

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**

Minutes of the **County Council Committee of the Whole Meeting for the Purpose of Administration of Wednesday, December 4, 2024**, at **9:01 A.M.** held in County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the Reeve Mr. Jered Serben, in the presence of the following persons:

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers
3 /Deputy Reeve	Dominique Céré	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5 / Reeve	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
CAO	Kevin Lucas	Present in Chambers
Executive Svcs/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present in Chambers
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present in Chambers
*****		

Delegations: Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment Sgt. Anita Doktor, with Victims Services Unit Advocate, Sarah McCullough, were present.

No Members of the Public were present.

No Members of the Media were present.

**Agenda:**

147-24: Halisky

That the Agenda for Smoky Lake County Council Committee of the Whole Meeting for the Purpose of Administration, for Wednesday, December 4, 2024, be adopted, as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**Delegations:**

**3.1. Smoky Lake RCMP with Victims Services Unit Advocate**

Present before Council from 9:02 a.m. to 10:07 a.m. was Sara McCullough, Smoky Lake Area Victims Services Unit (VSU) Advocate, and Commander Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment, to verbally share information including, but not limited to the follow points:

- The Smoky Lake Area VSU Advocate, is working out of the Smoky Lake RCMP offices, and under the new model, there should always be someone available to cover. Helping victims of crime and tragedy, the VSU connects them with mental health and addictions resources.
- The VSU no longer needs to fund raise, so events like the annual golf tournament won't be necessary.
- The new Victim Services provincial model is still being developed so there is room for improvement as currently it does not address small town issues such as nonexistent public transit to transport the victim to the services they need.
- The Detachment Members will seek to work closely with the County's new Community Peace Officer, and help him get to know the hot spots and show him the ropes with the traffic division through Red Water.
- The Detachment is carrying out operations in hot spots utilizing technology and Community Response Teams set out bait vehicles which led to 6 people arrested, and 4 charged.
- Scam phone calls or emails, should be reported to the RCMP for awareness.
- Cst. Lidstone is leaving in January 2025, and the position will be posted online; the Detachment is actively trying to recruit.

One member of the public virtually joined the meeting, time 9:07 a.m.

Delegations: RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD) C/Supt. Gary Graham and Supt. Tony Hanson, entered Council Chambers, time 10:05 a.m.

### 3.1. RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD)

Present before Council from 10:07 a.m. to 11:09 a.m. was RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD) C/Supt. Gary Graham and Supt. Tony Hanson, to verbally share information including, but not limited to the following points:

- There is a number of ways that the province is creating distance from the Federal Government which has some influence on the RCMP.
- Currently the RMPC's budget is managed and set by the province in large part; and the RCMP provides financial input through projections for items including equipment such as body worn cameras and pistols.
- The financial piece clearly defines what the RCMP can provide in this Province, it predicates how many positions they can have and how many positions they can fill.
- When the province says that contract police cannot fill all their positions, that is true, but it is unclear. The province relies on underutilization because they would not be able to fund full capacity.
- We work collaboratively with the Minister on what the policing priorities will be. It manifests itself from the annual performance plan, so whatever the crime issue is in your area, it should be communicated to RCMP management.
- There is merit to regional boards, the concept of regional committees has been around for a long time, however there was lots of pushbacks on appointing people to chair the meetings.
- In the 2006 to 2008 era, there were concerns with the committees being the boss and now, it is aimed to be an independent oversight. It is workable and there are some good things that may come out of it, but there might be issues in differentiating administration from operations oversight.
- Enhancing civilian governance of the RCMP is a provincial government initiative, and they will implement and run it and the RCMP will take a passive role; there will be room for growth.
- Most issues across rural Alberta are generally common in themes, but there will always be room for customization in each community.
- To enhance policing in this area, we've had new resources for the Community Safety and Well-being Branch, we have jobs that support and supplement that team. Working with the Central Alberta District, the team put together a project around copper wire, looking outside the box, such as utilizing trail cams; we are having success with that in the detachments. We are bringing in assets that wouldn't normally be used, so that will unfold and be reported on.
- We aim to improve advertising the good information, the success stories out there.
- We are working to sort out who the prolific offenders are and who is connected to them and we are working with the recyclers and the Crown, leveraging all communication technology, such as the Capture Program which allows us to utilize registered private surveillance camera footage.
- Conducting surveillance typically requires 5 officers which is a huge draw on resources.
- It is important to engage the MLAs to support the wraparound services, such as opioid programs that provide withdraw medication to those in custody.

- We are targeting the worst of the worst; with the resources we have. We deal with the effect not the cause.
- Saskatchewan legislated that all copper must be laser engraved, and now the evidence is more identifiable.
- Some municipalities have enhanced pockets of funding towards police, to target issues with focused resources to deal with specific problems.
- The RCMP heavily publicized vacancy and no other police forces have discussed it. Sheriffs are not authorized to complete prisoner transfers and things need to be done to address the vacancies.
- The pool of Member candidates has shrunk, and the demands has gone up.

One Member of the Public, virtually joined the meeting, time 10:20 a.m.

Delegation: Patricia Hankinson, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Fort Saskatchewan Prosecutor's Office, entered Council Chambers, time 10:40 a.m.

Delegations: RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD) C/Supt. Gary Graham and Supt. Tony Hanson, left Council Chambers, time 11:09 a.m.

### **3.2. Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Fort Saskatchewan Prosecutor's Office**

Present before Council from 11:18 a.m. to 12:06 p.m. was Patricia Hankinson, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Fort Saskatchewan Prosecutor's Office, to hold discussion in Executive Session (Closed Session) in respect to concerns, issues and updates relating to the justice system.

#### **Executive Session – Closed Session:**

#### **5.1. Legal Issue - Updates to the Justice System**

148-24: Céré

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal Issue in respect to concerns, issues and updates relating to the justice system, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 20: Law Enforcement, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Services Clerk, and Delegation: Patricia Hankinson, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Fort Saskatchewan Prosecutor's Office, time 11:18 a.m.

Carried.

149-24: Fenerty

That Smoky Lake County go out of Executive Session, time 12:06 p.m.

Carried.

#### **Information Received from Delegations**

150-24: Céré

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the information received on December 4, 2024, from the Delegations: Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment Commander Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake Area Victims Services Unit Advocate Sara McCullough, RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD) C/Supt. Gary Graham and Supt. Tony Hanson, and Patricia Hankinson, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Fort Saskatchewan Prosecutor's Office.

Carried.

#### **Meeting Recessed**

Meeting recessed for Lunch, time 12:06 p.m.

#### **Meeting Reconvened**

The meeting reconvened on a call to order by the Reeve at 12:40 p.m. in the presence of all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Manager, and Executive Services Clerk.

**4. Request for Discussion:**

**4.1. Government of Alberta Enhancing Civilian Governance of the RCMP**

This agenda item was addressed during the Delegation: RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD) C/Supt. Gary Graham and Supt. Tony Hanson.

**Executive Session – Closed Session:**

**4.2. Personnel Issue - Revenue Requirements for the Year-2025 Municipal Budget**

151-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue, in respect to the revenue requirements for the Year-2025 Municipal Budget relating to employee performance and compensation, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 19: Confidential Evaluation, and Section 27: Privileged Information, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, and Executive Services Clerk, time 12:41 p.m.

Carried.

152-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County go out of Executive Session, time 1:12 p.m.

Carried.

**Executive Session – Closed Session:**

**5.2. Personnel Issue - Chief Administrative Officer's Evaluation**

153-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue, in respect the Chief Administrative Officer's Evaluation, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 19: Confidential Evaluation, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, and Executive Services Clerk, time 1:12 p.m.

Carried.

154-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County go out of Executive Session, time 1:42 p.m.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

155-24: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Council Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 4, 2024, be adjourned, time 1:42 p.m.

Carried.

---

REEVE

**S E A L**

---

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER