

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**

Minutes of the **Special County Council Meeting, combined with the Town of Smoky Lake’s Special Council Meeting**, held Thursday, **July 20, 2023**, at 5:03 P.M. in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by the Reeve, Mr. Lorne Halisky, and Mayor Amy Cherniwchan, in the presence of the following persons:

			<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
			<u>Thurs., July 20, 2023</u>
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>		
County Division 1 / Deputy Reeve	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers	
County Division 2	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers	
County Division 3	Dominique Cere	Present in Chambers	
County Division 4 / Reeve	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers	
County Division 5	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers	
County Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers	
County Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present in Chambers	
County Executive Services /R.S.	Patti Priest	Present in Chambers	
Town Mayor	Amy Cherniwchan	Present in Virtually	
Town Deputy Mayor	Mel Morton	Present in Chambers	
Town Councillor	Evelynne Kobes	Present in Chambers	
Town Councillor	Marianne Prockiw-Zuruskyy	Present in Chambers	
Town Councillor	Terry Makowichuk	Present in Virtually @ 5:10 p.m.	
Town CAO	Dawn Philips	Present in Chambers	
Town Assistant CAO	Crystal Letwin	Present in Chambers	
MLA Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock	Glenn van Dijken	Present in Chambers	
Aspen View Public Schools Board Chair	Candice Nikipelo	Present in Virtually	
Aspen View Public Schools Trustee	Elohne Chizawsky	Present in Virtually	
Aspen View Superintendent	Neil O’Shea	Present in Virtually	
Member of the Public	Hank Holowaychuk	Present in Chambers	

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**WAIVER NOTICE**

County Councillors signed a “Waiver Notice” as displayed below:

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**

**WAIVER NOTICE** of a Special Meeting of the County Council  
 of the Smoky Lake County called under authority of  
 Section 194 of the Municipal Government Act

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We, the undersigned members of the County Council of Smoky Lake County, hereby Waive Notice of a Special Meeting of the County Council to be held in County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta, and/or virtually through Telus Business Connect Video Meeting:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/170329746>  
 Meeting ID: 170329746

on **Thursday, July 20, 2023**, commencing at **5:00 P.M.**, to be **combined with the Town of Smoky Lake’s Special Council Meeting**, for the purpose of discussing and/or acting on an:

- 1. Executive Session / In Camera Legal Issue, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 24 Advice from Officials and Section 27 Privileged Information:**

In respect to the request to delay or halt the demolition of the Original H. A. Kostash (HAK) School, located at 5019 50 Street, Smoky Lake, in reference to the “Save Our School (SOS) HAK” Campaign’s goal of repurposing the Old HAK School building for commercial and community use, initiated by Brian and Leesa Jones, Town of Smoky Lake Business Owners, in April 2023.

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COUNCILLOR:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Dan Gawalko, Division One		July 20, 2023
Linda Fenerty, Division Two		July 20, 2023
Dominique Cere, Division Three		July 20, 2023
Lorne Halisky, Division Four		July 20, 2023
Jered Serben, Division Five		July 20, 2023

**Agenda:**

SLC759-23: Cere  
TSL: Morton

That the **Smoky Lake County Special Council Meeting Agenda** as listed on the “Waiver Notice” for Thursday, July 20, 2023, **combined with the Town of Smoky Lake’s Special Council Meeting Agenda** of same, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**Executive Session / In-Camera:**

**Legal Issue: Request to Delay or Halt the Demolition of the Old H. A. Kostash School**

SLC760-23: Fenerty  
TSL: Kobes

That Smoky Lake County Council and the Town of Smoky Lake Council go into Executive Session / In Camera, to discuss a Legal Issue, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 24 Advice from Officials and Section 27 Privileged Information, in respect to the Old H. A. Kostash (HAK) School, located at 5019 50 Street, Smoky Lake, in the presence of all those listed in attendance excepting thereout any public, time 5:04 p.m.

Carried.

SLC761-23: Serben  
TSL: Prockiw-  
Zarusky

That Smoky Lake County Council and Town of Smoky Lake Council go out of Executive Session / In Camera, time 6:57 p.m..

Carried.

**Request For Decision:**

**Old H. A. Kostash School**

SLC762-23: Cere  
TSL: Kobes

That **Smoky Lake County Council and Town of Smoky Lake Council:**

**Acknowledge** the information received under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 24 Advice from Officials and Section 27 Privileged Information, from Mr. Glenn van Dijken, MLA, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency, and Mr. Neil O’Shea, Superintendent of Aspen View Public Schools, on July 20, 2023, in respect to the Old H. A. Kostash (HAK) School, located at 5019 50 Street, Smoky Lake; **and**

**Acknowledge** the estimated cost to cancel the project awarded by Alberta Infrastructure to demolish the Old HAK School is 30% of the total contract (or estimated to be in the amount of \$150,000.00) and the cost to delay the contract is estimated to be in the amount of \$75,000.00 per month; **and**

**Acknowledge** the Old HAK School property would not be sold or transferred for any amount less than fair market value in addition to the necessary asbestos abatement estimated to be in the amount of \$425,000.00; **and**

**Acknowledge** the Town of Smoky Lake’s decision to not retain the portion of the Old HAK School building referred to as the “small gym”, due to the estimated cost in the amount of \$150,000.00 to construct a wall, install utilities, heating system, and roof repairs (excluding any internal renovations), and the lack of community interest when brought forward to the community in January 2023, **and**

**Acknowledge** all avenues have been exhausted in respect to municipally supporting the “Save Our School (SOS) HAK” Campaign’s goal of repurposing the Old HAK School building for commercial and community use, initiated by Brian and Leesa Jones, Town of Smoky Lake Business Owners, in April 2023; **and**

**Acknowledge** the Aspen View Public School Board confirmed their May 4, 2023, decision to proceed with the demolition of the entire Old HAK School, scheduled to commence on August 1, 2023; **and**

**Acknowledge** Aspen View Public School intends to develop the Old HAK School lands for student and public recreational sports-field use, **and now,**

**Therefore**, no further municipal time or resources will be expended to support or entertain efforts in saving the Old HAK School building or any portion thereof, for commercial and/or community use.

Carried.

**Adjournment:**

SLC763-23: Gawalko TSL: Morton That the Smoky Lake County Special Council Meeting of Thursday, July 20, 2023, combined with the Town of Smoky Lake’s Special Council Meeting, be adjourned, time 7:04 p.m.

Carried.

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REEVE

**S E A L**

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER