



Reeve's Report

**Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5
January 12, 2024 to February 15, 2024**

January 16, 2024 - Ad-Hoc Working Group Committee for Housing Opportunities and Initiatives, held in Council Chambers (Jered, Lorne & Dominique)

- Discussed the offerings and restrictions of each municipality's development and housing and also referenced the Needs & Demand Assessment – Smoky Lake Region, prepared by: The Sustainable Housing Initiative at the Rural Development Network, Dated February 2023, to aim to be development & developer to attract housing investment to the region.

January 16, 2024 – Smoky Lake RCMP – Crime Prevention Town Hall Meeting, held in Smoky Lake (All Council, except Dan)

- Smoky Lake RCMP, along with Smoky Lake County Rural Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P), provided presentations including: CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, C.O.P Program, and further information on how to protect yourself and your property in both rural or urban areas.

January 19, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, held Bar-V-Nook, (Jered & Dominique)

- Received updates from the CAO, Financial Reports.
- Was briefed on the Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services' Compliance Audit that was completed in October 2023 and the items that need to be addressed.
- Approved to enter a 3-Year Operating Agreement with Homeland Housing effective February 12, 2024.

January 19, 2024 – Council Committee of the Whole meeting, held virtually (All Council)

- Held discussion in Executive Session under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 16: Third Party Business Interests and Section 27: Privileged Information, to discuss a Legal Issue in respect Métis Nation of Alberta's proposed Supportive Living Facility Development: Healing Waters Treatment Center, with Delegations: Alberta (MNA) Representatives: Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer, Reagan Bartel, Director of Health, Ron Harrison, Executive Director of MNA Holdings Inc., and Juanita Marios, Executive Director of Métis Crossing.

January 25, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting, held in Chambers (All Council)

- Approved the Annual Membership to Go East of Edmonton for \$400.
- Approved a Roadway License for Smoky Lake Trail Twisters Snowmobile Club to use the undeveloped road allowance along Rge Rd 171, between Twp R 595A & 621, as part of their trail.
- Agreed to sell County-Owned land: PT. SE-09-58-15-4W, containing +/- 20.04 acres, for \$50,000.00 + GST.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-12-04: Clubroot.
- Approved a sponsorship of \$1,000 to Alberta Invasive Species Council.
- Approved a sponsorship of \$500 to the "Original Grazing School for Woman" event.
- Approved to provide \$250 towards the Smoky Lake Stars U7 Minor Hockey tournament.
- Approved \$1,706 of FCSS funds to Village of Waskatenau Library Board.
- Approved \$1,875 of FCSS funds to Vilna & District Agricultural Society.
- Approved for Council to NOT receive any Cost-of-Living increment in 2024.
- Approved to renew the \$808.73 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) membership.
- Recommended implementing a letter writing campaign involving members of the public, community stakeholders, businesses, Smoky Lake Region Municipalities, Settlements, Reserves, and anyone, to urge the Provincial Government and Regional Health Authority in taking action to



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remove the red tape hindering the attraction and retention of physicians affecting the George McDougall Health Care Centre's Emergency Room Services and Medical Clinics in the Smoky Lake Region.

- Acknowledged Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2023-24 grant funding approvals for:
 - \$99,900.00, in support of the Smoky Lake Region Municipal Land Use Suitability Tool (MLUST) project;
 - \$200,000.00, in support of the Smoky Lake Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure project; and
 - \$200,000.00, in support of the Smoky Lake Regional Recreation Services Strategy project.
- Agree to renew the Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) with Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd., for 3 more years.
- Denied support for Metis Crossing Limited's application under Alberta's Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation (COPTER) for property tax roll 17581251.
- Approved to engage HumanEdge Executive Search for \$15,000 to help recruit a County CAO.

January 26, 2024 – RMA District 5 Meeting, held in Fort Kent (All Council)

- Brought forward a draft Resolution for RMA to consider advocating to the Government of Alberta to collaborate with the Federal Government and Fire Underwriters Survey for the purpose of assisting municipalities to retain fire services by recruiting firefighters and addressing the declining Fire Department Services across Rural Alberta.

January 29, 2024 – Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee, held in Chambers (All Council)

- Approved the Smoky Lake Region Fire & Rescue Levels of Service.
- Approved the funding requisition model for the Regional Fire Services' three-year budget.

January 29, 2024 – Joint Municipalities Meeting, held in Waskatenau (All Council)

- Received updates and presentations from Smoky Lake RCMP, MLA Glenn van Dijken, Portage College, and Aspen View Public School Division.

January 31, 2024 - Council Committee of the Whole (All Council, except Dan)

- Held discussion in Executive Session, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 21: Intergovernmental Relations and Section 24: Advice from Officials, to discuss a Land Issue in respect to White Earth Creek Water Flow.
- Recommended clarification be sought for what actions Smoky Lake County can or cannot undertake in respect to White Earth Creek's water flow flooding surrounding lands.
- Recommended further research to consider options for implementing Property Tax Incentives / Exemptions.
- recommend Administration bring forward a draft bylaw to revise and repeal the Bylaw No. 1149-07: Off Highway Vehicles (OHV), to allow for the incorporation of OHV restriction regulations for the purpose of enforcing fire prevention.
- Reviewed the County's Strategic Plan 2023-2025 Priorities Progress.

February 7, 2024 - Northeast Alberta Alliance for Growth & Opportunity (NAAGO) Meeting, held in Myrnam (Jered)

- Approved the 2024 Budget and the recommend municipal funding contribution amounts.



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- Received advocacy updates about Alberta Health Services and Highway 28.
- Acknowledged the 26 letters to be sent to various Ministers expressing interest in consultation, engagement, and partnership opportunities between municipalities in our region and the Government of Alberta.

February 7, 2024 - Physicians and Health Care Professionals Committee Meeting, held in Town Chambers and Virtually (Jered & Linda)

- Discussed potential additional uses and specialty opportunities for both Vilna and Smoky Lake Health Centre.
- Agreed to promote the PatientsFirst Letter Writing Campaign to residents and stakeholders with the intent of removing red tape hindering the attraction and retention of physicians affecting the George McDougall Health Care Centre's Emergency Room Services and Medical Clinics in the Smoky Lake Region.
- Agreed to apply for the 2024 Rural Health Professions Action Plan's (RhPAP) Rhapsody Award for the Rural Health-Care Heroes and nominate Dr. Anton Raubenheimer, Dr. Stephan Raubenheimer and Dr. Hendrick Lourens as well as their dedicated staff at the Raubenheimer Medical Clinic.
- Approved to recommend the 2024 Budget of \$24,000 funded by the County, Town & Villages.

February 8, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting, held in Chambers (all Council)

- Agreed to allow billboards on County-Owned land north of Smoky Lake along Hwy, subject to approval through the Development Permit process.
- Gave First Reading to Bylaw No. 1454-24: Off Highway Vehicles (OHV), to regulating the operation of off-highway vehicles and provide enforceable OHV restrictions for fire prevention; and ask for Public Participation.
- Gave three Reading to Bylaw No. 1455-24: Corridor Regulation, for use of the corridor owned by North East Muni-Corr Ltd. (Iron Horse Trail).
- Denied a claim from a member of the public, claiming personal vehicle damages on January 23, 2024, in the amount of \$419.

February 12, 2024 – Agricultural Service Board Meeting, held in Chambers (Jered & Dan)

- Recommended that Smoky Lake County provides \$55,000 towards the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Year-2024 Operating Budget, to allow County producers access to their 2024 environmental and extension programming.
- Requested all relevant detailed historical information from LARA in respect to the number of LARA events held in Smoky Lake County and the number of Smoky Lake County producers who were in attendance.
- Recommended the County Ag Fieldman bring forward options for providing environmental and extension programming specific to Smoky Lake County Producers in Year-2025.

February 14, 2024 – Joint Health & Safety Committee, held virtually (Jered & Dominique)

- Reviewed the Safety Audit Report - COR Maintenance dated December 15, 2023.
- Approved new Policy Statement No. 01-07-01: Health & Safety Communication.
- Received Committee Member updates and reports.
- No incidents since December 8, 2023.



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