



# Reeve's Report

Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5  
August 19, 2024 to September 19, 2024

August 22, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Approved to donate 2 loads of gravel, to the Smoky Lake Agricultural Society, for use their facility at no cost, to host the Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day events held in 2021 to 2024.
- Vilna Agricultural Society was a delegation offering the Vilna Arena / Curling Rink facility located within the Village of Vilna, to the County, as a way to address the Society's struggle for operating funding.
- Acknowledged receipt of the 2024-2025 County Bridge Program priorities prepared by Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd.
- Approved the unbudgeted expense of \$88,022.03 to replace all items stolen from the Vilna Fire Hall that were not covered by insurance.
- Received a report on the snow clearing (driveway) program costs for the seasons of 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 and will be reviewing the Policy.
- Approved to write of 50% of the \$450.98 invoice issued to the Smoky Lake Ag Society, for 2 Electrodes replacements for the Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) at Complex, and requested they budget for them in the future.
- Acknowledged receipt of the "Notice of Intent to Annex Lands from Smoky Lake County", received from the Village of Waskatenau.
- Acknowledged the County was awarded the Minister Awards for Municipal Excellence for the North Saskatchewan Canadian Heritage River Initiative.
- Acknowledged an update on the inspection deficiencies identified at the Smoky Lake Regional Landfill, providing assurance of the completion of the corrective action undertaken by Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission.
- Acknowledged the Agricultural Service Board's recommendation for County Council to consider internal environmental and extension programming in 2025, and agreed to take no action due to the staff's expected capacity in 2025.
- Agreed to advertise 8 units of County surplus equipment for sale by public tender.

August 23, 2024 – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) District 5 Meeting (Jered, Dominique & Lorne)

- Scheduled speakers included: MLA Jackie Lovely, MLA Rick Wilson, CET of Road to Rail Construction Group Inc., Director of Emerging Customer Solutions for Fortis Alberta, Director for the AB Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, and Program Director of AgKnow.
- Held discussion on Provincial Downloading.
- Received updates from RMA's President, RMA's District 5 Director, RMA's FCM Representative, and two Alberta Municipalities Representatives.
- Beaver County brought forward a Resolution to endorse take to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta 2024 Fall Convention regarding Full Time (24/7) Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations.

August 26, 2024 – Joint Municipalities Meeting, held in Bellis (All Council except Lorne)

- Received a verbal update from Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake RCMP and noted:
  - We will soon have a fulltime Victims Services position based out of Smoky Lake.
  - We're involved heavily in Rural Crime Watch & Citizens on Patrol, and utilizing the RCMP RAVE (web-based communication platform for RCMP to fan out real time alerts to the community).
- Received a presentation from Alberta Municipal Affairs about Municipal Viability and Municipal Restructuring for information.
- Received a verbal update from MLA Glenn van Dijken, and noted:



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- Highway 28 continues to be a concern and that a study is being done to determine what is necessary for improvements; and that he will follow up with the Minister about the speed reduction along Smoky Lake.
- Received a verbal update on the Smoky Lake Region's Regional Recreational Services Study being conducted through an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant, with the Village of Waskatenau as the Managing Partner, with a project completion date expected to be in December 2026.
- Received a verbal update from Aspen View School Division's Donna Cherniwchan, South East School Trustee, and Constantine Kastrinos, Superintendent, and noted:
  - Portage College is offering a Bachelor of Education program and where they will provide local placements after graduating.
  - Athabasca University is offering one complimentary, free course to all Aspen View students graduating in 2024.
  - K-12 students will not be allowed access to personal mobile devices during school instructional time in the classroom.

August 28, 2024 – SL Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee ICC, (Jered, Dominique & Lorne)

- Approved to incorporate a Dispute Resolution Procedure as Schedule "L" into the proposed Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue Bylaw.
- Agreed to incorporate the Fire Hall Buildings rental expense, including the utilities, into the Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue 3-Year Draft Budget 2025-2027, at a total rental budget of \$74,062.
- Agreed for Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Services (VFIS) coverage to be based the Volunteer Firefighters paying 1/3 of the cost and the Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue paying 2/3 of the cost.
- Discussed the Charge for Services to be calculated at \$250/hour/unit, not including mutual aid, and with a maximum cap to be determined.

September 4, 2024 – Meeting with MP Shannon Stubbs (All Council)

- This informal meeting was scheduled by the office of the Lakeland Member of Parliament (MP) Shannon Stubbs, Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, who was touring the region.
- Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake RCMP was also in attendance as an information resource.
- Discussion topics included: rural crime concerns, lack of jail time for offenders, lack of funding for infrastructure to hold criminals, addiction and mental health support, lack affordable housing, hinderances to local economic growth, trade agreements, tariffs on electric vehicles, carbon tax, dropping canola prices, municipalities pulling out of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), grant funding application information sharing, and need for regional fire services funding.

September 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council except Dan)

- Approved the Tax Notification properties, for the 2024 Property Tax Sale, to be held on November 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- Adopted Policy Statement No. 15-06-01: Pension Participation.
- Agreed to execute the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Memorandum of Agreement relating to the payment of funds and outlining the County's responsibilities and general provisions in respect to CCBF funding.
- Acknowledged receipt of a letter from Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT), formerly known as the Municipal Government Board (MGB), written to the Village of Waskatenau, about the Notice of Intent to Annex, confirming "On April 13, 2011 the MGB received the original Notice of Intent to Annex (Notice) from the Village. On October 23, 2012, the Village submitted a revised



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Notice. The LPRT will accept your correspondence of August 6, 2024 as the second revision submitted by the Village.”

- Acknowledged an update on the completed deficiencies and corrective action plan, to address the Federations of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd.'s, 2024 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Audit of the County's Natural Gas system.
- Approved for Administration to enter negotiations relating to surface material lease explorations, as discussed in Executive Session.

September 12, 2024 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting (All Council except Dan)

- Approved Development Permit No. 040-24: PLAN 2321586, Block 7, Lot 16, for the placement of a Shipping Container (20'x8'), subject to conditions.

September 12, 2024 – Canadian Heritage River Designation of North Saskatchewan River (Jered & Lorne)

- The plaque unveiling and flag raising Ceremony for the North Saskatchewan Canadian Heritage River took place at Métis Crossing, where a Land Acknowledgement & Prayer was provided by Jerry and Jo Ann Saddleback, and addresses from: the Victoria Home Guard Historical Society, Senator Paula Simons, Parks Canada, Alberta Environment & Protected Areas, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and Smoky Lake County Reeve, were provided.

September 19, 2024 – Rural Renewal Stream (RRS) Newly Designated Community Orientation (Jered & Dominique)

- Smoky Lake Region has been designated under the RRS. This designation supports the attraction and retention of immigrants to the Smoky Lake Region to meet local labour vacancies not being filled by Canadian Citizens, it empowers our region to attract, recruit, screen and retain foreign nationals who intend to live, work and settle in our region.
- Immigrant candidates must meet several requirements and must be living and working or intending to be residing and working in our Region. Part-time, casual or seasonal employees are ineligible.
- Employers must also meet several requirements, one of which is that they must be incorporated or registered by or under the legislature of the province, and have a minimum total annual revenue of \$400,000 for the most recent fiscal year.

For more information about County meetings, minutes, agendas, bylaws, policies, or departments, please visit: [www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca](http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca)