



Reeve's Report

Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5
September 20, 2024 to November 7, 2024

September 20, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation (Jered & Dominique)

- Received updates from the Foundation CAO, financial reports, occupancy reports and committee working group reports, highlighting 51 suite condition assessments completed, elevator contract renewed, and IT systems stabilization upgrades.

September 24, 2024 – Victoria Home Guard Tour of Victoria Trail (Jered, Dominique, Lorne, & Dan)

- Toured the entire Trail from the Fort White Earth interpretive sign just east of the Victoria Settlement Historical Provincial Site to the Elbow interpretive sign just west of Highway 831, focusing on the general history of the area with stops along the way, including Ruthenia School, St. Elias Orthodox Church Pakan, House in the Middle of the Road, and Free Trader's Cabin.

September 26, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-21-07: Beaver Control on Private Lands.
- Reviewed and left as is, Policy statement No. 03-35-14 Snow Clearing-Public and Private Services.
- Approved to sell a 1500 Degelman Mower & 1820 Degelman Sidearm for \$17,500 as is where is.
- Acknowledged the approval of Smoky Lake Region's "Community Designation", effective, September 9, 2024, which will remain in place for 3 years for the purpose of attracting, recruiting and retaining newcomers (including foreign nationals) through the Rural Renewal Stream (RRS).

October 1, 2024 – Special Council Meeting (All Council)

- Received information in respect to Surface Material Lease Exploration, in Executive Session.

October 1, 2024 – NAAGO

- MLAs van Dijken, Cyr, Roswell, and Armstrong-Homeniuk, were in attendance along with Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors who was virtually turned in.
- Discussions included updates in respect to Hwy 28 engineering & budgeting, as well as an update from Vegreville about their discussions held with Minister of Health about advocating for the NE Health Zone, and Lac La Biche brought up the need to address rural crime concerns.

October 3, 2024 – Agricultural Service Board (Dan & Jered)

- Recommend County Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributor, be updated with a relevant policy name and current practices and chemical resources.
- Received an update from LARA.
- Discussed the difficulties of moving farm equipment along County roads that are overgrown with overhanging trees and working with Public Works to address the issue.
- Recommended advocating for sustainable multi-year funding toward Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network and also recommend the County provide funds towards the program.

October 5, 2024 – Great White North Pumpkin Fair in Smoky Lake (Jered)

- Brought greetings on behalf of the County at opening ceremonies.

October 9, 2024 – Joint Health & Safety Committee (Jered & Dominique)

- Received training updates, and Committee member reports.
- Discussed the need for: First Aid & CPR training to be taken by staff & Council, two-way radios in all equipment, and wearing appropriate PPE.
- Received an extensive update from the new Safety Coordinator on her current and upcoming projects.



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October 9, 2024 – Smoky Lake Agricultural Society Meeting (Jered)

- Discussed the repairs to the HVAC system for Complex which is estimated to cost \$350,000 and applying for a Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) matching grant.

October 10, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Approved to provide \$1,000 to the Alberta Invasive Species Council.
- Acknowledged the “Waskatenau Creek restoration and trail concept” report, created through a grant funded study, managed by the Village of Waskatenau in partnership with the County.
- Agreed to not sell certain County-owned lands at Ritchie Bros. Ltd.
- Accepted several offers from adjacent landowners to purchase adjacent County-owned lands.
- Denied consent to the Village of Waskatenau, to purchase lands located within the County, adjacent to the Village.
- Approved \$2,500 of FCSS funds towards the Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association’s leaders in sport course.
- Approved to write off one-time interest on the Smoky Lake Curling Club’s accounts receivable account.
- Approved to write a letter advocating for a fairer distribution of charitable gaming revenues.
- Approved to provide Notices of Intent to Designate to the owners of Bellis Store and Heritage Shoppe, White Earth Hall, and Samuel A. MacDonald Stopping House, General Store and Pine Creek Post Office.
- Acknowledged and accepted the Year-2024 Minister’s Award for Municipal and Public Library Excellence, awarded to the County for the North Saskatchewan Canadian Heritage River Initiative.
- Authorized Administration to transact the following purchase and approve an unbudgeted expense of \$2,200,000 plus GST, to purchase two Surface Material Leases.
- Directed Administration to seek a legal opinion pertaining to the MCC for Smoky Lake Development Corp., as discussed in-camera.

October 18, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation (Jered & Dominique)

- Received updates from the Foundation CAO, financial reports, occupancy reports and committee working group reports, highlighting 87.9% supportive living occupancy overall (with the availability in Vilna), the 2023 Financial Audit completed with an operating surplus of \$72,128.84 carryover for 2024.

October 22, 2024 - Physicians & Health Care Professionals Committee (Jered & Linda)

- Held the Organizational Meeting Amy Cherniwchan is Chairperson and Jered Serben is the Vice-Chairperson.
- Received a presentation from Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator for the Primary Care Network North Zone regarding the Health Neighbourhood Project.
- Acknowledged Dr. Esterhuizen’s Practicum has been completed.
- Approved to provide \$627.37 to the local Regional Police and Crisis Team (RPACT) for the Mental Health Conference on October 28 - 30, 2024.

October 23, 2024 - Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) (Jered, Dominique, Linda)


- The meeting was held for the purpose of Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue items, including proposed three-year budget for fire hall building rental expenses, insurance, and reviewing the master plan for 2024-2029.



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October 24, 2024 – Organizational Council Meeting (All Council)

Committees, Boards & Commissions Appointments				as of October 24, 2024
REEVE:	Jered Serben	(Division 5)	jserben@smokylakecounty.ab.ca	Cell: 780-656-5244
DEPUTY REEVE:	Dominique Cere	(Division 3)	dcere@smokylakecounty.ab.ca	Cell: 780-656-0494
COUNCILLORS:	Linda Fenerty	(Division 2)	lfenerty@smokylakecounty.ab.ca	Cell: 780-646-0015
	Dan Gawalko	(Division 1)	dgawalko@smokylakecounty.ab.ca	Cell: 780-645-1589
	Lorne Halisky	(Division 4)	lhalisky@smokylakecounty.ab.ca	Cell: 780-650-5401
				
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)	Dan Gawalko & Jered Serben		Alt.: Lorne Halisky & Dominique Cere	
	Producer-at-Large Members: Tori Ponich, Curtis Boychuk, & Tamara Flondra Alt.: Kurt Melnyk & Brett Rurka			
ALBERTA BILINGUAL MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION (ABMA)	Dominique Cere,		Alt.: Linda Fenerty	
ALBERTA'S LAKELAND DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (DMO)	Lorne Halisky,		Alt.: Dan Gawalko	
ASB INDEPENDENT APPEAL PANEL FOR WEED CONTROL	Members-at-Large: Barry Feniak, Norman Schmidt & Robert Semeniuk, Alt.: Amanda Fischer			
ALBERTA CARE (ALBERTA COORDINATED ACTION FOR RECYCLING ENTERPRISES)	Dan Gawalko,		Alt.: Lorne Halisky	
BELLIS BOARD OF TRADE	Lorne Halisky,	Alt.: Dan Gawalko		
CITIZENS ON PATROL (C.O.P.)	Dan Gawalko,		Alt.: Linda Fenerty	
COMMUNITY FUTURES ST. PAUL – SMOKY LAKE REGION	Linda Fenerty			
COMPOSITE & LOCAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARDS (LARB & CARB)	External Contract with Capital Region Assessment Services Commission			
EVERGREEN REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION	Dan Gawalko,		Alt.: Lorne Halisky	
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS) COMMITTEE	All Councillors			
GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE	Reeve, Deputy Reeve & Councillors as deemed necessary			
HIGHWAY 28/63 REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION	Dan Gawalko & Lorne Halisky,		Alt.: Linda Fenerty & Jered Serben	
INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION COMMITTEES (ICC)				
With Smoky Lake Region:	Dominique Cere & Jered Serben,		Alt.: Lorne Halisky	
With Thorhild County:	Linda Fenerty & Dominique Cere,		Alt.: Dan Gawalko	
With Lamont County:	Lorne Halisky & Dan Gawalko,		Alt.: Linda Fenerty	
With County of St. Paul No.19:	All Councillors			
With County of Two Hills No.21:	All Councillors			
With Lac La Biche County:	All Councillors			
INTERMUNICIPAL SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD	Members-at-Large: Grant Gillund, Christine Hansen, Gary Henry, Jerry Melnyk, Sylvia Holowach, Candace Bryks, David Thomas, Margaret Allan Newell, & Pat Olchoway			
JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE	Jered Serben	Alt.: Dominique Cere		
LAKELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (LARA)	ASB Chair, Alt.: ASB Vice-Chair, Public-at-Large: Charlie Leskiw & Amanda Fischer			
LAKELAND INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (LICA)	Lorne Halisky	Alt.: Dan Gawalko		
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION	All Councillors			
NORTHEAST ALBERTA INFORMATION HUB LTD. (AlbertaHUB)	Lorne Halisky,	Alt.: Jered Serben		
NORTH EAST MUNI-CORR LTD.	Linda Fenerty,	Alt.: Jered Serben		
NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY SYSTEM (NLLS)	Linda Fenerty,	Alt.: Dominique Cere		
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE (NSWA)	Linda Fenerty	Alt.: Lorne Halisky		
PHYSICIANS & HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE	Reeve		Alt.: Deputy Reeve	
RCMP LIAISON COMMITTEE	Lorne Halisky,	Alt.: Linda Fenerty		
REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RCDC)	Jered Serben & Lorne Halisky, Alt.: Dominique Cere, Public-at-Large: Vacant			
REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Linda Fenerty,	Alt.: Dominique Cere		
RISK PRO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	Reeve,		Alt.: Deputy Reeve	
ROAD BAN COMMITTEE	Reeve,		Alt.: Deputy Reeve Plus the Public Works Manager & CAO	
SMOKY LAKE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY LIAISON	Jered Serben,	Alt.: Lorne Halisky		
SMOKY LAKE REGIONAL HERITAGE BOARD	Linda Fenerty,	Alt.: Lorne Halisky Members-at-Large: Noreen Easterbrook, Graham Dalziel, Christine Hansen, & Michelle Wright		
SMOKY LAKE FOUNDATION	Dominique Cere & Jered Serben, Alt.: Lorne Halisky & Linda Fenerty			
SMOKY LAKE REGION FIRE AND RESCUE COMMITTEE	Lorne Halisky & Linda Fenerty, Alt.: Jered Serben			
UKRAINIAN TWINNING COMMITTEE	Linda Fenerty & Lorne Halisky		Alt.: Dan Gawalko	



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October 24, 2024 – Regular Council meeting (All Council)

- Appointed the County's CAO Kevin Lucas as the Highway 28/63 Regional Water Service Commission Manager.
- Approved to provide \$2,000 to the AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network.
- Executed a "Right of Access & Consent to Transfer of Land for Compensation" agreement with a landowner to rectify a road encroachment at Township Road 602 and Range Road 132.
- Directed Administration to bring 2-3 policies to every regular Council meeting for review.
- Rescinded Policy Statement No. 02-20-02: Fire and Rescue Liaison Committee: Terms of Reference, to dissolve the committee.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 61-06-02: Community Futures St. Paul-Smoky Lake Region Board Appointment: Terms of Reference, to remove requirement that the appointed member be the same as the RCDC member.
- Approved to write a letter to RMA requesting advocacy for the Calgary's rural casino model, to be used for the relocated Camrose Casino in Edmonton.

October 24, 2024 – RCMP Town Hall on Crime Prevention in Smoky Lake (Jered, Dominique & Lorne)

- Attended the Town of Smoky Lake's community event for awareness and support.

October 29, 2024 – Budget Council Meeting (All Council)

- Amended Policy Statement No. 08-18-10: Council Remuneration, to remove Councillor monthly divisional travel mileage allowance of \$400 per month, and increased the mileage rate from \$0.55 to \$0.68 for the first 5,000km and \$0.64 for every kilometer over 5,000 in a year.
- Administration presented the Draft 2025 Budget.

October 30, 2024 – Special Council Meeting (All Council)

- Held discussion in camera in respect to the MCC For Smoky Lake Development Corp., with the Town of Smoky Lake present.
- The County agreed to provide notice to the MCC For Smoky Lake Development Corp. of the intent to remove financial support.

November 4-7, 2024 – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall Convention (All Council)

- Council attended a variety of plenary addresses and workshops, as well as the ministerial forum and resolutions session, in addition to the opposition party leader panel, and a tradeshow.

November 4, 2024 – Private Meeting with Deputy Premier / Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Services (Jered & Dominique)

- Advocated for the need for funding towards community safety & increased policing to mitigation rural crime and brought awareness to the increased armed / violent property crimes in Smoky Lake County.

November 4, 2024 – Private Meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs (Jered & Dominique)

- Advocated for increased Local Government Fiscal Framework funding as well as the need to address the local government from burden oil/gas well and new drills tax holiday.



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November 5, 2024 – Private Meeting with Transportation and Ec. Corridors: Regional Director and Infrastructure Manager (Jered, Dominique, Dan, Lorne)

- Advocated for the need to mitigate the hazardous, curved intersection at Hwy 28 & 855, possibly with a roundabout, and the need to improve Hwy 28 to meet its needs as a wide/heavy load corridor requirement with improved accesses/acceleration, deceleration lanes. Also requested better communication when it comes to current & future highway projects within Smoky Lake County's boundaries.

November 6, 2024 – Private Meeting with Minister of Justice (Jered & Dominique)

- Advocated for the need for a plan to achieve safe communities and crime free communities, the need to stop continuation of repeat offenders, and the need to address the lack of consequences for charges laid – catch and release.

For more information about County meetings, minutes, agendas, bylaws, policies, or departments, please visit: www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca