



**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY & TOWN OF SMOKY LAKE
 JOINT COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**



Minutes of the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council Meeting of Thursday, **November 26, 2020** at 5:15 p.m. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to Order by the Smoky Lake County Reeve Craig Lukinuk in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Thursday, Nov.26, 2020</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Virtually Present
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Virtually Present
3	Craig Lukinuk	Virtually Present
4	Lorne Halisky	Virtually Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Virtually Present
CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Virtually Present
Assistant CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Recording Secretary	Patti Priest	Virtually Present
P&D Manager	Jordan Ruegg	Virtually Present
P&D Assist. Manager	Kyle Schole	Virtually Present
CEDO	Michelle Wright	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Hank Holowaychuk – Mayor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Melody Morton – Councillor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Dan Kotylak – Councillor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Ross Whitelaw – Deputy Mayor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Terry Makowichuk – Councillor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Adam Kozakiewicz - CAO	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Crystal Letwin – Assistant CAO	Absent

One Member of the Media: Smoky Lake Signal, virtually present.
 6 Members of the Public were in virtual attendance.

2. AGENDA:

J242-20: Orichowski That the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday, November 26, 2020 be adopted, as presented in the presence of 8 members of the public, time 6:43 p.m..

Addition to the Agenda:

1. COVID-19 Pandemic – Smoky Lake Region Outbreak.

Town of Smoky Lake: motion moved by Holowaychuk.

Carried Unanimously.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING:

Victoria District Economic Development Strategy - Proposed Bylaws: Smoky Lake County Bylaw No. 1372-20 & Town of Smoky Lake Bylaw No. 006-2020

1.0 Opening

The Virtual Public Hearing was **called to order at 5:25 p.m.** by the Smoky Lake County Reeve, Craig Lukinuk in the presence of Council members, Chief Administrative Officer, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, GIS/Communication Director, Planning and Development Manager, Recording Secretary and **28 members of the public.**

Confirmation was provided by the Chief Administrative Officers of Smoky Lake County and Town of Smoky Lake that the Public Hearing was advertised, and notice was provided in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The purpose of the hearing was summarized as follows:

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Business Plan.

Over the last year and some months, we have been working in partnership with our consultant Vision, the Experience Specialists (Vision XS) to develop this Strategy, which aims to leverage the Victoria District for cultural and heritage tourism, growing the Smoky Lake region's visitor economy, thereby contributing to creating jobs, stabilizing population and service levels, etc.

In June of this year, the Town and County Councils jointly adopted parallel bylaws, approved the general concept of this Strategy, and which also gave direction to begin working towards implementation.

Today, the Proposed Business Plan which is before the Councils represents the next step of that process.

Eight (8) Members of the Public virtually joined the meeting, between the 5:28 p.m. and 5:50 p.m.

2.0 Staff Presentation

Smoky Lake County Planning and Development Manager, Jordan Ruegg, provided the following BACKGROUND information:

- **June 26, 2020 Joint Virtual Public Hearing & Joint Town/County Councils Meeting**

Both Town and County Councils:

- **Convened** a Joint Virtual Public Hearing for the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy (Town Bylaw 006-2020 and County Bylaw 1372-20), at which presentations and

representations were made by delegations and residents, as well as a reading into the record of written submissions.

- **Accepted** the 'What We Heard Report,' summarizing the public participation and feedback received per the Public Participation Plan
- **Adopted** the Strategy via County Bylaw 1372-20 and Town Bylaw 006-2020
- **Established** a Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Implementation Working Group Ad hoc Committee to prepare a Business Plan in accordance with legislation, to be brought forward to a future Meeting of Joint Town/County Councils for consideration.

▪ **September 16, 2020 Joint Town/County Councils Meeting @ National Hall**

Joint Town/County Councils were presented with the proposed Business Plan, with minor changes having been made at that time.

Joint Town/County Councils then agreed in principle for each respective municipality to invest Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00), for a combined total of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000.00), as majority shareholders of a municipally owned Joint Venture Tourism Corporation.

▪ **September 16, 2020 Joint Town/County Councils Meeting, Reconvened at Metis Crossing**

Convening alongside the Metis Crossing Board, the proposed Business Plan was further discussed among the three parties.

Joint Town/County Councils then adopted a motion to seek public participation in accordance with each municipality's respective Public Participation Policies: County's Policy Statement No. 01-51-01 and Town's Policy Statement No. A18, in order to provide the Public with sufficient access to information, allowing them to be informed, and provide opportunities to participate, be involved, and provide input into the decision-making process in respect to the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan.

▪ **November 26, 2020 Joint Virtual Public Hearing & Joint Town/County Councils Meeting**

Five months to the day since adopting the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy itself, another Joint Virtual Public Hearing is scheduled to address the subsequent proposed Business Plan and may then consider its adoption.

November 26, 2020

3.0 Public Presentations Via Written Submissions

The following Public Presentations Via Written Submissions were received and read into the record:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 6, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Michelle Wright <cedo@smokylakeregion.ca>
Subject: RE: Checking In

Hi Michelle,,

I forwarded the information about the Business Plan and Public Hearing to the Kalyna President, Larry Tiedemann, who responded with great interest and is sharing everything with other board members. I hope they'll make a written submission.

In the meantime, I will have a closer look at the Business Plan and join the discussion on the 26th.

Jars

From: Karen Schneberger [REDACTED]
Sent: October 28, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Michelle Wright <cedo@smokylakeregion.ca>
Subject: Re: [Ext Sender] Public Engagement on Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan

Good morning Michelle!
Thanks so much for forwarding this info! Looking forward to taking the time to read through it. Such a neat plan for promoting tourism and local businesses!

Karen Schneberger P.Ag.
Relationship Manager
ATB Business Solutions
Payments | Deposits | Trade Finance

Mobile: [REDACTED]
Box 820
Redwater, AB.
T0A 2W0
[REDACTED]

November 19, 2020

Smoky Lake County Council and Planners
4612 McDougall Dr.
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

RE: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan

To SLC Council

The Smoky Lake County Regional Heritage Board (SLCRHB) supports, in principle, this bold initiative to grow the Smoky Lake regional tourism economy over the next ten years. A great deal of time and effort has already been put into this project, and, for that, the people involved are to be commended.

A plan such as this, which relies on input from, and cooperation between, different levels of government, private enterprise and stakeholder organizations, will face a number of challenges. Compounding these challenges is the fact we are in the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic. Daily life, government, and all business and industry, including the tourism industry, are under incredible strain.

The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) is now at the earliest stage of a process that will take many years. The SLCRHB has a few questions, observations and suggestions now, but there will be many more as the initiative gathers speed. We would appreciate the opportunity to have more in-depth discussions as things evolve.

Crucial to the success of the EDS will be communication and public engagement. While there have been stories and advertisements in the local newspapers, and limited public participation in online presentations so far, we look forward to a much greater pitch of the initiative to a broader audience. We appreciate this may have to wait until it is safe to once again stage a large public meeting. In the meantime, it may be beneficial to consider a direct mail FAQ, initially to Victoria District residents and eventually all County residents. More support and local buy-in can be garnered by explaining how the benefits of increased tourism and the development of feature attractions will outweigh the negatives. It is worth noting that it is not a given right now that people who live in the District are all in favour of increased tourism traffic and development.

As the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan moves forward, the SLCRHB will operate under its mandate from the SLCRHB Bylaw and the Heritage Management Plan. We will continue to ensure our unique heritage values are preserved for the

benefit of all. Our existing heritage assets will no doubt become better known and appreciated as the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) gains traction.

We support the Victoria District Economic Development Business Plan in principle and anticipate it coming to fruition as the plan is rolled out. We look forward to seeing local economies improved by utilizing heritage assets while ensuring long-term management of these resources.

Sincerely,

Noreen Easterbrook
Chairperson,
Smoky Lake County Regional Heritage Board (SLCRHB)

-----Original Message-----

From: Lorne Taylor <lorne_taylor@sympatico.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Michelle Wright <cedo@smokylakeregion.ca>
Subject: Re: Public Engagement on Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan

Wow sure looks professional

Am I or you to do a story on it for this weeks paper, or even over a few weeks.

Lorne

--

Lorne Taylor
Smoky Lake Signal

From: Yulia Marcinkoski <ab.coordinator@uccab.ca>
Sent: November 10, 2020 3:44 PM
To: Michelle Wright <cedo@smokylakeregion.ca>
Subject: Re: FW: Public Engagement on Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan

Hi Michelle,

Thank you for sharing your plans with us. It is very exciting and we are looking forward to working with you in the future. I will keep you posted about the 130th-anniversary celebration that will span across the province next year.

Sincerely,
Yulia

Erya Inc's Response to the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy (Oct 21,2020)

Upon review of this new version of the strategy, I am heartened to see that many of the issues that I had raised in the initial drafting of this strategy have been addressed.

I remain a supporter of the overall strategy, including many of the individual goals/endeavours that the partnership plans to implement, such as the cycling/walking trail, protecting and showcasing the many beautiful natural areas in the region, stewarding and promoting the unique historical and cultural assets, and ensuring economic and residential growth.

As I looked over the new proposal, I was mindful of the fact that municipalities are owned by, controlled by, and accountable to the public, and subject to the laws, rules and regulations governing public bodies. Whatever model is proposed, it must be one that ensures transparency in operations and finances and is still under public oversight- after all, the lion's share of the considerable investment and borrowing risk is being assumed by the public in this scheme.

I do not support the implementation of the proposed MCC in this capacity for numerous reasons, all which concern protecting public interest:

- It is highly unusual for an MCC to be for a purpose other than the provision of specific municipal services... this scheme would effectively divert public funds into a private for-profit investment fund that would have limited oversight or control by the public (who are the main contributors, after all.) It is contrary to the MGA and would need special approval by ministerial order... which given the nature of this proposed model would be precedent setting.
- The main 'benefit' that this MCC would contribute to the community (small business loans/grants) *already exists...* from the very same provincial, federal and private sources as the MCC would utilize, without having to meet any other municipal requirements as to type of business, etc., and without having to pay the additional borrowing costs to go through the MCC.
- The MCC could make it more difficult to access provincial/federal programs/grants that are available directly to municipalities, non-profits, etc.
- The borrowing risk for this proposal is substantial and is assumed almost solely by the taxpayers for the purpose of loaning the funds back to them, at a substantial profit to the MCC.
- This could also limit necessary borrowings that the municipalities may need to make in the future.
- The municipalities could accomplish most, or all of the goals listed in the proposal without implementing an MCC model using a variety of other organizational and funding/financing models, and without the necessity of using a 3rd party corporation to collect, distribute and administrate public funds.

- Many of the goals would not likely fall under the jurisdiction of the corporation (such as environmental reviews/assessments, conservation, etc.). If an MCC model is utilized, I would support this model for individual projects, rather than used as an investment/borrowing scheme. Other goals and endeavours might be best organized and financed under a non-profit, community-based model (such as for building walking/cycling trails and maintaining historic places). Other goals like recreational centres, capital investments, etc. may be good candidates for fundraising through private investments, municipal bonds or a P3 model, municipal partnerships or a combination thereof. All of these can (and usually are) administered by the municipalities without using a publicly funded umbrella corporation – that is precisely what a municipality is intended to function as, with public oversight.
- The multi-tiered nature of the MCC organizational structure would create a shield from public oversight, while simultaneously using public money to fund and finance the scheme.
- A large portion of the proposal's funding sources do not seem to have available programs intended for this sort of scheme. Some do offer programs for non-profits, community development, and other capital projects, however an MCC may very well inhibit the municipality's ability to qualify for grants/public funding for individual projects.
- Although the proposal states that each stakeholder would only be putting in \$600,000, the actual public liability is around 24 million dollars (including community bonds, infrastructure loans, commercial loans, and asset financing at least, according to the proposal) ... possibly more than that if other borrowings are made by municipalities to benefit the MCC.
- An additional 6M is to be raised by a "Regional Community Bond" – this (municipal bond scheme) is not a viable method of raising municipal revenue in Alberta at this time. It is also considered to be a difficult product to retail to potential investors and would be unlikely to raise that sort of capital. This will be an additional debt that the taxpayer is assuming on behalf of the MCC.

In summary, I feel that the partners should adopt the mandate, and pursue this strategy using a multi-pronged, more conventional approach to reach those goals that are ultimately agreed upon, without the implementation of an MCC. I am inspired by the 'outside the box' approach, however these goals can be accomplished without trying to rewrite the playbook. These goals can be accomplished through solid community organization by the municipalities... that sort of function is precisely what taxpayers expect their representatives and officials to perform. It is not necessary to (at a great additional cost) have an MCC do what we are already paying the municipalities to do. I look forward to the public hearing, and the input and ideas of other community stakeholders. Erya Inc. continues to enthusiastically support the core mission of this strategy.

Sincerely,

Erin Pearce – Erya Inc.

**Victoria District Economic Development Strategy – Business Plan – October 21, 2020
Joint Public Hearing of Smoky Lake County and Town of Smoky Lake - November 26, 2020
Submission by Don Klym**

Introduction

My name is Don Klym and would like to input to the above initiative. I have a stakeholder interest in the plan as I reside on the Victoria Trail near the Metis Crossing which is seen as the epicentre of the proposed economic development strategy. First and foremost, I am in support of tourism as a means of boosting the economy of the Town and County. In fact, this is an overdue, but exciting initiative. As a resident of the County my interests are the usual tax implications and other impacts such as security. In addition, my wife and I have interests and involvement in local heritage and history preservation and awareness. These have the potential to be complementary to the proposed tourism plan.

My review of the Business Plan is limited to points of clarification. It is my intent to bring these to the attention of the decision-makers, in hope of improvement to the overall plan, its saleability, and its eventual success.

Overall Process

It is my understanding that this Business Plan is not final and includes more than the hard financials. I assume the results of this hearing will be incorporated into the final document for approval by the Town and County Councils in December. My concern is that the document contains hard-core financials (as appropriate) which are difficult to understand for me and possibly other ratepayers. This coupled with the tight schedule could create some public discontent.

The hearing and initial consultation on the strategy occurred only a short while ago under Covid conditions. I'm uncertain as to general public awareness and understanding of the Strategy. I have not seen a summary of conclusions from that phase which should feed into the Business Plan. For example, is there a general acceptance of this initiative in the Town and County?

Because the Strategy and Business Plan involve many disciplines, I trust the team working on this has the necessary expertise. There is reference to the team (page 6) and Steering Committee (page 21). I assume this is one and the same group; the make-up of the team and authors of the documents should be identified with area of expertise.

The Business Plan Review

The remainder of my hearing presentation deals with the Business Plan document section by section.

I. Introduction

My comment above regarding team composition and expertise should be addressed in this section. The reason to include this information is to build trust with stakeholders.

II. Executive Summary

What is the source of the \$600K, each from the Town and County?

III. Business Description

On page 8, what is the source of the current \$7-8 million tourism economy? This is projected to increase to \$60+ million over the ten years. On Page 16, the graph shows that the \$60 million is the total of all economic impact; the tourism component is \$20+ million. This needs an explanation.

Also, the plan is projected to create 600 tourism jobs (page 8), with a population increase from 4200 to 4700. Does this mean that 100 employees will be residing elsewhere? What is the number of jobs and increased population in relation to the indirect economic impact as shown on the graph on page 18?

The funding sources identified have a range of probabilities for securing. It may be useful to provide some idea of likelihood of obtaining to raise confidence for the public and decision-makers. For example, is it possible to disclose more information on the Entertainment Complex valued at \$15 million? What is "patient" capital? When do the traveller spending projections in Page 8 kick-in in the 10 year plan?

Regarding other funding sources such as government grant programs, the federal government issued the Canadian Experiences Fund in 2019 in their quest to increase the tourism industry in Canada. Any prospects here?

In the Table 2 Budget, what is the \$900K for Victoria Settlement? Any idea what Attractions 1, 2, and 3 would be?

On page 11, the "Loan Fund" of \$10 million needs more elaboration on how to achieve. What does 0.5 FTE mean? What is the basis for the \$80 to \$150 million in capital investment for the Region?

IV. Corporate Financials

On page 12 and elsewhere there is reference to "the system". This should be defined.

In Sub-section (a) and Table 3 Income Statement, the Marketing Fund needs clarification. Is this a fund established by system members for the Partnership members? Is this over and above the \$600K commitment from the Town and County?

In Tables 3 and 4, how does the "Income Statement" differ from the "Total Trading Income"? What is EBITDA?

In Table 5, how is the "Bank Balance" calculated?

In Table 6, it states that the initial investment is recovered by year 5.5; on page 15, it states that by year 4 the cash flow is positive requiring no more support. Please explain the discrepancy.

V. Other Economic Benefits

See my previous comments in Section III, regarding jobs and indirect economic impact.

The Performance Measures on Page 18 might have to be revisited regarding graduating students. In my opinion, retention of 50% in the region is rather high. Also, for increased population, the Town and County will require creative ways to accelerate residential development.

VI. Corporate Structure

The Municipally Controlled Corporation and the Partnership requires critical re-thinking. I can see why the Town and County need a Corporation as directed under the Municipal Government Act. But its role and relationship to the Partnership must clear and understood by all. Most stakeholders, ratepayers, and public will see this organization as bureaucratic. My key concern is what authority the Corporation will have over the Partnership in day-to-day operations.

Another concern is human resources. There will be a requirement for Board membership on the Corporation and the Partnership, as well as membership on the Advisory Committee. Within our Town and County human resource pool, recruiting the required numbers with some level of qualification will be a challenge.

The list of roles for the Partnership appears to be complete. However, I would emphasize the priority be investor relations and marketing. That is, key to the success of this venture is acquiring money and selling our product.

VII. Demographic, Economic, Social and Cultural Factors

I'm pleased to see that our tourism reach goes beyond the boundaries of the County. The Smoky Lake Region seems to be defined with the North Saskatchewan River as a southern boundary. Many events and attractions are just across the river, already.

Marketing strategies will be the key to success. Even though the targeted traveller profiles have been identified, my concern is that there could be tourist bleed to other major attractions beyond the Region. For example, a Saskatchewan family on vacation travelling to Alberta might be drawn to West Edmonton Mall instead of spending time in our Region.

VIII. The Market

This appears to be well researched and analyzed in this section and the following 2 sections. As I previously mentioned, marketing will be key to success and therefore, the need for crackerjack experts, aggressively working for the Partnership.

IX. Risk Assessment and Contingencies

Regarding Revenue Risk, the discussion only addresses catastrophic events. I don't see any contingencies for declining revenues in normal times.

Regarding Market Risk, the mitigation is scale-ability of the Strategy. This needs further explanation, with some examples.

X. The Competition

There will be competition for the tourist dollar near the Region and Alberta. This analysis appears to be comprehensive and complete.

A concern I have is within the Region. To my understanding, there will be system operators as part of the Partnership and other operators attracted to the Region. Would pricing within the system need to be controlled? As well, there will be businesses already in place or established in the future which could be providing the same services as the Partnership, but not in the system. Is this an issue?

XI. Action Plan

See my comment in my Overall Process section of this submission regarding tight scheduling. Once the Councils approve the motion for the Corporation and Partnership Agreement, is the green light on? I don't see any plans for further stakeholder input. Mobilizing the strategy and plan will still be subject to administrative drag and Covid conditions – the schedule must be realistic.

Conclusion

I believe that a stimulus such as tourism in the Smoky Lake Region will diversify and boost a long stagnant economy. I commend the leadership of the Town and County and those involved in assembling the Strategy and Business Plan. This is a very ambitious and complex initiative with positive, and possibly, negative implications for the citizens of the Region. Therefore, diligent and transparent communications with meaningful consultation is a must. I hope my comments in this submission are helpful in ultimate execution. Thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Klym



Shannon Stubbs, MP
Lakeland



As Member of Parliament for Lakeland I want to commend and thank everyone involved with the creation and development of the *Victoria District Economic Development Strategy*. Your hard work will guarantee the continuance and preservation of this important cultural destination which represents Alberta's history of first settlements, trade, and agriculture and plays a key role in your communities' economy and tourist sector.

The Victoria District is a true representation of Canada with its National Historic Site on the North Saskatchewan River, bringing people together for hundreds of years. This site holds significance to various First Nations, Metis and Ukrainian Canadians and is a beacon of pride for Smoky Lake County. I look forward to seeing the results of this strategy and visiting the new Interpretive Center at Metis Crossing. I encourage support for the continuation of this strategy as it truly allows us to celebrate the past, present and future.

Shannon Stubbs, MP Lakeland
Shadow Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness



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November 24, 2020

Michelle Wright,
Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO)
Smoky Lake Region and Partners
Smoky Lake County, Alberta

RE: Letter of Support for Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Plan

We are pleased to offer this letter of support towards your Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan. We are excited to see the possibilities for job creation and tourism growth for the Smoky Lake region including its partners of the Town of Smoky Lake, Métis Nation of Alberta, and Smoky Lake County. We have supported the development at Métis Crossing from the beginning and are proud that it is a pillar of Indigenous tourism experiences in Alberta.

As the Leading DMO- Destination Marketing Organization in the region, Go East of Edmonton Regional Tourism is committed to helping be a resource to help achieve your goals. With our extensive experience in Tourism in the region combined with our proven successful marketing and development programs, we are in an excellent position to help your strategic partnership.

We see your plan as a beneficial way to grow tourism and overall economic development. As your project progresses we foresee that this can strengthen not just Smoky Lake County region, but the whole region East of Edmonton will benefit over the long term from the assets and activities that improve tourism product development, and experiences for the traveller as a whole.

As a major player in regional tourism, we are interested to participate and be involved by sharing our knowledge, experience and Award Winning Marketing abilities. We wish you every success in this endeavour.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff,

Kevin D. Kisilevich

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Kisilevich".

Destination Marketing and Development

Go East of Edmonton Regional Tourism

From: Marcie Mazurenko <Marcie.Mazurenko@gov.ab.ca>
Date: 2020-11-24 2:23 p.m. (GMT-07:00)
To: Michelle Wright <cedo@smokylakeregion.ca>
Subject: RE: Smoky Lake Business Plan

Hi Michelle!!
How are you??? I think of you often and love seeing this exciting stuff you are working on!

David shared the business plan with me and we briefly chatted about your conversation with him. I have read through the business plan and am both intrigued and excited! Would you like to set up a time to chat with me about how the Ukrainian Village can support the plan ad maybe brainstorm some ideas?

Let me know if you have some time in the next couple of weeks to connect and catch up!

Thank you!

Marcie Mazurenko
Head, Communications & External Relations
Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
Government of Alberta
Tel (780) 662-3855, ext. 1109
Cell (587) 985-9357
E-mail: Marcie.Mazurenko@gov.ab.ca
www.ukrainianvillage.ca

Hi Marcie,

I had an introductory conversation with Michelle Wright from Smoky Lake County that I wanted to loop you in. Smoky Lake County has expressed interest to create a connection between the Ukrainian-Canadian history in their region and the UCHV. Come see me this week to chat.

David

Classification: Protected A

From: Michelle Wright <cedo@smokylakeregion.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2020 11:45 AM

One Member of the Public virtually joined the meeting, time 6:17 p.m.

4.0 Public Presentations at the Public Hearing

The Reeve called upon those Members of the Public who indicated they wished to speak, and when called upon, to state their name, title and whether they were in support or opposed of the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy - Proposed Bylaws.

Dennis Holowaychuk, Smoky Lake County Resident, verbally provided information including but not limited to the following points:

- My concerns are what this plan could potentially cost me.
- I will not speak for or against it because I don't feel I was actively involved in the process up to this point, but would like to make some comments:
- Any growth is positive for all of us whether directly or indirectly.
- Some portions or projections that may be overly optimistic and hope that is realized
- Any potential economic growth would be welcome.

Jars Balan, with the Kalyna County Eco Museum Society, verbally provided information including but not limited to the following points:

- I am here to follow this and support it in principal and learn about it.

Jackson Mackenzie, Smoky Lake County Landowner, verbally provided information including but not limited to the following points: - clarification – not in favour or opposed

- Has anyone confirmed with respect to the written submission that suggested other avenues already exist, that this proposal is unnecessary?
 - Michelle Wright, Community Economic Development Officer answered: I think what they were specially referring to was, the Canadian Experience Fund. There would be an opportunity there through the Canadian Experience Fund and a significant list of other opportunities that we are pursuing or will pursue as part of the business plan.
- Why would you need the new company if those things are already in place?
 - Michelle Wright, Community Economic Development Officer answered: Typically, the grants are not used for operational dollars, they may be used for marketing, they are rarely used for asset development. We are working with several of the government organizations to look at what the lending might look like for some of those capital assets, so it really is driven by what the grant will allow us to do with the money, and in this case the operation of the corporation itself would not be part of what we would typically be allowed to do with a grant fund.
 - The Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC), borrowing within the MCC, and MCC structure will be a separate public engagement as there is a lot more to figure out with that.

Two Members of the Public left meeting, time 6:28 p.m.

5.0 Questions and Answers

There were no further questions.

6.0 Closing Remarks

There being no further presentations, the Reeve thanked all the presenters for their comments and noted that the Town and County Councils will take all comments and feedback into consideration. The Reeve then declared the Joint Virtual Public Hearing regarding the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Business Plan, closed at 6:31 p.m.

3. MINUTES:

No Minutes.

4. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

Victoria District Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Business Plan

J243-20: Cherniwchan

That **Smoky Lake County Council** and **Town of Smoky Lake Council** each respectively acknowledge the feedback from the November 26, 2020 Public Hearing for the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Business Plan and **accept** the concept and structure of the said plan in principle which outlines general ideologies as to how the proposed business will be carried out and includes monetary figures for the purpose of providing the magnitude of the project; and, proceed with the bylaw process, respectively for the adoption of the said plan.

Town of Smoky Lake: motion moved by Holowaychuk.

Carried.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak Discussion

Discussion was held by the Councils of Smoky Lake County Council and Town of Smoky Lake in regard to the COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak within the Smoky Lake region and exploring measures such as a mandatory mask bylaw.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Alberta Minister for Environment and Parks

TSL244-20: Holowaychuk

That **Town of Smoky Lake Council** acknowledge receipt of the copied letter addressed to Smoky Lake County from the Alberta Minister for Environment and Parks: Honourable Jason Nixon, dated October 23, 2020, for awareness of the Minister's support for the County's nomination of a portion of the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Carried.

Alberta Professional Planners Institute

J245-20: Halisky

That **Smoky Lake County Council** and **Town of Smoky Lake Council** acknowledge receipt of the letter from Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI), dated November 9, 2020, advising the Victoria District Area Structure Plan in the Comprehensive Policy Plan category has been selected by the APPI Awards Committee to receive a 2020 Award of Merit which will be awarded at the APPI 2020 Virtual Volunteer Celebration scheduled for November 26, 2020.

Town of Smoky Lake: motion moved by Morton.

Carried.

Catherine Lepatski - Former Resident of Smoky Lake

J246-20: Gawalko

That **Smoky Lake County Council** and **Town of Smoky Lake Council** acknowledge receipt of the email from Catherine Lepatski (nee Woytkiw), former resident of Smoky Lake, dated September 3, 2020, who lived in Smoky Lake from 1948 to 1963 in regard to her love for Smoky Lake, stating her and her family will continue to visit Smoky Lake for as long as they can, as growing up in Smoky Lake enriched their lives.

Town of Smoky Lake: motion moved by Holowaychuk

Carried.

NEXT MEETING:

The next **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council meeting will be scheduled at the call of the Chairperson.

ADJOURNMENT

J247-20: Lukinuk

That the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council meeting of November 26, 2020 be adjourned, time 7:44 p.m.