



Reeve's Report

**Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5
February 16, 2024 to March 21, 2024**

February 16, 2024 - Refocusing Alberta's Health Care System Engagement Session, in Westlock (Jered, Dan & Lorne)

- This was an open opportunity to identify barriers and challenges related to accessing the health care system, opportunities and discuss community-driven solutions, to help the province understand how to successfully implement new direction and how to improve local decision-making, by finding ways to enhance ongoing regional engagement and ensure all stakeholders have a voice.

February 16, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation, held at Bar-V-Nook (Jered & Dominique)

- Received operational updates, financial statements.
- Approved a flag etiquette policy.
- Updated the signing authorities.
- Recommended items for the 2024 Capital Budget.
- Received updates on changes and benchmarking underway, such as changes to job duties.

February 22, 2024 - Regular Council Meeting, held in Chambers (All Council)

- Approved a municipal contribution of \$55,000 to Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) for their Year-2024 Operating Budget.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-10-09: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2024, to include changes made to Policy Statement No. 62-28-06 Mowing Program, and the fulltime Animal Control Technician position.
- Approved to donate \$500.00 towards the 7th Annual Randy Russ Memorial Barrel Race, on August 4-5, 2024, in Bellis.
- Approved \$2,000 of FCSS grant funding to Warspite Community Hall Association's Volunteer Appreciation and \$6,500 to the Town of Smoky Lake Library Board's 2024 Family Programming.
- Appointed public members to the Assessment Review Board (ARB) for Year-2024.
- Gave 3rd & Final Reading to Bylaw No. 1456-24: Aggregate Extraction Business License.
- Approved to promote the "PatientsFirst" Letter Writing Campaign with the intent of removing red tape hindering the attraction and retention of physicians affecting the George McDougall Health Care Centre's Emergency Room Services and Medical Clinics in the Smoky Lake Region.
- Approved the Year-2024 Budget for the Smoky Lake Region's Physicians & Health Care Professionals Committee, with the County's contribution being \$14,640
- Supported the application to the 2024 Rural Health Professions Action Plan's (RhPAP) Rhapsody Award for the Rural Health-Care Heroes to nominate Dr. Anton Raubenheimer, Dr. Stephan Raubenheimer and Dr. Hendrick Lourens, as well as their dedicated staff, at the Raubenheimer Medical Clinic.
- Accepted the Strategic Plan 2023-2025 Progress Priorities update for 2023 (which can be found here: <https://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/p/strategic-plan>)
- Acknowledged the updated Management Policy 1-M-45-01: Waste Management Operator Job Description.
- Approved payment of \$188,262.00 to the province for the Policing Cost Share Under the Police Funding Model.
- Approved the 2024 membership fee of \$1,386 to Alberta Municipalities.
- Amended the interim Year-2024 Capital Budget with an increase of \$12,000 to purchase a mower and side arm for \$92,000.00.



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February 28, 2024 - Joint Waskatenau & County Council Committee, held in Chambers (All Council)

- Received and discussed information in respect to the Village of Waskatenau's proposed annexation relating to the taxes and assessments of the lots within proposed annexation area, as well as the natural gas utilities.

March 1, 2024 - Council Committee of the Whole Meeting, held in Chambers - CAO Recruitment (All Council)

- Held discussion under Executive Session, to discuss a Personnel Issue: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Recruitment, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 24: Advice from Officials, and FOIP Section 27: Privileged Information.
- Recommended Administration prepare information packages for each respective Minister (as listed under Council's January 11, 2024, Motion #250-24) to be utilized for advocacy efforts outlining issues which are specific to the County, providing potential solutions, and including supporting documentation, which can be presented at any one-on-one meetings with the Ministers.

March 5, 2024 - Committee of the Whole - Planning & Development, held in Chambers (All Council)

- Held discussion and received information in respect to potential Concepts for Attracting Development and Investment, relating to Fees & Charges, Tax Incentives, County-Owned Lands, and Land Use Bylaw.
- Held discussion under Executive Session, to discuss a Legal Issue in respect Métis Nation of Alberta's proposed Supportive Living Facility Development: Healing Waters Treatment Center, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 16: Third Party Business Interests and Section 27: Privileged Information.

March 5, 2024 - Agricultural Service Board Meeting held in Chambers (Jered, Dan, Dominique)

- Received the Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview Year-2023.
- Received correspondence relating to concerns in respect to being underrepresented in the pre-engagement review for the Year-2024 proposed changes to Weed Control Regulation.
- Received the RMA document titled: A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta, for awareness.
- Received a Moisture Situation Update from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.

March 7, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting, held in Chambers (All Council)

- Held Public Participation for the Proposed Bylaw No. 1454-24: Off-Highway Vehicle Control and later gave 3rd & Final Reading to the Bylaw.
- Agreed to establish a Wildfire Rapid Response Program, fully funded by Smoky Lake County for the Smoky Lake Region, in response to the anticipated drought forecast and current drought conditions being experienced throughout Alberta in Year-2024.
- Approved tender out the 2024-2026 Gravel Crushing.
- Approved to schedule the Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation BBQ event, for June 14, 2024.
- Gave 3rd & Final Reading to Bylaw No. 1457-24: Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw.
- Received notice of approval of Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program funding of \$200,000 for the Regional Water, Wastewater, & Stormwater Infrastructure Design Study Project & a timeline extension for the Smoky Lake Regional Fire Services Study Project to Dec. 31, 2024.



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- Resolved that the federal government work with municipalities to maintain the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities.

March 11-13, 2024 – Alberta Senior & Community Housing Association (ASCHA) Conference, held in Calgary (Jered & Dominique)

- Workshop by Paul Davis about emergency management within facilities.
- Workshop planning new housing & seniors housing, constructing simple plans for reduced costs.
- The new ASCHA president is President James Nibourg.

March 18, 2024 – Commanding Officer of the RCMP K Division & Executive Team Meeting at RMA (Jered, Dominique, Lorne & Dan)

- Discussed potential issues with the proposed supportive living facility.
- Discussed the increased property and persons crimes and how the RCMP are approaching these, with addictions being the contributor to majority, if not all, crimes.
- Thanked the RCMP for an additional member, a Corporal position.

March 18, 2024 – Mayors and Reeves Liaison Meeting at RMA (Jered & Linda)

- Discussed Victim's Services. An ongoing issue, GOA pushing towards regional services vs local.
- Module B coming in the future due to the Solar projects pause.
- Advocating for maintenance funding for regional airports to upgrade surfaces, communications (forest fire fighting planes).
- Discussion about the future of the RCMP and the GOA's additional policing services.
- Discussion about utility companies beginning to download costs to municipalities for line locations.
- Discussion about the carbon net zero program and how it is and will affect industries in the future.

March 18-20, 2024 – RMA Spring Convention, held in Edmonton (All Council)

- Attended de escalation workshop, techniques, phrases to reduce confrontation both in council and public.
- Attended agri-tourism workshop, travel Alberta, CATA presented opportunities and grant funding to enhance current and new builds.
- Lorne read the fire resolution at the resolution session. The resolution passed.
- The Ministerial forum (bear pit) was discussion of more of the same issues, policing, EMS, health, environment, technology, infrastructure, LGFF, housing, etc.
- Networking and building relationships with neighboring municipalities.

March 20, 2024 - Minister Mental Health and Addiction, Dan Williams, at RMA (Jered & Linda)

- Discussed Lack of knowledge on the Métis Nation of Alberta's proposed Supportive Living Facility Development: Healing Waters Treatment Center.
- Discussed the broad spectrum of healthcare and advocated to reduce red – tape to employ Doctors, nurses and to enhance health care within our hospital by offering minor surgeries, dialysis, etc.
- Discussed the continued lack of EMS and the strain on our fire fighters in all 3 departments.

For more information about County meetings, minutes, agendas, bylaws, policies, or departments, please visit: www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca