



Reeve's Report

**Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5
November 16, 2023 – January 11, 2024**

November 17, 2023 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Organizational meeting: Jered elected as Chairperson, Tammy – Lynne Thompson as Vice Chairperson.

November 20, 2023 – Council Budget Workshop (All Council)

- The Finance Manager reviewed budgetary procedures and operational impacts from the budget.

November 21, 2023 – Council Budget Meeting (All Council)

- Approved changes to be incorporated into the: draft Five-Year Road Plan for 2024-2028, draft 2024 Capital Plan Budget, and the draft 2024 Interim Budget.
- Scheduled a Virtual Open House for public feedback to be held December 12, 2023.

November 21, 2023 – Joint County & Waskatenau Council Meeting (All Council)

- Received a verbal request from Lakeland Catholic School Division (LCSD) to fund a daycare space in Waskatenau's new school and requested the 'ask' to be in writing.
- Recommended the LCSD adjust the design of the new school for potential future integration of a daycare.

November 23, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Approved to donate \$240 to the Smoky Lake Food Bank.
- Approved funding of \$673.22 to the Ukrainian Orthodox Society of Spedden.
- Confirmed the Property Tax Sale reserve bids.
- Approved FCCS funding of \$5,000 to Smoky Lake Agricultural Society and \$900 to Victoria Trail Ag Society.
- Amended Policy 02-12-04: Peace Officer Traffic Safety Plan.
- Received the 3rd Annual 2023 Junior Firefighter Summer Day Camp financial report.
- Agreed to partially fund the wages for 2 Smoky Lake Fire Department work experience students.
- Awarded the contract for the Smoky Lake Region Investment Attraction Strategy to Michelle Wright.
- Rejected an offer to purchase Plan 2562BS; RLY; 59 for \$4,500.
- Gave first reading to Bylaw No. 1453-23: Land Use Bylaw Amendment for Supportive Living Facilities, Establishment of a Direct Control District for Supportive Living Facilities & Rezoning.
- Approved the letters sent to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation as well as to the Deputy House Leader, Critic for Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, about Smoky Lake County being exempted from the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for Livestock Producers.
- Reconfirmed the purpose of the Lake Subdivision Wayfinding Signage is for the purpose of emergency services and promoting public awareness of the subdivision's layout and municipal reserve locations.
- Approve to readvertise for the CAO position with more specific educational requirements.

November 23, 2023 – Vilna Solar Project Open House (Jered, Linda, Dan)

- Received information from the developer about the stages of the project from immediate plans to long-term goals.

November 24, 2023 – Virtual Meeting with Minister of Justice (All Council)

- Advocated for attention to the flaws in the Justice System and rampant Rural Crime, to find a solution.



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- Advocated for harsher conditions/sentencing for prolific criminals.
- Advocated for enhanced rural policing

December 4, 2023 – Policy Committee Meeting (All Council)

- Reviewed: Policy Statement No. 01-46-02: Social Media; Policy Statement No. 03-14-12: Haul Road Agreement; and Policy Statement No. 01-53-01: Treaty 6 & Land Acknowledgement.
- Recommended Policy Statement No. 01-03-28: Organizational Chart, be reinstated and amended to include an Out-of-Scope Non-Union 11-Step Salary Grid; and recommended some municipal committees be facilitated under "Council Committee of the Whole" and incorporated into a new bylaw outlining the terms of reference.

December 5, 2023 – Council Budget Meeting (All Council)

- Approved to pursue a hybrid Vehicle Replacement Program in 2024, of purchasing vehicles (which are to be kept within the fleet until there is no significant value is left) while phasing out any vehicles acquired under existing/upcoming leases.
- Approved further changes to the draft Five-Year Road Plan for 2024-2028.
- Approved "acting pay" compensation to Lydia Cielin, in the amount of \$18,900.00, for duties performed as the Interim CAO, during the 7 (seven) Months from June to December 2023.

December 8, 2023 – Virtual Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Supportive Living Info Session (All Council)

- Attended the MNA information session in respect to a proposed Supportive Living Facility that they wish to build between the North Saskatchewan River and Victoria Trail, in the County.

December 12, 2023 – Agricultural Service Board Meeting (Dan, Jered & Dominique)

- Dan Gawalko was acclaimed as the Chairperson of the ASB & Jered Serben as the Vice-Chairperson.
- Recommended the County fund local producer's memberships to Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) in lieu of a any direct municipal contribution to LARA's 2024 operating budget, and have the County's Ag. Department provide in-house extension events.
- Recommended the County's Policy No. 62-12-03: Clubroot, be amended to be a checklist instead of an agreement.
- Recommended the County's No. 62-10-08: ASB Business Plan, be updated to align with changes made to the Mowing Program Policy and fulltime Animal Control Technician.
- Recommended the County buy a \$1,000 membership to the Alberta Invasive Species Council.
- Reviewed and supported all the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions numbers 1-24 through 7-24.

December 12, 2023 – Virtual Open House for 2024 Budget (All Council)

- The Finance Manager presented the 2024 balanced budget based on the following:
 - No change in service levels,
 - Planned transfers to reserves have been removed,
 - Equipment replacement has been deferred,
 - Maintenance costs will increase as a result of above,
 - The Road Plan is based on feedback from Council and Management,
 - The assumption that the LGF grant will be equal to the MSI grant received in 2023,
 - The predicted increase in policing costs of 50% (from \$191,242 to \$255,000),
 - Escalation of costs due to inflation,



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- Crush Gravel for \$450,000,
- Interest rates earned on funds will be approximately 5%.

December 13, 2023 – Joint Health & Safety Meeting (Dominique)

- Organizational meeting held and reviewed the formal safety inspection results, training completed, 3 incidents, Committee Member reports, safety correspondence.

December 13, 2023 – Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) Meeting (All Council)

- Cory Whitlock, Whitlock Contracting Ltd., was a delegation to provide insight from the perspective of a highly qualified resource to aid the Committee in determining the Regional Fire Services Budget and Funding Formula.
- Provided administration direction to for creating budget options.
- Recommended switching all fire hydrants to a universal connection and ensure engineering standards are met.

December 14, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Held a moment of silence to honour Johnny Cherniwchan, former Councillor for Division Two.
- Approved to waive a one-time sewage connection fee of \$2,500 to a resident of Bellis.
- Approve the Five-Year Consolidated Capital Budget with \$8,004,721 in 2024, \$10,907,927 in 2025, \$6,453,116 in 2026, \$5,678,001 in 2027, and \$3,523,117 in 2028.
- Approve the 2024 Interim Municipal Budget with revenues of \$22,494,464 and total Expenditures of \$24,538,764, not including amortization of \$2,044,300.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 01-53-02: Treaty and Indigenous Acknowledgement.
- Adopted the 2024 Natural Gas System Operating Budget with a total revenue of \$3,025,220 and total expenditures of \$3,220,220 (including amortization).
- Adopted the 2024 Natural Gas System Capital Budget with total revenue in the amount of \$267,000 and expenditures in the amount of \$317,000.
- Approved \$2,500 of FCSS funds to the Holubka Dancers for Parent Volunteer Appreciation.
- Approved \$500.00 to sponsor 2 Smoky Lake Curling Association rock handles.
- Approved to execute the "Agreement for Access to Information As Required by the Access to Motor Vehicle Information Regulation" in relation to the Peace Officer Program.
- Approved an unbudgeted expense of \$68,499.59, for unforeseen circumstances relating to bridge BF13398 crossing Cache Creek on Rge Rd 130, at NW07-60-12W4.
- Approve \$1,005.50 to the Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227 for building repair materials.

December 14, 2023 – Public Hearing (All Council)

- The Public Hearing was from 9:20am to 2:08pm to receive public input on Bylaw No. 1453-23: a Bylaw of Smoky Lake to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14, for the purposes defining Supportive Living Facilities and creating provisions relating thereto, and to rezone Part of River Lot 15 (Victoria Settlement) from Victoria Commercial (C2) District to Direct Control (DC2) District'.
- No further decisions were made on the bylaw that day.

December 14, 2023 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting (All Council)



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- Organizational meeting was held, Councillor Cere is the Chairperson & Councillor Gawalko is the Vice-Chairperson.
- Approved Development Permit No. 030-23: PLAN 1324097, BLOCK 1, LOT 1 (PT. NW-36-58-13-W4M) for the development of an Animal Breeding and/or Boarding Facility, Greenhouse, Shed, Coop & Detached Garage, subject to conditions.

December 15, 2023 - Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Contracted Homeland Housing to operate the Foundation and to conduct an operational review.

January 9, 2024 – Smoky Lake Region Fire & Rescue Committee Meeting (All Council)

- Organizational meeting held, Deputy Reeve: Linda Fenerty was acclaimed as the Chairperson and Town Mayor Amy Cherniwchan was acclaimed as the vice-chairperson.
- Received a presentation from Transitional Solutions Inc., about Phase 3 of the Smoky Lake Regional Fire Services.
- Recommended the municipalities provide advocacy direction their respective Municipal Association: Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) or Alberta Municipalities (AM) to address “Declining Fire Department Services Across Rural Alberta”.
- Recommended exploring and considering Municipal Property Tax Incentives relating to firefighters living and serving within the Smoky Lake Region.

January 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Approved \$400 Municipal Tourism Partnership / Annual Membership to Go East Regional Tourism Organization.
- Approved a Recreational Trail Roadway License Agreement RLA-002-23, with the Smoky Lake Trail Twisters Snowmobile Club for Rge Rd 171, between Twp Rd 595A & Twp Rd 621.
- Denied fence compensation to former leasee of NE 23-60-13-W4M, as per the conditions of the Surface Lease Agreement.
- Agreed to sell County-Owned land PT. SE-09-58-15-4W, containing +/- 20.04 acres (+/- 8.10 hectares), to Raymond Serafinchon, in the amount of \$50,000.00 + GST.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-12-03: Clubroot.
- Approved a bronze membership in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Alberta Invasive Species Council.
- Approved to sponsor \$500 towards “The Original Grazing School for Woman” on March 2, 2024.
- Deferred making a decision for Municipal Funding towards Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA).
- Approved to give \$500 towards Smoky Lake Stars U7 Minor Hockey team’s hockey tournament.
- Approved \$1,706 of FCSS grant to Village of Waskatenau Library Board for a Board Game Program.
- Approved \$1,875 of FCSS grant to Vilna & District Agricultural Society for a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.
- Approved to **not** receive any Cost of Living (COLA) increment in 2024 for Council.
- Approved renew the \$808.73 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) membership.
- Recommend the Town of Smoky Lake, implement a letter writing campaign involving members of the public, community stakeholders, businesses, Smoky Lake Region Municipalities, Settlements, Reserves, and anyone, to urge the Provincial Government and Regional Health Authority in taking action to remove the 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.
- Acknowledged receipt of Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2023-24 grant funding of



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- \$99,900 to Smoky Lake County, in support of the Smoky Lake Region Municipal Land Use Suitability Tool (MLUST) project,
- \$200,000 to Village of Vilna, in support of the Smoky Lake Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure project, &
- \$200,000 to Village of Waskatenau, in support of the Smoky Lake Regional Recreation Services Strategy project.
- Acknowledged the Minister of Environment & Protected Areas, received is requesting municipalities to undertake preparations for drought in 2024, and agreed to prepare.
- Agreed to renew a Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) with Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd for 3 more years.
- Denied the request from the not-for-profit, Métis Crossing Experience Company, to support Metis Crossing Limited's application under Alberta's Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation (COPTER) for property tax roll 17581251, legally described as River Lot 12-58-17-W4.
- Approved to engage Human Edge Executive Search, for \$15,000.00 plus GST, to help recruit a County CAO.

January 11, 2023 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting (All Council, except Lorne)

- Approved Development Permit No. 001-24: PLAN 7520244, BLOCK 5, LOT 19, for the development of a Manufactured Home, subject to conditions.

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