



Councillor Report

Division: 3

Councillor\Reeves Report

Reporting Period: (Sept 9th – Oct 8th)

RCMP Commanding Officer Meeting Sept 9th (Craig, Lorne, David, Ryan)

It was a good discussion with the Commander and Chief Trevor Duroux also in attendance was S/Sgt Dan Kehlar, A/Comm Wayne Nichols, and Nina Sahasrabuddhe, the main focus and ask from our council was how could we get a Drone to assist our officers. We currently have an officer here in the Smoky Lake Detachment that is fully certified by the end of our conversation it was noted that we will be getting a drone soon.

Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment is fully staffed. We are looking now to add a second Peace Officer to assist our RCMP in any way we can. The Commander and Chief gave praised to Sgt. Anita Doktor for her great work within our community. After our 1 hour meeting all council in attendance went to the Smoky Lake RCMP Community BBQ. This public event was well attended and on display were many different RCMP Vehicles as well as a Command Center.

Departmental Meeting Sept 10th (All Council)

Philip Hicks from Government Frameworks gave council a PowerPoint presentation on specific software that can help the county be more efficient like Online Time Sheets, Job Costing Software, Digital Forms with built in Auto Filing to specific templates for different departments and QR Code scanning software which is quite popular.

Smoky Lake Council Appointed Nicole Cherniwchan to the position of Corporate Services effective September 10th – 2026 this will now give Nicole the authorization to access and administer all the banking services and Government accounts. This motion supports effective governance, financial stewardship, accountability, and organizational capacity within Smoky Lake County.

Council made two motions to support CFEP Grant applications one was for the Bonnie Lake Social Club Playground Improvement Project; the other was for Mons Lake Community Association to help improve the playground and park. Council directed administration to write support letters.



Council made a motion to allow Sandstar Construction to use the Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds as a temporary campsite from mid-September through freeze-up in the fall to complete the HWY 28 resurfacing.

Smoky Lake ICC Committee Meeting Sept 15th (Craig)

Discussion on regionalization of FCSS. The working group discussed the proposed regional FCSS model, including current services, service levels, funding, staffing capacity, and the potential benefits and considerations of regionalization. Discussion highlighted the importance of understanding the services currently being provided across the region, as well as transparency regarding the Family School Liaison Worker, including the inputs and outputs of the position and the level and impact of services provided to participating municipalities. It was noted that each municipality may have different service needs and desired levels of service. A Regional FCSS Decision-Support Package was brought to give some clarity on different types of funding that would support different models. No decision was made at this time except to have Rachelle attend each different council meeting to give her presentation to all of council to understand this model.

Regular County Council Meeting Sept 17th (All Council)

Please refer to the Smoky Lake County Council Agenda for information regarding this meeting.

Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board Sept 28th (Craig)

Smoky Lake Heritage board financial statement was reviewed currently they have \$19,129.06 in the bank this is not including the \$35,000 contribution from the county. Potential Historic resource Designations were discussed one being the Aspen View School which the county is currently using as a storage unit. The other being the Mosonic Temple in Waskatenau.



Documenting Oral Histories was recorded in January this is a film that is being produced the film will be called Cyrillic Whispers The 4 people that were interviewed for this film were Pauline Kucher, Frank Verbisky, Walter and Vicky Pelech and Bill Wynnyk. The Nature Trail will be cleaned this year by Ken Danyluk.

Ecological Heritage Interpretive panels for Lovers Lane were discussed 2 of the 4 signs will be made one 3'x4' ft of the Boreal Forest and the other 2'x3' ft being about all the Vegetation only 2 are being made to see the quality of the sign before proceeding. The Self-Guided Driving tours are very popular this year more brochures had to be made already.

The roof that was damaged on the barn beside the House in the Middle of the Road has been completed.

Photo Archive Project has been completed three copies were made one is being stored at the county, one at the Train station, and the third one is at the Historic Museum in Edmonton.

Special Council Meeting Sept 29th (All Council)

This meeting was with Michael Botros Regional Director for North Central Region at Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors and Landon Reppert, Construction Manager, North Central Region, Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors. Council discussed the feedback on the HWY 28 June public information session questions were asked if any changes were made since then we heard that RR 153 and 125 intersections will remain open. We talked about the roundabout that is schedule for 2028, also the HWY 28 paving improvements. Some discussion was had about the Tankers going down HWY 855 and through town we are trying to get a dangerous route that will stop these trucks from going past the school and through the town ultimately, we would like them to take a totally different route and not go down HWY 855 at all. Traffic Lights will be installed on Opal Road Intersection and HWY 28. About 70 people attended the open house. Bridge funding was the other topic we talked about temporary bridges and the funding or lack of funding. We had a good conversation on what risk the county need to take when applying for these grants and what the province looks at when awarding these grants. Smoky Lake County first concern is safe and reliable access for our residents.



Joint Town and County Meeting Sept 29th (All Council)

A brief discussion was had regarding the existing ACP Grant. Smoky Lake County requested to see the original Grant Application to compare the scope of work the town is proposing to make sure it aligns with the original application. The Town is the managing partner for the region on this grant.

Dangerous good route was talked about which was brought up in the county discussion with Michael Botros and Landon Reppert both the Town and County will be lobbying for changes.

The town will soon be without a paramedic our Advance paramedic will be leaving Smoky this month which means that the County and Town need to put there efforts together to get a new paramedic for Smoky Lake Soon.

A huge discussion on amalgamation was had, and it looks like both the County, and the Town are on the same page when it comes to this topic more discussions will be had soon.

Community Learning Meeting Oct 1st (Craig, Chyenne)

This meeting was organized to provide a general overview of the Community Learning Council and to introduce Sonalall Seemrith, Community Adult Learning Program Coordinator. The discussion focused on gaining a better understanding of current programming, exploring program successes and challenges, reviewing operational processes, and strengthening our knowledge of how services are delivered to meet the needs of the community.

HWY 28/63 Regional Water Commission Meeting Oct 2nd (Lorne, Craig)

Please refer to Deputy Reeve Lorne Halisky Report he is the Chair of this Committee.

Smoky Lake Pumpkin Fair Oct 3rd (Craig)

I attended the Pumpkin Fair to bring greetings on behalf of the County

The pumpkin winner Don Crews produced a pumpkin that weighed in at 2002.5Lbs. Don previously set a Canadian Record in 2022 with a 2537Lbs pumpkin.

Growers from Lamont County Nate and Jodie Lynn Craven had a squash weighing 780Lbs



Don Crews also won the largest Watermelon weighing in at 103.5Lbs

Rural Health Professional Action Plan (RHPAP) Conference Oct 5th -8th (Craig, Lorne)

Rooted in Community Building the Future of Rural Healthcare Conference was held in Peace River.

This Conference was packed with information. The first speaker of the day was Kim Simmonds, PhD, Primary Care Alberta. Kim's presentation was on Primary Care in Alberta and how to improve continuity, and long term-term system stability in rural Alberta through three interconnected priorities: healthcare pathways development, system navigation and workforce training and development. It was also noted that Virtual Care is not for everyone and 50% of people go to emergency after being checked by a virtual doctor. Virtual care has come along way since conception, but it is there only to help not to replace our in-person visits. I also talked to Kim about our Emergency being closed on Pumpkin Fair Long Weekend.

Hal Danchilla, Partner, Integrated Strategic Partners talked about Navigating the Alberta Political Landscape; Advocacy Through a Rural Health Lens. Hal broke down the current political climate and landscape of the Government of Alberta, offering context on key issues and pressures facing the province right now and how once again Rural Alberta hold the key if the UPC wants to be re-elected in the next election. Now is the time to Lobby hard on main issues facing Smoky Lake and rural Alberta in general.

Brad Willsey, Registrar and CEO, Alberta College of Pharmacy talked about the impact of Rural Pharmacy. Alberta leads the way when it comes to what our pharmacists can do for there customers like extending your prescription and giving professional medical advice.

Jennifer Barroll, Leadership & Engagement Expert was the Keynote Speaker her topic was The Generational Advantage: Leveraging Generational Strengths to Build Stronger Teams. In 2026, Barroll will publish her firs book called Make Work Better: Leading with the Human Edge, this book will provide leaders with the tools to unlock human potential at work.

Panellists Lisa Tiffin from Brooks, Councillor Chris Vining from Cold Lake and Tegan Ruether, MN-NP from Wembley discussed From Attraction to Belonging: Lessons from Communities. This was all about how to Attraction and Retention for our Doctors and their families what we should know and do to keep them in our communities.



The importance of Rural Exposure was very important Dr. Aaron Johnston is a clinical professor of emergency and family medicine. Dr Richard Martin likes to think of himself as a Rural Family Doctor trapped in a city. Both these physicians have very important rolls in Rural practice in Alberta. Dr Aaron leads Canada's national network on distributed medical education as the chair. His focus on rural medical education has led to a large increase in rural training in Alberta, with a focus on immersive and longitudinal experiences, including a new rural focus medical campus opening July 2026 in Lethbridge, Alberta. His research interests focus on the connection between rural training and health workforce, and rural healthcare delivery. Dr. Martin has been actively committed to teaching since 1993, and held various roles in AHS leadership, CPSA leadership and academic leadership including his current role as Assistant Dean responsible for the U of A Northern Alberta Medical Program which opened in Grande Prairie in August of 2025. These two Doctors are in my opinion can help Rural health today. We need to start by reaching to them to discuss the ongoing issues in our health care system today.

Picking up the pieces was a powerful session which focused on resilience, mental fortitude, and the strength it takes to rebuild after a life-altering event. Jeremy Evans called the Grizzly Dude is a survivor, storyteller and speaker who transforms adversity into inspiration after surviving a near-fatal grizzly bear attack. His mental toughness and overcoming fear is a story about learning to adapt, push past limitations and find purpose in life's most challenging moments.

Where Every Skill Matters: Continuous Learning in Rural Medicine was a panel with Dr. Jonathan Somerville and Chantal Crawford. Both these medical professionals we part of the team that helped Jeremy Evans put his life back together after his harrowing attack by the grizzly bear. They talked about the importance of being a team working together to get the best result possible and how everyone plays an equal and big part to success. Both these individuals are passionate advocates for Rural Health in Alberta.

Integrated Health, Social, and Community Care to support Rural Caregivers was on the last day. On the panel was Darlene Schindel who is an RN, BScN, MHS, CPC, Caregiver has had a career for over 40 years. She mentors Nurses to use their voice and to engage in the systems where they work. Michael Procinsky, BSW RSW is the Navigation Support Manager with Healthy Aging Alberta and a Registered Social Worker with extensive



experience across frontline practice. His focus over the past 2 years has been strengthening community-based support for older adults and caregivers through collaboration, capacity building, and system integration.

Finally, the last session was with Jessica Rose RN, BScN and Ryan LeMoal RN, Clinical Nurse Educator. This session was called Rural Ultrasound Training. This session highlighted the benefits that LUMINA has provided to the High-level hospital and the details of the program.

Next Meetings:

- Thursday, November 12, 2026, County Council Budget Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, November 26, 2026, Regular County Council Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 16, 2026, Regular County Council Meeting at 9:00 a.m.