



# Reeve's Report

Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5

**May 17, 2024 to June 22, 2024**

May 17, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting, held at Vilna Lodge (Jered & Dominique)

- Received reports from the CAO and Finance, as well as an update on occupancy.
- Executed the Management and Operating agreement.
- Discussed seasonal preventative maintenance for the facilities.
- Had a tour of Vilna Lodge.
- Inquired about developing affordable housing development plans, to be prepared to apply for the next Affordable Housing Partnership grant intake.

May 23, 2024 - Council Regular Meeting, held in Chambers and virtually (All Council)

- Appointed Kevin Lucas as the Chief Administrative Officer for Smoky Lake County.
- Approved to pay the Riverland Recreational Trail Society's Operations and Maintenance fees invoices for Years 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- Approved to amend Policy Statement No. 03-18-19: Five-Year Road Plan to add a 2025 project worth \$25,000, for oil-based dust control along the west side of Warspite.
- Approved \$1,290 of FCSS grant funding to Friends of the Vilna Pool Hall Society, for Volunteer Appreciation.
- Approved to request a meeting jointly with the Town & Villages to discussing concerns with physician recruitment in the Smoky Lake Region and the need for our own "North East Zone" for healthcare, with the Ministers of Health, and Mental Health and Addiction.
- Received a presentation from STARS outlining the benefits received by the residents of the Smoky Lake Region from STARS, and thanking the County for the \$6,000 Annual Donation (see the May 23, 2024 Minutes to view the slides from the presentation).
- Initiated a request for the MLA to contact the Minister of Health to expedite the final Practice Readiness Assessment (PRA) process for Dr. Arian Esterhuizen, and enable her to commence practice at the Raubenheimer Medical Clinic, in Smoky Lake as soon as possible.

May 24, 2024 – County's Annual Safety Meeting, held at the National Hall (All Council)

- The County offices were closed so that all employees could attend.
- Each department spoke about their activities and importance of safety.
- IT provided a presentation on the cyber security and what to avoid and watch out for.
- Guest Speaker: Jeff Bevan had a motivational speech on dealing with aggressive people.
- Guest Speaker: Atco Electric provided a presentation on powerline safety

May 31, 2024 – Cookie Deliveries to the hospital & lodge to honor of Alberta Rural Health Week (Jered)

- To show appreciation of the contributions made by the rural health providers, who enhance the quality of life in Smoky Lake County.

June 6-9, 2024 – Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference, held in Calgary (Jered & Linda)

- Networked with attendees and toured the tradeshow.
- Held discussion with District RMA Members about mutual concerns.
- Held discussion with the representatives from the Egg and Chicken Producers booth, about how to promote farming, specifically farming that require quotas and how to get people into the entry level. Learned about their lottery for 7 allotments of a 1,500 quota of birds – with the end goal of carrying the quota for 10 years and increase its value.
- Speeches were made by Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and by the Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party, Jagmeet Singh.



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June 6, 2024 - 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Emerald Awards, held in Calgary (Jered & Linda)

- Attend because the Metis Nation of Alberta's Salay Prayzaan at Métis Crossing's Solar Project was shortlisted in the Energy Category for an Emerald Award, and we were already in Calgary for FCM. Although the project was nominated, it was not awarded.

June 11, 2024 – Virtual session, MLA Martin Long, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (Jered & Linda)

- We raised concerns about the lack of healthcare professionals in Smoky Lake County.
- Was informed that they are working on it and these concerns are being heard across Province and Canada; it is not specific to Smoky Lake County.
- They are working on restructuring on how AHS reports, in order to increase contractor competition and provide the best healthcare.
- There were ambulances purchased for urban centers to mitigate the rural ambulances going into the large urban center and are they are still working on that.
- They recommended to immediately continue recruiting physicians for the region.
- The province has been working College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) to encourage them to streamline the flow through for more physicians and to increase the capacity for practicums. The CPSA has announced the addition of 30 more assessors to increase their capacity.
- Inquired on the possibility of having specialized surgeries in the Smoky Lake and learned that at least 2 surgical theatres are required (ideally 3 and 4 would be like an urban centre), and surgeon's want to do 6-8 surgeries a day or they typically won't entertain it; and if that's what the region wants then a plan needs to be established to do so.
- They acknowledged the negative impacts on Firefighters in respect to how their roll has changed into medical services.

June 12, 2024 – Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting, held in Chambers (Jered & Dominique)

- Review progress on the Safety Audit Action Plan to correct deficiencies from the audit conducted by the Loss Prevention Officer.
- Suggested changes to the Safety Policy Statement No. 07-03: Backing Up Safely.
- Reviewed training conducted in May & June.
- Discussed an incident involving a male worker urinating publicly.

June 12, 2024 – Highway 28/63 Regional Water Services Commission, in Chambers (Lorne, Dan, & Jered)

- Received updated reports form the Interim Commission Manager, Finance Manager, and Operations.
- Scheduled a workshop to discuss Commission Management Options.
- Approved to engage legal Counsel to respond to the letter from North East Muni-Corr Ltd., dated May 21, 2024, concerning the auto renewal of the Utility Right of Way Agreement and Annual Linear Fee.

June 13, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting, held in Chambers & virtually (All Council)

- Voted on the local students' submissions to the Agricultural Services Poster Contest to award prizes as per Policy Statement No. 62-06-01.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 08-19: Smoky Lake County Community Learning Council Program Legal Host Agreement, to update the CAO name to Kevin Lucus.
- Gave 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading to Bylaw 1463-24: Planning and Development Fees Bylaw.
- Deferred discussion of the County-Owned Lands to Committee of the Whole to receive further information and explore conservation management options, for environmentally sensitive areas.



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- Agreed to participate in the Region's parades.
- Accepted the final report for the Smoky Lake County Wildfire Mitigation Strategy, outlining the implementation plan for twelve recommendations.
- Acknowledged the letters of support from Smoky Lake County, Village of Vilna, Village of Waskatenau, and Town of Smoky Lake, being in favour of the Smoky Lake Region, becoming a Designated Community under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) Rural Renewal Stream (RRS).
- Approved to sponsor \$500 to the Ukrainian Day Event, scheduled for August 25, 2024, at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.
- Approved to attend the LARA Smoky Lake Summer Field Day, scheduled for July 30, 2024.
- Acknowledged to bring attention to the Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment's letter in respect traffic complaints at Public Works Shop: vehicles pulling out of the yard & onto the roadway without stopping.
- Agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, to request information specific to Smoky Lake County, such as the expected cost to be incurred by the County and to clarify what services would be provided to the County, should Bill 11 come into force.
- Approved to execute the "Right of Access & Consent to Transfer of Land for Compensation" agreement for the purpose of a roadway widening to accommodate a culvert bridge replacement project # BF76552, located on Range Road 132, North of Township Road 610.
- Awarded the contract for Municipal Land Use Suitability Tool (MLUST) project funded through the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2023-24 Grant, to O2 Planning and Design Inc.

June 13, 2024, Summary of activities relating to Health Advocacy (Jered)

- Raymond Cormie from Smoky Lake Foundation wrote a letter of support in respect to emergency response to Minister LaGrange and MLA Martin Long.
- Reached out to Nicole Williams, Chief of Staff to the Alberta Minister of Health (left message)
- Talked to Garth Rowsell MLA Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright, twice
- Talked to Glenn van Dijken MLA Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, three times
- Talked to Dan Williams Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
- Talked with the Tony Yao's office (MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo) who got me in contact with Martin Long, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health for a meeting (June 11)
- Talked to Deborah Whetstone, AHS North Zone Medical Affairs
- Sent a Regional Letter from the County, Town & Villages to the Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

June 14, 2024 – Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day, held in Smoky Lake (All Council)

- Attended to show support & appreciation, as well as to discuss ratepayer's concerns one on one.

June 17, 2024 – Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee, held in Chambers (Jered, Lorne & Dominique)

- Approved a Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue Organizational Chart, to be incorporated into the future Smoky Lake Region Fire Bylaw.
- Discussed a draft Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue 3-Year Draft Budget, and agreed to a rental concept for the Region's Fire Hall Buildings, and to hire a third-party organization to appraise the value of the Town and County fire equipment for amortization and budgetary purposes.



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**May 17, 2024 to June 22, 2024**

June 18, 2024 – Agricultural Service Board, held in Chambers (Dan & Jered)

- Acknowledge the Producers from Smoky Lake County appointed by Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) as Directors are confirmed to be Charlie Leskiw & Amanda Fischer.
- Received reports from LARA, and the Board's Chair.
- Received updated Spraying Progress Maps & Mowing Progress Maps.
- Reviewed and agreed with the initial grades for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) Year-2024 Resolutions.
- Discussed compliance with the laws and license coverage relating to the County's external sourced, contracted Licensed Vegetation Control for County right-of-ways.
- Acknowledged participation in a survey about the Weed Control Regulation (WCR) Review: AAAP / ASB, to help identify unintended outcomes or concerns associated with these regulatory changes.
- Recommend that County Council write a letter to the Minister of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, to address weed control and overgrown brush along provincial highways.

June 21, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting, held at Bar-V-Nook (Jered & Dominique)

- Received reports from the CAO and Finance, as well as an update on occupancy.
- Discussed the HVAC Systems Preventative Maintenance Program and Tractor purchase.

June 21, 2024 - Grand Opening of Salay Prayzaan - Solar project at Métis Crossing (Jered)

- Brought greetings to the event as the project was a collaboration between the Town of Smoky Lake, Smoky Lake County, and the Métis Nation of Alberta.
- This 4.86 MW Métis Crossing Solar Project, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate economic and community benefits for the partnering communities. It is the most northern grid connected solar generation project of significant size in Alberta and received a \$3.9 million investment from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre.

June 22, 2024 – Metis Fest 2024, held at Métis Crossing (Jered)

- Attended to bring greetings and welcome everyone, on behalf of Smoky Lake County.

Other Community events attended:

- May 21, 2024 - HAK Drama Class play at the HAK School
- June 4, 2024 – Victoria Trail Agricultural Society (VTAS) Meeting – the resurfacing of building is complete & open to the public now
- June 10, 2024, Bellis 4-H Beef Club Achievement Day – Show & Sale, in Waskatenau

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