/Untidy states “Peace Officer” means a Chief Administrative Officer or a Bylaw Enforcement Officer appointed by the Village pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and a Community Peace Officer authorized to act within the Village of Barons.

This only means if there is no current designated Bylaw Officer/CPO, then the CAO can perform the duties of the Bylaw Officer and enforce the bylaws of the Village until such time as a new Bylaw Officer is designated.

MGA 7 – The Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the following matters:

- a) The safety, health, and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;
- b) People, activities, and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;
- c) Nuisances including unsightly property;
- d) Transport and transportation systems;
- e) Businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business;
- f) Services provided by or on behalf of the municipality;
- g) Public utilities
- h) Wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them;
- i) The enforcement of bylaws made under this or any other enactment, including any or all of the following:
  - i. The creation of offences;
  - ii. For each offence, imposing a fine not exceeding \$10,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both;
  - iii. Providing for the imposition of a penalty for an offence that is in addition to a fine or imprisonment so long as the penalty relates to a fee, cost, rate, toll or charge that is associated with the conduct that gives rise to the offense;
  - iv. Providing that a specified penalty prescribed under section 44 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* is reduced by a specified amount if the penalty is paid within a specified time;
  - v. Providing for imprisonment for not more than one year for non-payment of a fine or penalty;
  - vi. Providing that a person who contravenes a bylaw may pay an amount established by bylaw and if the amount is paid, the person will not be prosecuted from the contravention;
  - vii. Providing for inspections to determine if bylaws are being complied with;
  - viii. Remedying contraventions of bylaws.

MGA 207(d) – The Chief Administrative Officer performs the duties and functions and exercises the powers assigned to a chief administrative officer by this and other enactments or assigned by council.

MGA 210(5) – A Chief Administrative Officer may exercise all of the powers, duties and functions of a designated officer under this or any other enactment or bylaw if

- A) No position of designated officer has been established by council,
- B) The position of designated officer is vacant, or
- C) This or any other enactment or bylaw refers to a designated officer and the power, duty, function or other thing relating to the designated officer has not been assigned to any designated officer by council.

**Reno asking if we actually need bylaw enforcement.** - Ed says yes, as what has already been stated re: untidy lawns, derelict yards, etc. shows. Ron states RCMP does not want to deal with enforcement of bylaws. – Bylaw officer confirms that RCMP have no desire to enforce individual municipalities bylaws, as there would be too much to try to retain re: individual municipalities specific bylaws. Their job is to enforce provincial and/or national legislation.

**Reno says Bylaw should be around more than 9-5.** – Bylaw enforcement does random patrols including some late afternoon/evenings but her position as written is from 9-5 M-F. The Village has no control over how her position and hours were negotiated by Coalhurst.

**Shawn states that during the time we only had RCMP, no one was unhappy with services. No one happy now with having bylaw enforcement.** – The Village has always had Bylaw Enforcement. The Village has had agreements with many different municipalities over the years. Even when between contracts when the Village switched from Coalhurst to Coaldale under the community CPO agreement, and then from Coaldale back to Coalhurst (when we weren't receiving adequate services to justify the ongoing cost). As per the MGA, the CAO has the power to enforce the Bylaws as written until such time as a new Bylaw Enforcement Officer is established. CAO will still enforce things such as unsightly/untidy, dog and business licensing requirements, etc.

**Susan agrees with Shawn but brings up derelict cars on numerous properties as reasoning why we need bylaw enforcement. Susan says bylaw enforcement is a must.**

**Vrooman asks if neighbour has multiple vehicles why was he singled out for breaking unsightly/untidy bylaw – says bylaw officer can't tell him what part of unsightly/untidy he was breaking. Says Bylaw officer demanded plates and registration for his truck and says he has had enough time to deal with his property since moving in.** – The bylaw officer acts on the reports she is given, and the things she witnesses while on patrols. (Quote unsightly/untidy)

**Rebecca asking about bylaw contract – is there other bylaw officers in Coalhurst? Ed unsure.** – There is only one bylaw officer in Coalhurst.

**Rebecca asking if villages similar size have bylaw enforcement. Ed says unsure but RCMP won't do it.** – Yes, most smaller communities contract Bylaw Services from other larger communities.

**Michelle says Carmangay has its own officer, Nobleford does inhouse bylaw enforcement.** – Carmangay contracts Vulcan County for their bylaw enforcement.

**Will asking why we don't have our own bylaw officer in town.** - Ed talking about costs for vehicle, training, etc and how it was better to contract Coalhurst and let them bear the cost of vehicles, training, etc. It is too expensive for smaller communities to have a full-time position, hence is why the Village contracts 7.5 hours weekly from Coalhurst.

**Reno states bylaw enforcement is bringing many issues, and these could be remediated without a bylaw officer or with minimal bylaw enforcement.**

**Baird back to Ron, invites Ron for beer and speaks to bylaw issue again. Baird says bylaw officer is unfair. Many yards are unsightly but no enforcement on them.** – How does Bob know enforcement is not happening on those properties?

**Baird was getting worked up. Ed sternly warned him to calm down or he would be asked to leave.**

**Baird claims Ed has spoken already re: newcomers and his opinion of “if you don’t like it, move”.** This statement, if made, has being taken out of context.

**Baird saying he is sure he will not receive answers as Ed has made his position clear.** – Does not dignify a response.

**Baird demanding a bylaw enforcement plan and written policy and procedure, what is adequate time to remedy issues, when is first warning, second warning, etc.** – The bylaws enforced are all posted on the Village’s website, which lays out the plan and course of action.

**Baird states Bylaw has been weaponized. Baird thinks Bylaw Officer is unfair. Says there is no rhyme or reason to what the Bylaw Officer does and should be investigated by Council and Council only.** – Council is not involved in day-to-day operations as per the MGA. The bylaw officer is conducting her duties as contracted.

**Foster asking why hotel debris not cleaned up. Ed explaining how the owner has been evading us, the Village lawyer, and the sheriff.** Village finally got the go ahead through legal channels to begin clean up but is awaiting a court order for clean-up. Shamrock Enviromental did testing of the site and found asbestos in some floor tiles. Cost quote received from Shamrock to clean up the site was \$187,000. Ed says we are fighting and trying to get this guy – going after insurance to try to get costs covered. The owner walked away scot free and left nothing behind and now village is stuck with problem along with bills incurred (firefighting costs, clean up, costs, etc).

**Foster says asbestos is contaminating the entire village with the wind, and that if someone were to get asbestosis it is Village’s fault.** – The village is doing what it can within the legal framework to remediate this site. To speculate what can and cannot happen is just guessing.

**Foster says Sec 550 of the MGA states the village is responsible and has the authority to remedy the issue.** – Until such time as adequate testing was done, the village was unaware as to what was within the debris. All legal means are being utilized.

**Ed states health minister and environment minister has been here and no one will give money to Village to help with cleanup costs.**

**Reno asking if we could just bury it. Ed says no.**

**Cheyenne states that she got breast cancer from cleaning up contaminants up north. She says get rid of contaminants now before all residents get cancer. Ed says if we can’t pay to clean it, we may have to contain it.**

**Foster says encapsulation is available but not in this particular situation.**

**Duncan’s Daughter-in-law says go to the media and say the village is contaminated – plea for help. Crowd in agreeance that this will only make Village undesirable for residents trying to sell their homes, tourism, newcomers, etc.**

**Vrooman states high winds has already spread asbestos.** - Not based on fact but assumption.

**Ed informs residents that testing alone cost \$58,000 to confirm that what was speculated to be asbestos was indeed contained some asbestos.**

**Baird asks what company it was that tested? Ed looking for information.** – Shamrock Environmental

**Susan asks if the hotel owner is still being looked for. Michelle states that she hounds Council every meeting about it; Ed confirms that he is still being looked for.** -The village lawyer has been attempting to have him served. He continues to be evasive for the servers.

**Barry asks if the MLA has been spoken to. Ed and Ron both state that the MLA doesn't care to speak to them. Ed recommends that residents undertake a letter writing campaign to the MLA.** – Since his election, he has made no attempt to introduce himself to Council or the community.

**Foster asks if caveats have been issued on the property.** - Ed and Michelle both say that we must wait for judgement from the courts.

**Asking of truck route – no signage. Ed says signage for truck route will be placed soon.** – Most communities do not post signage of their respective truck routes. Signs are posted indicating where heavy/commercial vehicles cannot be.

**Ed informs crowd that Brian will be ordering breakaway posts. Ed explains why current posts were placed (vandalism, theft of signage).** – Breakaway posts themselves will cost \$6,000 to replace all 60 posts within the village. After research, Breakaway posts are not required as the Village's posted max speed is not over 80km/h. Max posted speed within the village is 30km/h. And the posts can be round or square – the municipality can choose. See below.

**Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, Roadside Design Guide, November 2007  
Signs, Supports and Poles H8-9**

“Breakaway poles are generally used on roadways with design speeds greater than 80km/h and where pedestrians are not present. Non-breakaway poles shall be located outside the clear zone or behind barrier systems.”

**Placement of Signs, issued May 2005, Revised Aug 2017**

“If used, rigid metal posts are more appropriate than wood posts because they can better withstand the impact when struck by an errant vehicle. They are also easier to replace if needed.”

**Vrooman going after bylaw again – says bylaw not enforcing people vandalizing posts.** – This occurred years before the current bylaw contract was signed. All vandalism has been reported to the RCMP and it was determined that persons from outside of the community were the offenders. Since current signs/posts have been up (10+ years), there has been no reported vandalism.

**Susan says people need to speak up and speak out and not be afraid of contacting bylaw.** – Completely agree with this statement.

**Vrooman asks if posts have been ordered. Ed says Brian will be ordering posts after research is done.** – see above Alberta Transportation information.

**Reno asks about buildings in town that should be condemned or improved. Ed asks which. Vrooman says Woodshop is #1. Vrooman asks how long owner of old woodshop has to fix up the**

**building. Ron says he believes he has until next summer.** – The owner of the wood shop has been working on the building. The interior needed improvements before the exterior could be undertaken.

**Reno says bylaw needs to drive around and look at those things to improve the town.** – Bylaw does conduct regular patrols. Unfortunately when this is done, people get up in arms.

**Susan asking about property on Noble St. Ed says his permit has been extended. Susan says you can't keep extending as they were told they had one year to build when they purchased their lot.** – This is at the discretion of the Municipal Planning Authority and not Council. When a property is sold privately, the Village cannot dictate terms – only if the Village sold the property, then it can be in the purchase agreement for development of said lands. Each development permit provides for the development to be done for one year with an extension available in the event something comes up. When this occurs, the process is started over and a new permit must be obtained.

**Barry says give a list to the bylaw officer of the unsightly properties so she can enforce.** - Bylaw is aware of the unsightly/untidy properties.

**Baird asks what the 1 yr limit is about (purchasing empty lot and building within 1 yr). Susan explains about the permit.** – When purchasing a lot from the Village, there is a stipulation in the purchasing contract that the lot must be developed within 1 year. This is to encourage growth within the Village. There is no such stipulation on any private transactions from the Village.

**Baird speaking about people building within a certain time and how that is overstepping boundaries, but yet nothing has happened with the hotel. Village must lead by example.** – The hotel site is being handled. It is before the legal system.

**Michelle states we need to be more communicative re: the hotel.** - Ed says he should be communicating more and agrees with Vrooman's letter stating Mayor needs to communicate more.

**Speaking of encroachment – Ed uses the example of store encroachment.**

**Barry and Susan ask for their Real Property Report (RPR) when they bought a lot and why the village gave them wrong dimensions and they never received an RPR from the village.** – It is not up to the seller of any property to obtain an RPR. This is on the discretion of the buyer to ensure they are getting what is described to them in the purchasing contract, and to ensure that there is no encroachment issues that will come up later, or any caveats placed upon the property that should be known of. The misunderstanding about the lot came from the assessment roll and these figures were inputted in the municipal software system. After this issue came to light, it was requested that the assessor look over the property and corrections were made accordingly.

**Vrooman asks when the last time the village was surveyed. Barry and Reno agree that cost is too great to survey entire Village.** - The Village is not required to be surveyed unless a new subdivision is created. The GIS mapping system operated through ORRSC provides details as to each parcel of land within the community.

**Foster asking if fertilizer is stored next to fire hall. Ed doesn't know. Ron saying that ammonia was tested and it is not the explosive kind.** – It was not Ammonia. It is Urea, which is a nitrogenous fertilizer in common use. The village has enquired in the past as to the contents and has received MSDS sheets regarding the product. To the village's knowledge, the past few years there has only been grain stored in there and at present, there is nothing currently being held there.

**Foster asking if it has been upkept.** - Ron says that it shouldn't have changed.

**Vrooman questions if the Village floods again and this gets into the water, council doesn't care.**

**Reno asks for MSDS sheets as to what is contained in the shop.**  
**Foster asks for inventory list as well as if its over 3000 lbs it can't be within 300 ft of a household.**  
**Michelle says she was never told that was held there and when she asked it was denied that anything was held there.**  
**Vrooman states that it shouldn't be there at all.**  
**Michelle asks if Byron can go over and check it.**

**Vrooman asking if its pellets or liquid and what happens if we flood like we did again this year, and this dissolves, it will contaminate water. Baird in agreeance – uses roundup as comparable.**  
**Michelle asks if Byron can do inspection asap and let us know everything, we need to know about it.**  
– Chief Fraser was asked to do an inspection. As there is no bylaw that requires farmers to allow for inspections he can only inspect if the owner requests it. All farmers are required to have a SDS (Safety Data Sheet) on site. Grain will not have an SDS. This does not apply to farmer owned premises.

**Foster asking where FD is getting their fuel. Ed responds UFA.** – Fire department obtains their fuel from UFA and El Dorado Petroleum. There are 2 tanks located in the Village yard for the purpose of fuelling up the equipment – one gas, one diesel. Two new tanks were just purchased in 2019 to replace the aging tanks but the Village has always had a tank for the fire department.

**Foster says 10 yrs ago Ron and him has a disagreement over fuel tanks given away. Foster states that lack of access of fuel for FD in the village is ludicrous. Foster still angry that this was given away years ago and isn't rectified to his satisfaction.** No tanks were ever given away – they were enclosed in sheds to prevent theft. Out of sight, out of mind concept.

**Baird wants to see consistency. Says the ones who talk to him say this.** – The Village always adheres to the practices, policies and bylaws it has adopted regardless of whom it is. Again, agreements may be entered into that would still see the same end result.

**Baird asks if this meeting was posted correctly?** - Ed says no because the meeting was meant to just be Vrooman as he indicated it would only be him. – Meeting was not posted as this meeting was sprung on the council only two days before and it was only supposed to be with one individual. There wasn't adequate time to prepare information or answers to any of the questions as council was not given anything prior to his meeting. In addition, council was unaware of the amount of people being in attendance. Council chambers does not provide a fitting meeting place for the numbers who showed up at the meeting, considering the COVID situation which only allows for 15 persons maximum and that these people must be able to safely distance themselves. In future, clearer communication must be forthcoming in order that other arrangements can be made for a different location.

**Baird says he wants hometown consistency. Back to attacking Ed and the office. Speaking of the change to council meeting times and inaccessibility (1 pm).** - Ed says it was convenient for him and Ron. Michelle stated that meetings are not convenient for her and was upset that there was no consideration of her working schedule. – Based upon the Village demographics, there was no perceived issue with meetings being inaccessible to residents for the most part.

**Michelle disputes that she was asked to leave from last meeting and that she didn't leave on her own accord.** – Michelle was not asked to leave the last meeting of council. She left on her own accord before the meeting even commenced. Never in the discussion between the Administrator and Michelle was she asked to leave as alluded to by Michelle. The Mayor and administration were present and can attest to this.

**Baird says we're communists, we're not free, and Barons lacks communication.**

**Baird says that baseball diamonds are shameful. Money given to Mennonites but no upkeep for ball diamonds.** – There has been no money “given” to the Mennonites. If referring to the raking the Mennonites did, this was done under directive of the school for their annual “Random Acts of Kindness” day. The Village only provided rakes and garbage bags, and a small snack to show appreciation of their hard work and effort.

**Vrooman, and Susan asking where tax money goes.** – All audited financial statements are posted on the village’s website.

**Vrooman arguing that tax money is not going to maintain the town.** – Tax dollars go to maintaining the village, paying for infrastructure, wages, the fire department, equipment repairs, services such as water and garbage pickup and paying for overhead such as insurance, electricity, requisitions, etc.

**Baird says Coutts has 3 town men and 1 part time CAO. Claims that is why he came unglued on the office.** – Baird was upset because the Bylaw officer left a business card on his door for him to call her.

**Ed speaking of taxes and how we collect for the village, the province, etc. Vrooman disputing that.** – The Village collects things such as the education tax, green acres levy, etc on behalf of the province, which municipalities have no control over. The monies are then forwarded directly to the province regardless as to whether residents have paid their taxes.

**Foster asking what salaries are.** – The salary of the CAO can be found in the audited financial statements posted on the Villages website.

**Foster asking who is being paid by grant funding.** – Grant funds are used for many purposes, not just wages. The government stipulates what grant monies can and cannot be used for, and this is reported to the government annually. A mandatory full accounting is completed annually, and any unused or misused funds must be returned in full to the Province.

**Baird saying that if we can get grants for salaries, why can’t we do better for bylaw.** – Bylaw enforcement is fulfilling her contracted duties. A portion of the annual operating grant funding goes towards paying a portion of bylaw enforcement. This is reported annually to municipal affairs through a statement of funding worksheet yearly.

**Foster asking why there are 4 people in the office.** – There isn’t. There is the full time CAO, and one full time assistant. One casual employee has now retired, and the other casual employee is called in on as “as needed” basis.

**Vrooman yelling why the office is only open 3 days a week and why are we paying for 4 people when the office isn’t open.** – The office is open 3 days a week to the public, while administration works 4 days per week, using 1 day as administration days to complete tasks/research uninterrupted. The office is only closed to the public one day per week to allow for administrative tasks. Many after work/holidays/weekends hours are also put in.

**Foster asking why people are making \$80,000 for 19.5 hrs of work.** – There is no one making \$80,000 within the office. The average monthly hours worked is typically about 100 hours per month, not counting the days attending workshops, meetings, etc. In addition, work from home is done with these hours not put on the monthly time sheet.

**Baird doesn’t think council should choose or sign the CAO contract.** – As per the MGA, it is Councils job to designate a CAO to conduct day to day operations. This contract outlines terms of service between the Administrator and the Village. It guarantees what the Village will receive, what is required

of the CAO, and in turn will provide the appropriate remuneration for the experience and knowledge the CAO is providing.

**Baird wants someone local as CAO.** – Laurie is local. Laurie was hired when living in Carmangay.

**Everyone in agreeance that Laurie knows nothing.** – Laurie has been working in the capacity of CAO for 21 years and has worked in municipal government for 23 years. With this experience, comes a wealth of knowledge. Prior to this, Laurie worked 10 years in the Government of Alberta.

**CAO in Carmangay makes less as per Vrooman.** – The CAO in Carmangay is making less because the CAO services both the Village's of Carmangay and Champion. He is only making a part time wage in Carmangay because he only completes part time work. The Village of Carmangay also has 2 full time office staff. This makes us very comparable in wages.

**Vrooman Speaking of Laurie's experience and work experience.** – Again, Laurie has been working in Municipal Governance for 23 years first as an assistant CAO and then as an Administrator. She has an accounting certificate and has attended numerous workshops, conferences, networking sessions, and skill building sessions to stay on top of current "best practices". She has attended further training for things such as emergency management, assessment and taxation, tax recovery, bylaw writing, understanding MGA requirements and participating in changes and updates to the MGA, liaising with multiple different governmental departments and communities. Laurie is a long-standing member of the Local Government Administrators Association, and actively participates in the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

**Representative of Duncan asking if Administration should be done away with and folding into the county. Michelle asking if dissolution is what they're asking for.**

**Duncan's rep. says yes and that all of this would be dealt with – we're too small and eating up too much with salary.** – This person does not even live within the community. The budget does cover salaries, but there are also many other things that the budget entails.

**Ron speaking of prior dissolution study – there was no benefit to communities that dissolve – using Iron Springs, New Dayton, and Turin as examples. No mowing, no plowing, FD goes away, etc. Ron clearing up misconception of county taking over.**

**Vrooman arguing that Granum still has their town man so Ron's history is null and void.** The townman was kept on by Willow Creek when Granum dissolved.

**Barry asking for dissolution study.** – A dissolution study was done 10 years ago, and it was found to not be a viable option as the county does not want Barons and would prefer to work with Barons to keep its identity. The results of this study concluded that the vast majority of the residents wanted Barons to remain a viable community.

**Michelle asking for viability study. Vrooman explained a viability study. Foster asking for viability study.** – The Village is doing an Infrastructure Master Plan currently and that will provide another tool for Council to use when determining infrastructure priorities. To have a viability study it costs quite a bit – reference to Town of Coaldale whose residents are demanding one and the estimated cost is between 75,000 and 100,000 dollars.

**Foster asks Ron what largest hamlet in AB is. Foster says Fort McMurray and Sherwood Park. Foster explaining why Fort McMurray has never upgraded – better money in RM of Wood Buffalo due to oil sands. Foster also saying Sherwood Park hasn't upgraded because of better money in county because of refineries revenue.** – We cannot speak to other municipalities and what they have done for themselves, nor can we speak on other municipalities/Counties finances, sources of income, etc. Our concern has always been and will always be the continued viability and ultimate success of the

Village. The County of Lethbridge holds many different industries, but the revenue generated is not equal to the revenue generated by those propped up by oil refineries, oil production, mining, etc.

**Foster says County has much better resources.** - Ron saying County doesn't have much to offer us. – The county may have more resources, but they do not want to have the added responsibility of the village.

**Foster interrupting Ron, yelling that Ron is a liar - Foster was the one who started the petition for dissolution back when, doesn't believe Ron or Ed. Says County has the resources we don't.** – The County has more financial resources, but this does not mean that the Village will be in a better position. There will be a severe lack of representation and services if the village were to dissolve. And if things such as water or sewer lines need to be replaced, the whole costs will be borne on the shoulders of the Barons community solely. Again, ask residents of Turin, Iron Springs and Shaughnessy of what happened to them when they dissolved.

**Michelle adamant that Foster is right about County.**

**Ed saying they've talked to councillors in the County and they confirm what Ron was saying re: services going away.**

**Michelle saying council will look into viability study with Municipal Affairs, then dissolution study, then public consultation.** – Michelle is only one person who sits on Council and at no time, has discussion taken place with all members of Council present. Look to other communities and the cost that would be borne if the village was to go that route. The Village welcomes any government department to assess their practices. Case in point – Alberta Environment comes yearly to ensure that all documentation, recording, testing, etc of the water is being done correctly. The Village will also be having a Municipal Accountability Program (MAP) review in 2021 that will review municipal processes and procedures to help develop knowledge of mandatory legislative requirements. This will support municipalities with their legislative compliance.

**Foster saying that (14) fourteen day notice to present to Council is ridiculous. Says it is fine that Ed doesn't know information for this evening.** This is not an unreasonable request and it allows for Council to have the information on hand when asked questions.

**Foster says that CAO is giving improper advice.  
Vrooman reiterating that CAO is useless.**

**Ed calling Vrooman out for demanding Laurie not here.**

**Reno says Laurie is not liked. Says Laurie likes to tell stories to make people go away and not solve the problem.**

**Ed speaking on Nobleford council meetings and the 15 mins prior to meeting being the “nitpicking session”. Perhaps the village could adopt this practice?**

**Michelle says back office is Mayors chambers and that Ed should be here 1 hr per week to answer questions.** – This statement is incorrect. It was once the Village “shop” but was converted to an office for the Administrator and village archives.

**Foster says there should be a question period after council meeting.**

**Susan says there are positives but more negatives out there.**

**Susan asking about dust abatement on Noble Street– says she asked Laurie 1<sup>st</sup> year they lived here, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Laurie says that grant was applied for.** – yes, at the Planning Session usually held in February, projects were identified including dust abatement. Plans changed as it was identified that the gravelled areas within Barons needed new gravel, so at the direction of Council, the administrator revised the grant to reflect the change.

**Ed asked if theirs was one regravelled – Michelle opinion was that the roads weren't done properly and will need to be redone as they should have packed them and done a top layer and packed it as well with a roller** – all gravelled roads were done within the Village. A contractor was hired to complete this task with the appropriate equipment and knowledge. A lot of residents reported how happy they were that this was done.

**Susan says \$10,000 grant was not used for roads but instead the office got a new roof with those funds. Ed says grant for abatement was \$8,000.** – There were many capital projects done that year - dust abatement and the village roof were only two of those applied for. Again, the dust abatement project was changed to re-gravelling the gravel roads in the community

**Barry asking about grants and whether they can be reallocated.** Yes, the MSI capital grants could be reallocated if it was an acceptable project by Municipal Affairs. Other grants relating to infrastructure cannot – they must only be used for the projects that were applied for.

**Susan asking why abatement hasn't been done on Noble.** This is the second year that dust abatement has not been done in the Village. Again, projects are determined in February so if/when grants become available, applications can be made for the projects identified and approved by Council in the planning process.

**Rebecca says we receive a lot of grants which is great but wants to see where the grants are allocated and where the funds are going.** – Years ago, the Administrator would post in the newsletter all approved grants and projects. Going forward, this again could be published.

**Rebecca saying that she would like to and doesn't mind looking at the financial reports for grant funding. Ed explaining auditors' roles.** All audited financial statements are available online. The auditors go over all the grant projects and the costs associated with them. In addition, the government requires municipalities report on TCA (Tangible Capital Assets) each year and this is done through an independent contractor for TCA reporting.

**Rebecca questioning when grants are received, why isn't the public notified, and if this should not be part of the CAO's job. Wants explanation of certain lines in the audited financial statement. Ed explaining the berm and how it was paid out.** – See explanation above.

**Vrooman says manhole near his property has never been cleaned, even though Laurie says they're cleaned yearly. Says line drains all the way down railway.** – A false statement as this year for a fact all manholes were power flushed.

**Vrooman says he was using skid steer to pull water out of Lyndon's yard during last big rainfall. Says Laurie didn't care about the water.** – No mention was made of this issue but in fairness, the Village was inundated with water. The ground was saturated – there was no where for this water to go. If your property is low, the water will accumulate.

**Vrooman says MPE/Drainmaster told him that the sewer line is held together with 3- 5 gal pails.** – This is not a factual statement. No where in the Village are sewer lines held together with pails. When issues arise, they are fixed accordingly.

**Reno speaking of his sump pumps and the drainage issues into his property.** The Village is not responsible for private properties – only for infrastructure before the property lines

**Vrooman says streets are higher than properties.** – Again an assumption and not based on fact.

**Reno claims that office laughed off his request to stop the water from coming in.** Most likely he made a funny statement, hence the laugh. He always comes in the office and make jokes. Residents can be assured that all concerns are reported and investigated.

**Reno says the office hasn't responded to his request to have Brian come look, and that he heard from the grapevine that he was laughed off. Felt he wasn't treated right in the office.** – Administrator had contacted Public Works to have a look at the road in front of Reno's that he had mentioned and after Brian inspected the road, he agreed that there was a low area on the road and accordingly repaired it. The water had nothing to do with the road and it would not have attributed to Reno's issue as his property is higher than the road.

**Foster speaking of ditch in front of his home – speaking of how Laurie sent Brian over to rip out his culvert. Says Brian dumped the cement in front of his door.** – Public Works was sent over to remove the materials that were dumped on Village property at the village's culvert by Foster and to put them back where they came from. Foster was dumping illegally on Village property and was impeding the drainage of this ditch. The village culvert has not been ripped out but he has tried to block it.

**Foster says ditch needs to be graded – claims that Liz had filled in her ditch years ago. Says village backhoe has torn up the ditch and then damaged his culvert. Says If the ditch is graded then the water will be diverted from Renos.** – Public works will be directed to look at what improvements can be made to its culvert as Public Works installed it.

**Vrooman making comments about the lack of the grader** – Ed responds then we'll hire one out.

**Ed speaking of nepotism claim and explained that there was no nepotism.**

**Vrooman stating hiring of Durell is nepotism, Foster laughing. Ed explained the application process, explaining that all applicants were interviewed by Ron and Laurie, and that the decision was made by both.** – For further clarity, the Administrator had asked that a council member be present during the interview and that she would welcome any questions or statements. The Administrator was looking for the best person to fill the role based on their qualifications, experience and knowledge.

**Baird asking why we do not hire out someone to hire employees for the village.** – There is a huge cost to contract this out to an employment agency.

**Duncan's representative asking what kind of protections the village has in place to protect from scams due to nepotism. Says that family members will cover for one another – uses example of seniors home in Lethbridge, and how family members embezzled money from seniors and covered for one another.** – There are quality control measures that are put into place. Just being a part of the family or a friend may get someone in the door, but they still have to perform - and probably to a higher level and without as much praise. There is also a consistent manner of evaluation backed up by data and multiple examples kept as evidence. The village auditor is instructed to look for any misleading, questionable or fraudulent transactions yearly when doing the village audit to identify anything that may be questionable. The auditor is also aware of the Administrator's daughter working in the office so have faith that this will also ensure no wrong doings.

**Michelle believes that it is a conflict of interest to have Jen in the office because Laurie is related and it is a conflict of interest in the village. Villagers are conflicted, so therefore it is a conflict.** – See above.

**Vrooman says that Ed is walking up to the gallows.**

**Michelle says that nepotism must be dealt with and council needs to deal with.** – Regardless of relationship, the best person was hired for the job.

**Ed says tourism has been tried but failed with last council.** – Incorrect statement. The Village used to belong to Chinook Tourism and SouthGrow but found that no measurable positive success came forward. So at the decision of Council at the time (approximately seven years ago), it was determined that the money spent on the annual fees could be better allocated elsewhere.

**Vrooman interrupts with asking about tiny homes.** – There is no benefit to the community with respect to assessment for the community. In fact, most communities in the province, with the exception of bigger communities like Calgary/Edmonton are not in favor of this development. Looking at the big picture, the Village needs good assessment values. The more the overall assessment is, the less of an increase to taxes and even a lowering of tax rates can be realized.

**Michelle says that people she knows has tried renting RV spots in the campground long term and/or the baseball diamonds for \$750.00/month but was turned away from the office saying that the length of stay is 3 days maximum.** - Only one individual contacted the office with a query and there was no mention of money. At the time, other viable options were given to the individual that would best suit his needs. After the Village had experienced the “squatters” at the Campground it was suggested by Council to reduce the allowed time at the campground and to provide a place where lots of others can use when visiting in the area. As this campground has no services, it did not make sense to allow someone to stay there with no water, sewer, garbage or electrical sites. Years ago, the Administrator wanted to turn one of the baseball diamonds into a nice campground, with services on site and that grant funds could be used. But this project was turned down by the majority of the Council at the time.

**Reno says the same as Michelle. Says if they speak out in the office and they leave twice as mad because of Laurie.** Refer to the above.

**Ed reiterating that RCMP were called earlier and asked to attend this meeting by someone and this is unnecessary.** The RCMP was contacted by someone attending here tonight, stating that this meeting could be a rough one and that the RCMP should attend to keep peace and order. After the Mayor and Administrator were called by the RCMP, both agreed that this action was not necessary and told the RCMP the same and apologized to them for being called unnecessarily.

**Susan comparing Ed to Trudeau (empty promises). Crowd unhappy with this comparison.** Council does the best it can with what it has. It is not a favorable position, in that, this means that decisions must be made that some residents may not agree with but are made in the best interests of the community as a whole and not just select groups or residents.

**Reno saying this is good communication, but upset that Laurie isn't here to give more “bullshit answers” and he would have liked Laurie to be here. Says he has nothing against Laurie but that Laurie needs to actually hear them. Says some people didn't come tonight because they thought Laurie would be here.** By law, the administrator is required to attend all Council or Committee meetings. The Administrator only provides factual information to the best of her abilities/knowledge. If there is not an answer available at the time, she will research to get the appropriate answer. The Administrator was on holidays when this meeting occurred.

**Michelle states many people feel that bylaw is being used as a weapon against them.** If persons are unsure of the bylaws within any community, they should do their research first. Those not breaking any laws have nothing to fear.

**Ed commenting on bylaw report and how Mel hasn't handed one in yet.** At the time, the monthly report for October was not provided yet.

**Shawn asking how many registered vehicles he can have on his property.** - Ed says it doesn't matter, but they have to be registered. These must also be parked properly and the resident should be respectful of his/her neighbours.

**Ed speaking of Bob's tent trailer on boulevard and how long it can be there as per Traffic Safety Act - Michelle stating it is 24 hrs.** – That is incorrect. According to the Village's bylaw, a trailer can be on the boulevard no longer than 72 hours.

**Baird says that he wants common sense in the village.**

**Baird says he wanted welcome wagon, got bylaw enforcement instead.**

**Ed says Reno said it best – we need more compassion in the village.**

**Vrooman agreeing that he wasn't welcomed by council.**

**Baird suggesting immediately that council deal with bylaw the way Coutts does. Says they assess the issue with council first, before sending bylaw officer over.** Again, there are processes and Council is not responsible for the day-to-day operations in the village. If there are issues with bylaw enforcement, residents need to contact the Bylaw Officer directly, remembering that this is not a 24/7 service. It is important to leave a message if she is unavailable.

**Baird demands a letter of discipline against CAO re: Duncan's fines. States that is intimidation, bullying and harassment.** – No reprimand will be forthcoming as the Administrator was only doing her job. No harassment/bullying or intimidation has occurred as the fines were placed on his account back in 2016 and there they remain unless Council makes a decision to write them off. Mr. Duncan and Administrator Beck have always been respectful to one another in any dealings they have had.

**Baird says CAO got \$4500.00 bonus last year as per financial docs.** – As per the financial documents, these "bonuses" are actually health benefits that the Village pays for such things as dental coverage, prescription coverage, eye glass, short and long term disability, etc. to full time staff. They are not paid directly to the employee but through health benefits insurance.

**Susan states this is put in as a bonus on financial statements.** – See above

**Vrooman says council took a pay cut in the exact same amount as the \$4500.00 bonus for CAO.** – Strictly coincidental. Council's honorariums vary from year to year, depending on how many meetings they have and attend, etc.

**Susan says communication needs to be much better – residents need to be better informed; council needs to be better informed so the residents can know what is happening.** – Communication can always be improved on both ends. Residents can access any information at anytime during office hours unless that information falls under FOIP (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act). Reasonable efforts will be made to provide the information requested unless someone is asking for something time consuming such as massive photocopying, etc. As a form of communication between Council and Administration, there is a file in the office that correspondence, bank statements, reports, etc

are put in. Council is responsible to read these and then initial after they have read the documents. As well, all minutes contain the monthly Administrator's report, Public Works report and Fire Chief's report. Perhaps residents could refer to them when they want to know what is happening in the community. These are available online under the Village of Barons website page - barons.ca

**Michelle says village needs to be heard.** – Believe this meeting was a good step in understanding both council and residents' concerns/positions and getting the proper information out, rather than listening to the gossip, assumptions or interpretations that run in any community.

**Vrooman saying "our tax dollars pay your wage".**

**Baird, Foster say question period is needed.** – See above statement by Mayor Weistra

**Reno says mayor needs to take over back office and put CAO in smaller office. Mayor needs to be accessible.** – See above statement

**Wayne says Ed should be here 1 hr per week or every 2 weeks.** – See above

**Foster complaining of the Canadian flag in tatters again.** – Public Works was given the flags for replacement a couple weeks ago. They will be replaced when time allows.

**Reno and Foster state the MLA and MP will provide flags free. Michelle asking for replacement.** – The Village has ample flags in the office, it just finding the time to replace.

**Ed says that Schow will have meeting with Ed finally next year.**

**Barry asking where we go from here – will minutes be available for people. How long until people have answers.** – Absolutely. After the research is completed, this information will be available.

**Vrooman proposes that in 2 weeks we reconvene and revisit things for answers. Ed and Ron agree.** – Is this considered micromanaging your Council? Time is needed to get the information to the questions together from all persons who asked them.

**Baird demanding council meetings be moved back to 6 pm and says he does not want to see a 1:00 pm meeting ever again.** – It is Council's responsibility to set a time and day for regular council meetings. Looking at many factors such as availability, demographics, etc. these are taken into consideration when setting the dates and times of the meetings. Just because you purchased property here in the village, one cannot and will not dictate the times of any meeting, by an individual who doesn't even live in the Village yet.

**Reno thanking council for listening to residents. Asking if we can have a town hall every few months, etc. as this was positive.** – Something perhaps can be arranged such as bi-yearly or yearly meeting to have open discussions.

**Rebecca says that not everyone is expecting answers immediately, but that tasks should be assigned to individuals to research.** – All research is being thoroughly done so that residents will have the facts.

**Ed thinking more of a report/checklist to show people that things are being handled.** Something can be prepared to put in the newsletter when developments/issues occur. Again, there are other resources such as the meeting minutes that one can refer to or contacting the Village Office with your questions..

**Vrooman says we should do this every 2 weeks – most residents in attendance were opposed.**

**Rebecca says some report is better than no report.** A report/answer will be available in its entirety when it is completed as some questions/statements are similar but asked at different times in the meeting.

**Barry asking if minutes will be posted online – Michelle speaking of when minutes will be ratified (next council meeting Dec 8).** – Due to COVID 19, all regular council meetings will be cancelled but minutes will be posted online when available.

**\*\*Side note\*\***

**Trees** – An inspection was conducted December 8, 2020 with a certified arborist. A full inventory was done of the entire village. The quote came in at \$4,200 per day and this would pay for two bucket trucks, a stump grinder, 2 shredder trucks and 7 employees. It is estimated that to do the whole village, it would come in around \$100,000.00. There are some trees that are needing immediate attention. Replacement trees can be obtained for \$300.00 each installed.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm**

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Mayor

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Assistant Administrator