

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
September 10, 2024**

Present: Daniel Doell, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Clinton Bishop, Councillor
Jen Durell, Administrator
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman

Absent: *None*

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda: Councillor Bishop requests two additions to the agenda.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to add the broadcasting of council meetings to the agenda under new business.

Discussion was held.

In favour: Councillor Bishop

Opposed: Mayor Doell and Deputy Mayor Gorzitza
Motion Defeated

Councillor Bishop requests that Council Code of Conduct discussion be moved to new business.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to move this item from the closed session to the new business.

Discussion was held.

In favour: Councillor Bishop

Opposed: Mayor Doell and Deputy Mayor Gorzitza.

Motion defeated

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the agenda as presented. **Carried unanimously**

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the June 11, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza. to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2024 Regular Council meeting as presented.
Carried unanimously**

To accept the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Special Council meeting as presented.
Carried unanimously**

To accept the minutes of the July 18, 2024 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza.to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2024 Special Council meeting as presented.
Carried unanimously**

To accept the minutes of the August 6, 2024 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the August 6, 2024 Special Council meeting as presented.
Carried unanimously**

Business Arising:

None

Village Foreman Report:

Still having some issues at the water plant with the pressure transmitter. Have ordered another one to replace it. It has come back online so it is not registering any readings. Not sure where the water came in to disable the pressure transmitter initially. An Arbourist has been engaged to deal with the tall trees in the Village. Will start work on the Elm trees as of October 1. Have been working on cleaning up some of the trees that they can reach, but some can't be dealt with until October 1 when we can trim the elm trees due to the risk of Dutch Elm disease. Councillor Bishop asks what the status of the sewer project is. Foreman Passmore says that they have equipment on site currently. Councillor Bishop asks about the plow issue for the truck. Foreman Passmore has concerns regarding the plow and its age. Says if Council is wanting to sell the old town truck, then they should sell it as is with the plow as the current plow blade will probably need maintenance once this season is done. Speaks of cost to mount the current plow to the new truck vs the cost of buying a brand-new blade for the

new truck. Says that the mount on the old truck is not useable for the new truck, and by next year the plow will need new pins and bushings. It was suggested that the Village should just get a new blade put on the new truck.

Administrators Report:

Administration has completed the adjustment of all tax rolls affected by the minimum tax as per Council's direction. Attended the LGAA Conference, as in previous years there were great learning and networking opportunities. The CCBF (Canada Community Building Fund) Application was approved, which is what we are using to cover the Municipal portion of the sewer lagoon project. Moved our water license over to the new DRAS (Digital Regulatory Assurance System) system that Alberta Environment is now asking all Municipalities to use for annual reporting. Distributed food bank donations from Family Fun Day to the Picture Butte Food Bank – The Village collected \$409 in cash, as well as 158 pounds of food during breakfast.

Submitted Insurance renewal forms. Assessment Review Board hearing is now scheduled for October 17th at 1:30 pm and the Community Hall has been booked for this. Administrator Durell arranged for a free potato giveaway, which was a overwhelming success. Many residents attended, as well as others from outside the community. The GIC's that matured in July have been reinvested. The sewer lagoon project is underway. The concrete is now poured for the foundation of the new pumphouse, as well as all the electrical conduit has now been completed. The Village is just waiting for the last land agreement to be executed, and then the work will begin to replace the trunk main.

Had multiple issues at the campground over the summer, which prompted Administration to close the campground as a temporary measure to alleviate the concerns of the nearby residents.

The property which was lost due to a fire last year has now been sold, and work is underway to remediate the property.

Administration has been in contact with our AFFRCS radio technician regarding our radios. The Village has sent them away to get reprogrammed so they can be used for Emergency Management purposes. Attended numerous meetings over the summer. Attended a meeting with the Barons School Principal and FCSS regarding the lack of programming and outreach within the Village. FCSS is wanting to bring more programs to the Village in conjunction with the Village and Barons School. Discussion was had as to what would be most utilized or needed. Tentatively planned is youth programming, programming for seniors and increased seniors' services, continued programming for the LGM community, as well as having weekly food bank deliveries. The School has offered to run the food bank portion from their location and the Village has provided a freezer for the purpose of same, as

requests have been made by seniors to have frozen meals and/or goods available. If the programming goes ahead as planned, FCSS will require a volunteer to assist in packing and distributing the food bank items at the school.

- Correspondence:**
- June Bank Reconciliation
 - Municipal Affairs – 2025 Fire Services Training Program Grant
 - Municipal Affairs – CCBF Funding Negotiations
 - Town of Coaldale – Invitation to attend the Grand Opening of the Shift Community Recreation Centre
 - ORRSC – New Service Opportunity – Development Processing and Support
 - Lethbridge County – Invitation to Summer Community Events
 - Village of Carmangay – Invitation to Sports Day
 - Town of Coaldale – Invitation to Summer Fest
 - Expression of Concern from Resident
 - July Bank Reconciliation
 - Municipal Affairs – CCBF Agreement Allocations
 - Community Peace Officer Monthly Report – July
 - Town of Nobleford – Open House Invitation
 - August Bank Reconciliation

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the correspondence as presented. Carried unanimously

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the months of June, July and August, 2024.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the accounts payable for the months of June, July and August, 2024. Carried unanimously

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve the monthly statement for June, July and August, 2024. Carried unanimously

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Discussed other municipalities joining ORRSC.
- b) **Green Acres**
No meetings were held in the summer. Next upcoming meeting will be at the end of September.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Next meeting at the end of September.

- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Received the ACP Grant for the Community Needs Assessment Project.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Meeting was well attended. Next meeting will be held in Red Deer on November 1. No meeting in October for the Lethbridge region.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Discussed how things were going at Chinook Arch. Discussed what programs people were joining. Discussed costs and the financial struggles everyone is facing.
- g) **AG Society**
Breaks for the summer. Hosted Family Fun Day. Attendance was a little less than last year. Dinner attendance was drastically down from last year.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Discussed the Regional Partnership program and what it will look like moving forward, as the Town of Coaldale has now dropped out from the program due to funding cuts. All documents will have to be amended to remove the Town of Coaldale from them and resign the agreement with the remaining 5 partners. Picture Butte is requesting an extension of the ACP grant to allow the group more time to build the program.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Had a great summer in the Village with the Thursday library. Will be coming to Barons once per month moving forward.

New Business:

- a) **TELUS Agreement**
Council was presented with the proposed agreement with TELUS for their consideration. Discussion was held.
- b) **Memorandum of Agreement for the Canada Community Building Fund**
Council was presented with the proposed agreements for the Canada Community Building Fund. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve and sign the Canada Community Building Fund Agreement as presented.

Carried unanimously

c) Fortis Franchise Fee

Presently the Village of Barons receives a 5% franchise fee. Each year, Council has the opportunity to change this rate. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to keep the franchise fee at 5% for the 2025 year.

**2 for, 1 against.
Motion Carried**

d) AB Municipalities Conference

As in previous years, Administration and a member of Council have attended the AB Municipalities Conference. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to have Mayor Doell and Administrator Durell attend the AB Municipalities Conference.

**2 for, 1 against.
Motion Carried**

e) Ball Diamonds Redevelopment

Councillor Bishop would like Council to consider redeveloping the ball diamonds on the north end of the Village to residential lots. Discussion was held. Deputy Mayor Gorzitza says that it's something that the Village needs but doesn't believe that the Village can afford it right now given the needs of the water plant and sewer plants.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to create a preliminary plan for the baseball diamonds for housing development including a high-level timeline to begin public consultation.

In favour: Councillor Bishop

Opposed: Deputy Mayor Gorzitza and Mayor Doell

Motion defeated

f) Repeal of Rental Policy

The Village currently has a policy which states that the Village will not rent out any municipally owned building or any tools. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to repeal the policy.

In favour: Councillor Bishop

Opposed: Deputy Mayor Gorzitza and Mayor Doell

Motion defeated

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to amend the motion to table a decision for further information.

In favour: Mayor Doell and Deputy Mayor Gorzitza

Opposed: Councillor Bishop

Motion Carried

Closed Session:

**a) Council Code of Conduct
FOIP ACT – 24(1)(b)(ii)**

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to go incamera to discuss the Council Code of Conduct as per FOIP Act – 24(1)(b)(ii) at 8:45 pm. Carried unanimously

In Favour: Deputy Mayor Gorzitza and Mayor Doell

Opposed: Councillor Bishop

Mayor Doell departed the meeting at 8:51 pm

Mayor Doell returned to the meeting at 8:53 pm

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza departed the meeting at 10:13 pm

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza returned to the meeting at 10:15 pm

Motion made by Mayor Doell to come out of camera at 11:07 p.m. Carried unanimously

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 11:07 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell