



Councillor Report

Division:3

Councillor: Craig Lukinuk

Reporting Period: (March 23, 2026 – April 2, 2026)

Council Meeting Date: March 23rd, 2026

1. Ukrainian Twinning March 23rd (Craig, Dave)

- Craig Lukinuk was acclaimed as Chair.
- Mary-Ann Prockiw-Zarusky was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.
- The group held a discussion on supporting all Ukrainians in obtaining permanent Canadian status.
- There was further discussion on how to continue with the twinning initiative with Ukraine while the war is still ongoing.
- A brief discussion took place regarding Victoria Settlement's interest in approaching the province about becoming the new stewards of the Settlement in order to showcase Ukrainian history within the County.

2. Smoky Lake County Council Meeting March 26th (All Council)

Delegations

- Smoky Lake Public Library yearly update
 - The library was open for a total of 1,149 hours last year. There are currently 253 community members who hold library cards. A total of 6,324 people used the library over the past year, and 2,735 people visited the library's website. During that time, 431 new items were added to the collection, bringing the library's total holdings to 10,234 items. Patrons checked out 9,238 items over the course of the year.
 - The library offered 156 in-person programs, 22 virtual programs, and 8 Take & Make programs, with a combined total attendance of 3,832 people.
 - The public library requested \$6,500 in funding this year, and the county approved the request.
 - The library also informed the county that it has a board room available for rental, which can accommodate approximately 15 people.
- Austin Zacharko Director of Business Development Massif Energy presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Sunset Ridge Estates Development



- Portage College gave Smoky Lake County an over all update this was presented by Dr. Donna Feledichuk Vice President of Academic & Research and the new President and CAO Dr. Stephen Price.
 - 14 students from Smoky Lake attended across all campuses and online in the last 5 years and this was credit programs which included Practical Nurse, Open studies, College Prep, Educational Assistant, Apprenticeship, and University Transfer
 - The overall numbers for credit and noncredited enrolment is now exceeding 1500 students on campus and approximately 1700 online and off campus
 - \$38 million is spent annually to deliver programming and services
 - Since 2015\2016 student enrolment has doubled
 - Newest and upcoming Programs are Addictions Counselling, Apprenticeship Carpentry, Apprenticeship Heavy Equipment Technician, Bachelor of Education Essentials of Teaching Certificate, Kinesiology, Pre-Health Sciences
 - Some Current Research activities underway/seeking funding are Rural Health Education, Societal Support Inequities in Rural Alberta, Use of AI to improve Community Safety
- Jerry Bidulock from Riverland Recreational Society did a presentation about the Iron Horse Trail Green Tree Project
 - 25,000 Trees will be planted over the next 5 years along the 280km trail
 - 30km linear from Waskatenau to Smoky Lake will have 3800 trees planted plus 695 in Warspite including the staging area Riverland is looking for volunteers and to help with the planting of these trees in Warspite some of the trees will be Saskatoon and Choke Cherry trees if you or your organization are interested in helping plant these trees you can email itreem25k@gmail.com
 - Some in-kind work was requested of the County this was some pre-planting, spot spraying, post-planting watering and oversite assistance
- James MacDonald from Northern Lights Library System did a presentation statement that highlighted the benefits of Belonging to the Northern Lights Library System with a



- snapshot of the health of our Library and the value of our investment this included Anne Chorney Public Library, Smoky Lake Municipal Library, and Vilna Municipal Library
- funding formula for the NLLS is \$5.55 per citizen, \$5.55 Municipal Levy per citizen, \$4.75 Provincial Grants this totals \$15.85 per citizen
- Barb McCarthy from JMD financial presented our Audit Financial Statement for the year ending December 31, 2025
 - Significant estimates/judgments are contained in the financial statements some were the following:
 - Amortization of tangible capital assets
 - Quantity of gravel inventory
 - Allowance for uncollectible accounts
 - Accrual for sick leave
 - Accrual for retirement benefits
 - Asset retirement obligations and accretion expense
 - Cross-training new employees was pointed out to ensure someone is available when necessary
 - Audit financial was passed by council

Public Question and Answer period was held at 11:30am

- LARA President and approximately 15 other residents attended this part of our agenda they came to council to question councils' decision on why we chose to discontinue the LARA program. Council listened to their concerns. Smoky Lake Council chose to stick with their motion to discontinue the program and will be assisting farmers which used the LARA program with our own Agriculture department

Request for Decisions

- Recreational Vehicle Bylaw No. 1500-26 – Gave third and final reading
- Noise Bylaw 1502-26 – Gave third and final reading
- Employee Hiring Policy – Approved
- Vacation Policy - Approved



- Corporate Credit Card Policy - Approved
- Purchasing Guidelines Policy - Approved
- Borrowing Bylaw 1501-26 – Gave third and final reading
- Gopher Incentive Program Policy 62-01-04 – Approved
- Procedural Bylaw 1499-26 – Gave third and final reading
- All Council Committee Reports were included in this package for the public to view which will be on the Smoky Lake County Website

Six letters of Correspondence were included in Councils Package:

- Road Access Request – Shemeluk Lake Area
- S.T.A.R Drone Innovation in Motion
- Village of Waskatenau – Response Letter to Smoky Lake County on Proposed Annexation
- 2026 Alberta Wildfire Participation
- 2026 Alberta Fire Chief Convention
- Council acknowledged receipt of the Budget to Actual report for March 2026
- **Upcoming Meetings**
 - Tuesday April 7th & 8th 2026 Strategic Planning Session
 - Thursday April 9th Northeast Alberta Alliance for Growth & Opportunity (NAAGO)
 - Friday April 10th Annual Safety Meeting County will be closed on this day
 - Monday April 13th HWY 28/63 Regional Water Commission Board meeting
 - Monday April 13th Joint Municipalities Meeting held in Warspite Hall
 - Thursday April 16th Regular Council Meeting
 - Friday April 17th Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting
 - Friday April 17th Evergreen Regional Waste Management Commission Meeting
 - Monday April 20th Special Council Meeting – Tax Levy Purposes
 - Monday April 20th Warspite Community Hall Association
 - Tuesday April 21st Physician and Health Care Professional Committee Meeting
 - Tuesday April 21st Municipal Control Corporation (MCC)
 - Wednesday April 22nd Heritage Board Meeting
 - Wednesday April 22nd Emergency Management Committee Meeting
 - Monday April 27th Community Planning Association of Alberta (CPAA)



3. Fed Gas Spring Zone Meeting Lac la Biche March 27th (Lorne, Craig)

- *Refer to Deputy Reeve Lorne Halisky Report*

4. Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting March 30th (Jared, Craig)

- *Refer to Councilor Jered Serben Report*

5. Warspite Community Hall Association Meeting March 31st (Craig)

- Business arising from the minutes were
- Relocation of Grant Funds Letter to the Smoky Lake council
- FCSS Grant \$1500
- \$1000 Hall Grant from Smoky Lake County

New Business

- Joint Municipalities Meeting on April 13th
- Next Casino will be in April, May, or June of 2028
- Warspite Community Hall Association Monthly Treasurers Report

6. Smoky Lake County Budget Meeting April 1st (All Council)

- *2026 Road Plan*
- *2026 Municipal Capital Budget*
- *2026 Municipal Total Function Budget*
- *Council discussed all 3 requests in detail we went through the budget line by line*
- *Council deferred our decision to the next budget meeting*

7. Sonnevera Workshop April 2nd (Lorne, Craig)

- *Please refer to Deputy Reeve Lorne Halisky Report*