

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **County Council Meeting** held on Thursday, **April 24, 2025**, at 9:04 A.M. held both virtually online and physically in Council Chambers.

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

ATTENDANCE		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Linda Fenerty	Virtually Present
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
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present in Chambers
Recording Secretary	Chyenne Shaw	Present in Chambers

Observers in Attendance Upon Call to Order:

Acting Ag Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Virtually Present
P & D Manager	Jordan Ruegg	Virtually Present
Municipal Clerk	Meaghan Andreychuk	Virtually Present
Natural Gas Manager	Daniel Moric	Virtually Present
Fire Chief	Scott Franchuk	Virtually Present
C.P.O	Chandler Kerr	Virtually Present
P.W. Manager	Chris Minailo	Virtually Present

2. Agenda:

442-25: Céré

That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday, April 24, 2025, be adopted, as amended:

Deletion the Agenda:

7.6 Funding to Agriculture Societies

Addition:

- 7.9 MCC Material Change Next Steps
- 7.10 BYLAW 1480-25 – Rates of Taxation
- 14.1 In Camera (Executive Session) Land, in respect the Chief Administrative Officer, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Sections 27: Privileged Information and 16: Third Party Personal Privacy
- 14.2 In Camera (Executive Session) Personnel, in respect the Chief Administrative Officer, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Sections 27: Privileged Information and 17: Third Party Personal Privacy

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, March 27, 2025

443-25: Fenerty That the minutes of the Smoky Lake County Regular Council Meeting, held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

444-25: Halisky That the minutes of the Smoky Lake County Regular Council Meeting, held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, be adopted as amended:

- Amend Motion 405-25 – from “Halisky” to “Fenerty”

Carried.

County Council Meeting Recessed

The Smoky Lake County Deputy Reeve announced the Council Meeting recessed, time 9:15 a.m.

5. Public Hearing:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Bylaw No. 1477-25: to Redistrict Pt. NW-27-60-14-W4M, from Rural Industrial (M2) District to Agriculture (AG) District

1.0 Opening

The Public Hearing was **called to order at 9:17 a.m.** by the Reeve, Jered Serben, in the physical presence of all Council members, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal Clerk, Finance Manager, and Planning and Development Manager with 5 **Members of the Public** online, as well as 12 other County Staff.

The purpose of the hearing was summarized: To obtain public input in respect to the proposed Bylaw: No. 1477-25, which is a Bylaw amending the Smoky Lake County Land Use Bylaw #1272-14 to redistrict all the portions of the lands legally described as Pt. NW-27- 60-14-W4M, from Rural Industrial (M2) District to Agriculture (AG) District; and to amend Smoky Lake County Municipal Development Plan Bylaw #1249-12, to reclassify the lands legally described as Pt. NW-27- 60-14-W4M, from Commercial Area to Agriculture Area.

The rules of the Public Hearing were stated, and confirmation was provided by the Chief Administrative Officer that the Public Hearing had been advertised, and notice was provided in accordance with the applicable legislation.

2.0 Staff Presentation

Jordan Ruegg, Planning and Development Manager provided the following information:

BACKGROUND:

- On March 17, 2025, an application was received by administration to amend Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14, to redistrict said lands from Rural Industrial (M2) District to Agriculture (AG) District and to amend Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1249-12 to reclassify the said lands from Commercial Area to Agriculture

- Area.
- The lands in question are approximately 40.04 acres in area.
- The applicant proposes to construct a single detached dwelling and hobby farm, both of which are neither Permitted Uses nor Discretionary Uses under the existing Rural Industrial District. By redistricting said lands to Agriculture District, these uses will be permissible.
- Should Bylaw #1477-25 receive Third Reading, the owner of the lands will be required to obtain approval from the County's Development Authority for any proposed development. Any proposed development shall meet the regulations of the Agriculture District under Land Use Bylaw #1272-14, and any additional conditions prescribed by the County's Development Authority. Adoption of Bylaw #1477-25 does not constitute Development Authority approval.

3.0 Public Presentations Via Written Submissions

There were no written submissions received in advance of the April 24, 2025, Public Hearing.

4.0 Public Presentations at the Public Hearing:

Nil.

4.0 Questions and Answers

Nil.

5.0 Closing Remarks

There being no further presentations, and seeing that the Proponent withdrew their request, Reeve thanked everyone for their comments and for attending the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing for the **Proposed Bylaw No. 1477-25**, was then declared closed, time **9:32 a.m.**

County Council Meeting Reconvened

Meeting Reconvened

The Smoky Lake County Council Meeting reconvened, at a call to order by Reeve Serben, time **9:33 a.m.**, in the physical presence of all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Manager, Municipal Clerk, and 5 virtual attendees including 7 other County staff members.

Chartina Nahorniak, Senior Consultant and Nathan Maertins, Manager, Consulting Services of MNP entered the Council Meeting virtually, time 9:28 a.m.

7.1. Bylaw No. 1477-25: Redistrict & Reclassify NW-27-60-14-W4M Commercial to Agri.

445-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Bylaw No. 1477-25: to amend Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14 to Redistrict the lands legally described as NW-27-60-14-W4M, from Rural Industrial (M2) to Agriculture (AG District); and to amend Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1249-12 to Reclassify the lands legally described as NW-27-60-14-W4M from Commercial Area to Agriculture Area, be given SECOND READING;

Carried.

446-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County Bylaw No. 1477-25: to amend Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14 to Redistrict the lands legally described as NW-27-60-14-W4M, from Rural Industrial (M2) to Agriculture (AG District); and to amend Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1249-12 to Reclassify the lands legally described as NW-27-60-14-W4M from Commercial Area to Agriculture Area, be given THIRD READING;

Carried.

7.2 Truck Fill Repairs

447-25 Serben That Smoky Lake County proceed with the 30-gallon pump and request a quote from the vendor regarding the automatic controls, and bring back to the Regular Council Meeting on May 8.

Carried.

7.3. Community Peace Officer Policy Amendments

7.3.1 Policy 02·11 Peace Officer Annual Reporting

448-25 Céré That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 02·11 Peace Officer Annual Reporting be amended as presented.

Carried.

4. Delegation:

4.2. Chartina Nahorniak, and Nathan Maertins, Manager - MNP

Present before Council from 9:33 a.m. to 9:49 a.m. was Chartina Nahorniak, Senior Consultant and Nathan Maertins, Manager, Consulting Services of MNP, at the request of Council, for the purpose of presenting the Policing Study.

449-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County Direct Administration to set up a meeting with Minster Mike Ellis as well as a meeting with the East Division RCMP and present the study and request enhanced support.

Carried.

450-25: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County accepted the presentation on the Policing Study from Chartina Nahorniak, Senior Consultant and Nathan Maertins, Manager, Consulting Services of MNP, as information.

Carried.

7.3.2 Policy 02·32 Peace Officer Video Recording System

451-25 Céré That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 02·32 Peace Officer Video Recording System be amended as presented.

Carried.

7.3.3 Policy 2·10 Peace Officer Operational Records

452-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 2·10 Peace Officer Operational Records be amended with the following additions:

- 1.1 add “Locked Cabinet”
- 3.3 add “Notebooks”

Carried.

7.3.4 Policy 2·18. Peace Officer Use of Force Policy

453-25 Céré That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 2·18. Peace Officer Use of Force Policy be amended as presented.

Carried.

7.3.5 Policy 2·17. Peace Officer Use of Baton

454-25 Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Policy 2·17. Peace Officer Use of Baton be rescinded.

Carried.

7.3.6 Policy 2-26 Peace Officer Communications Systems

455-25 Fenerty That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 2-26 Peace Officer Communications Systems be amended as presented.

Carried.

7.3.7 Policy 2-29 Peace Officer Exhibit Policy

456-25 Céré That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 2-29 Peace Officer Exhibit be amended as presented.

Carried.

7.3.8 Policy 2-36 Peace Officer Uniform and Equipment

457-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 2-36 Peace Officer Uniform and Equipment be amended with the following additions:

- 4.7 Jewelry must be worn under the uniform and not be seen

Carried.

7.3.9 Policy 2-37 Peace Officer Patrol Vehicle

458-25 Gawalko That Smoky Lake County approve Policy 2-37 Peace Officer Patrol Vehicle be amended.

Carried.

459-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County directs the Community Peace Officer to develop an OHV Policy for a future council meeting in May.

Carried.

460-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County directs the Administration to assess the repairs needed on the existing quad and fitting it for use for future use of the Community Peace officer.

Carried.

4.3. Erin Chern, Present, - Smoky Lake Town and County Golf Board

Present before Council from 10:16 a.m. to 10:49 a.m. was Erin Chern, Present and Leo Chapdelaine, Clubhouse Manager, of the Smoky Lake Town and County Golf Board, at the request of Council, as per the April 10, 2025, Council Motion #410-25, for the purpose of answering questions in respect to the funding request from the Smoky Lake Town and County Golf Board.

461-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County accepted the presentation of Erin Chern, Present and Leo Chapdelaine, Clubhouse Manager, the Smoky Lake Town and County Golf Board, as information.

Carried.

Meeting Recessed Meeting recessed, time 10:49 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened The meeting reconvened on a call to order by the Reeve at 11:03 a.m. in the physical (or virtual) presence of all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Services Clerk, and Public Works Manager.

4.1. Shannon Paquette – STARS

Present before Council from 11:03 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. was Shannon Paquette, Donor Relations and Development Officer,

Central Alberta Foundation STARS for the purpose of presenting 2023/24 Stars Review.

462-25: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County accepted the presentation was Shannon Paquette, Donor Relations and Development Officer, Central Alberta Foundation STAR, as information.

Carried.

11: 30 to 11: 35a.m Public Question and Answer Period:

NO Public was in attendance for the Question-and-Answer Period.

Meeting Recessed Meeting recessed, time 12:08 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened The meeting reconvened on a call to order by the Reeve at 12:55 a.m. in the physical (or virtual) presence of all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Services Clerk, and Public Works Manager.

7. Request for Decision:

7.5. Request for Funding – Smoky Lake Golf Course

463-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County add the Smoky Lake Town and Country Golf course to the JMM Meeting on April 28, 2025

Carried.

7.5. Policy 03-18-20: Five-Year Road Plan

464-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 03-18-20: Five-Year Road Plan, be amended with the following additions:

- Range Rd 130 from 602 to Whitefish to be added to the project list in 2026.

Carried

7.7. Request to Write off Taxes

465-25 Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council table this item to the May 8th, 2025, Council Meeting.

Carried.

7.8. Community-Based Policing Study

466-25 Serben That Smoky Lake County send the Community-Based Policing Study completed by MNP to the following:

- Minister of Municipal Affairs – Ric McIver
- Minister of Mental Health and Addiction – Dan William
- Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services – Mike Ellis
- Officer in Charge Eastern Alberta District, RCMP – Gary Graham
- Sgt. Anita Doktor

Carried.

467-25 Serben That Smoky Lake County extends the invitation, as per motion 449-25, to include Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ric McIver, and Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, Dan Williams. Additionally, once the meeting date is confirmed, extend an invitation to Officer in Charge of Alberta Eastern

District, RCMP, Gary Graham, and Sgt. Anita Doktor to attend the meeting.

Carried.

7.9. MCC
468-25 Halisky

That Smoky Lake County schedule a Public Input Period for the proposed Material change to Smoky Lake Development Corp. on May 22, 2025, (Time to be Determined at a later date) pursuant to Section 75.3 of the Municipal Government act.

Carried.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED MATERIAL CHANGE TO
SMOKY LAKE DEVELOPMENT CORP.
PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD AND MEETING DATE

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY
("Smoky Lake")

In the matter of the proposed material change to the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 75.3 of the Municipal Government Act and Section 7 of the Municipally Controlled Corporations Regulation that:

On May 22, 2025, the Smoky Lake Council will meet to discuss their desire to make a material change to the Smoky Lake Development Corp.'s operations that will suspend the current service of tourism development within the municipal boundaries until viable future economic opportunities can be determined.

TAKE NOTICE that a Council meeting will be held on May 22, 2025 at Smoky Lake County Council Chambers. This will be an opportunity for residents of the municipality to make representations to Smoky Lake County in an effort to determine if the proposed change is in the best interests of the municipality and its residents.

AND FURTHER NOTICE THAT any written submissions must be emailed to cao@smokylakecounty.ab.ca no later than 4:00 p.m. (MST) on May 20th, 2025. Anyone wishing to make a representation at the Council meeting must provide written notice to the Chief Administrative Officer at cao@smokylakecounty.ab.ca prior to 4:00 p.m. (MST) May 20, 2025, 2 days prior to meeting date. Anyone who fails to register within the designated time frame will not be permitted to speak.

DATED at Smoky Lake County OR the Town of Smoky Lake, Alberta on April 24th, 2025.

Meeting Recessed Meeting recessed for Lunch, time 1:39 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened The meeting reconvened on a call to order by the Reeve at 1:57 p.m. in the physical (or virtual) presence of all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Manager, Executive Services Clerk, Natural Gas Manager, Assistant Ag.

Fieldman, Municipal Clerk/RS, Fire Chief, and Members of the Public.

7.10. Bylaw No. 1480-25 – Rates of Taxation

469-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council, pursuant to the Municipal Government Act S.63, give **FIRST READING to revise Bylaw No. 1480-25: Tax Rate**, for purpose of authorizing the rates of taxation to be levied against assessable properties within the municipality of Smoky Lake County for the 2025 Taxation Year.

Carried.

470-25: Gawalko Moved by Councillor Gawalko that Smoky Lake County Council, pursuant to the Municipal Government Act S.63, give **SECOND READING to revise Bylaw No. 1480-25: Tax Rate**, for purpose of authorizing the rates of taxation to be levied against assessable properties within the municipality of Smoky Lake County for the 2025 Taxation Year

Carried.

471-25: Céré Moved by Councillor Céré that Smoky Lake County Council, pursuant to the Municipal Government Act S.63, give unanimous consent for **PERMISSION FOR THIRD READING to revise Bylaw No. 1480-25: Tax Rate**, for purpose of authorizing the rates of taxation to be levied against assessable properties within the municipality of Smoky Lake County for the 2025 Taxation Year.

Carried Unanimously.

472-25: Fenerty Moved by Councillor Fenerty that Smoky Lake County Council, pursuant to the Municipal Government Act S.63, give **THIRD & FINAL READING to revise Bylaw No. 1480-25: Tax Rate**, for purpose of authorizing the rates of taxation to be levied against assessable properties within the municipality of Smoky Lake County for the 2025 Taxation Year.

Carried.

473-25 Gawalko That Smoky Lake County rescind Motion 465-25 “That Smoky Lake County Council table this item to the May 8th, 2025, Council Meeting.”

Carried.

474-25 Serben That Smoky Lake County approves the write off taxes in the amount of \$512.77 and penalties of \$349.28 on tax roll 13603411 (SW 34-60-13 W4).

Carried.

475-25 Gawalko That Smoky Lake County approves the write off taxes in the amount of \$559.70 and penalties of \$385.26 on tax roll 13603422 (SE 34-60-13 W4).

Carried.

476-25 Fenerty That Smoky Lake County approves the write off taxes in the amount of \$512.77 and penalties of \$349.28 on tax roll 13603431 (NW 34-60-13 W4).
Carried.

477-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County approves the write off taxes in the amount of \$652.18 and penalties of \$67.08 on tax roll 16610620 (SW 6-61-16 W4).
Carried.

8. Chief Administrative Officer's Report:

8.1. CAO Report, April 24, 2025

CAO Report April 24, 2025

Executive Summary:

1. Strategic Resource Development
 - Sand and Gravel Business Plan: A comprehensive business plan for sand and gravel operations has been developed, focusing on sustainable extraction practices and long-term economic benefits for the County.
 - Timber Harvesting Initiatives: We are exploring timber harvesting opportunities, aligning with our commitment to responsibly harnessing local resources. Creating an additional revenue source for Smoky Lake County.
2. Organizational Efficiency and Collaboration
 - Interdepartmental Synergy: Enhanced collaboration between departments has led to streamlined processes and increased efficiency, fostering a culture of teamwork and shared goals.
 - Equipment Optimization: A thorough assessment of our equipment needs has been conducted, resulting in the rightsizing of machinery and tools to align with specific project demands. This strategic approach is meant to optimize resource allocations and reduced maintenance costs through all departments.
3. Health and Safety Advancements
 - Annual Safety Meeting: The Annual Safety Meeting was held on April 17, 2025, emphasizing our commitment to a safe working environment.
 - Pursuit of COR Certification: We are actively pursuing a Certificate of Recognition (COR) to validate our health and safety management system, demonstrating our commitment to meeting provincial standards.
 - Collaboration with AMHSA: Partnerships with the Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association (AMHSA) have been strengthened to provide comprehensive training and resources, including programs focused on psychological health and safety.
4. Professional Development Milestone
 - Educational Achievements: I am pleased to share the completion of the National Advanced Certification in Local Authority Administration Level 2 Program. This accomplishment marks the culmination of a 5½-year educational journey, during which I also earned an MBA and the Certified Local Government Manager (CLGM) designation. These achievements reflect a strong commitment to excellence and strategic leadership.
5. Community Engagement and Advocacy
 - Ministerial Engagements: Productive interactions with ministers at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) have been conducted, focusing on advocating for the improvement of Highway 28 and the implementation of a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 855 and Highway 28.
 - Community Support: Continued support has been provided to local organizations, including sponsorships and funding allocations, reinforcing our commitment to community development.
6. Upcoming Initiatives
 - Strategic planning sessions continue to align with the County's vision.
 - Working with the Town of Smoky Lake to sustain the municipal corporation (MCC).
 - Advancing the Regional Fire Plan in collaboration with the Fire Chief.

Kevin Lucas EMBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Smoky Lake County

478-25 That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Chief Administrative Officer's report, dated April 23, 2025, as presented,
Carried.

9. Council Committee Reports:

9.1 Division One Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Dan Gawalko – Division One Councillor's report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

- March 31 attended a LARA strategic planning session reviewed the vision, mission & values, also did a SWOT Analysis of the organization looking at the strengths and weaknesses went over our goals and what LARA can do to better serve our clients, following our planning session we had a regular directors meeting, the grant agreement with RDAR for 333,000 has been sent in, also the 3.2 million capital grants to research associations has been received and LARA will be getting 258,233 dollar and will be purchasing a small plot seeder, grain analyzer, seed treater, tractor. LARA also purchased 3 weather stations one will be placed at the St. Paul seed cleaning plant one at Ft. Kent and the other in Smoky Lake County, Alyssa gave her report applied for 5 summer jobs 4 have been hired, LHR did an update to job descriptions & contracts also looking into a policy audit & staff training next meeting April 28.
- April 3 attended the Bellis/Vina citizens on patrol meeting in Vilna, the fish & wildlife officer gave his report bears are waking up no feed so keep an eye out, report coyote problems, RCMP officer gave his report about crime in the east end of the county report suspicious vehicles, CPO Chandlerr Kerr handed out his reports and spoke on the speed some vehicles are doing and the importance of having your registration & insurance papers in your vehicle, the meat draw raffle was rolled out with members taking raffle tickets home to sell, an update from Marylou Savic on Rural crime watch receiving the Farmers Advocate award which was in the Redwater Review and the AGM scheduled for April 28 at the National Hall with Julian Matthew consumer protection & fraud expert, next meeting May 22 @ Bellis.
- April 8 held our ASB meeting with reeve Jared Serben & several producer reps in person and Councillor Dominique Cere in attendance online, first delegation was Alyssa from LARA giving an update on the programs and year to date activities the LARA contract was signed for 55,000 for the 2025 year, Brett Matthiessen gave a introduction to the Alberta Grazing Lease holders assoc. & their available resources he talked about history of leases, land management, 5,700 grazing leases in Alberta covering 5% of the crown land, 20% of Albertas beef herd relies on access to crown land & contributes more than 6 billion dollars to the provinces GDP. Ryan Kroeger & Ben Evans gave some information on the Parkland Pintails Delta waterfowl Chapter on some of the work they do and what was done in Smoky Lake county over 100 hen houses have been set up in the county with more being planned for 2025 these houses protect the nests from predators & egg thieves (ravens, crows, coyotes foxes) and makes for better hatching numbers, Kirstien gave an update on the leafy spurge bio control south of Spedden & a wild boar update 62 have been removed in Alberta including 3 from a neighboring county, a discussion was held about Smoky Creek with administration to look into it further, also funding to Agricultural societies was discussed, moisture situation update was given for the months of February & March, next meeting June 17.

9.2 Division Two Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Linda Fenerty – Division Two Councillor's written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

Muni-Corr – St. Paul County Chambers – April 14, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – St. Paul County Chambers

- Catalis – response to Catalis regarding cancellation of contract – unable to opt out early, contract goes to November 16, 2025.
- Utility Right-of-Way Agreement – Amendment B presented, there will not be a requirement to replace or renew complete agreement.
- Bylaws – Seven municipalities have approved. There were some questions about the dates that Muni-Corr presently has. With changing weather patterns, some consideration may be given to changing the dates that skidoos/OHV can be on the trail. Marianne to attend as a delegation to Bonnyville MD to clarify.
- Riverland Recreational Trail Society - Applied for Trans Canada Trail Spring grant and received \$1,250.00 towards moving the outhouse, firepit and other amenities at Spedden to the UFA rest stop.
- Report made to RCMP as it looks like someone is camping in ROW just east of Middle Creek. There have also been complaints by trail users about two dogs loose on trail.
- Marvin has completed grant applications to the County of St. Paul for some clean-up work at Heinsburg. Mallaig is applying for funding to replace the shingles on their warm-up building.
- ATV riders have been using the trail these past two weeks. Sherwood Park and Fort McMurray Tradeshows in April. Edmonton Boat & Sportsmen Show was in March.
- Delegation request will be forwarded to Jordan to present MLUST to the Board.
- Reminder, August 11th Board meeting is reserved for a full day trail event.
- Next meeting: May 12, 2025

Community Futures Meeting – April 16, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. – CFSPSL Office

- Jody presented financials, 3 new loans discussed, some concerns about one in particular, Jody will get more information. Delinquencies discussed.
- Auditors will present findings at new meeting.
- Power Up North – speakers are in place; tickets should be going out before month end.
- CFNA – governance review will be undertaken, Penny to contact other CF offices. Plan is to redo articles of association.
- Penny, Jody, and Joan attended Business Coaching Seminar – good team building event, and ways to present/deal with new businesses.
- Exit Navigator Project – this program is designed to teach entrepreneurs to buy and/or sell a business.
- Agenda Item – I requested that CF attend Smoky Lake County to attend as a delegation to discuss loan program, qualifications, etc. Further discussion: Penny will see if she can be a delegation at our upcoming JMM on April 28, 2025.
- Financials presented

- Next Meeting: May 21, 2025

Other Meetings

- April 7, 2025 – Rural Roots Academy Grand Opening, St. Paul – 10:30 a.m.
- April 10, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- April 22, 2025 – Council Budget Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- April 24, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m.

9.3 Division Three Councillor’s Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Dominique Céré – Deputy Reeve & Division Three Councillor’s written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

March 27, 2025 – April 24, 2025

March 27 Regular Council Mtg., Council Chambers, Smoky Lake
March 30 – April 2 ASCHA Conference, Edmonton
April 8 Agricultural Service Board Mtg., Zoom
April 10 Regular Council mtg., Council Chambers, Smoky Lake
April 16 Smoky Lake Foundation Strategic Planning Workshop, Bar V Nook, Smoky Lake
April 17 County Annual Safety Mtg., Smoky Lake
April 22 Smoky Lake County Budget mtg., Council Chambers, Smoky Lake

Other Meetings/Functions:

April 3 Informal mtg. with Warspite Hall Association and Warspite Foundation
April 5 Stars Fundraiser

9.4 Division Four Councillor’s Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Lorne Halisky – Division Four Councillor’s report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

March 25, 2025 – SLTC Smoky Lake Tourism Company & Board of Directors Meeting (in-person)

- Audited Financial Statements were approved.
- Dissolution of the SLTC was approved.
- Confirmation that debts and liabilities are paid.
- Confirmation that the Minute Book Holder would be the Smoky Lake County Office to serve as a Records Office to hold and maintain the Minute Book.
- Approved action taken to appoint Barb McCarthy of JDM Chartered Accountants to perform the final Financial Audit.

March 26, 2025 – LICA Board of Directors Meeting (virtually)

- LICA Vision, Mission and Values & Territorial Acknowledgement was delivered and discussed.
- Meeting Expectations were discussed with a reminder that missing 3 consecutive/in a row meetings may get the Member removed from the Membership. Also the attendance file was reviewed.
- Executive Director, Manager of Environmental Monitoring Programs, Environmental Coordinator, Education and

Outreach Coordinator, and Community Outreach Coordinator gave updates on current projects etc.

- Healthy Waters Lac La Biche project, Youth Calendar Contest, Field Days on Winter Watershed, Riparian Areas Survey, Stream of Dreams Program and Writing Contest on Electrical Energy are all taking place in 2025.
- Community Gardens Guidelines were discussed including a Fall Garden Market and Family Fun Day in the Garden.
- Discussed an MOU with Wahkohtowin for a Medicine Wheel Garden.
- Hiring a Community Outreach Coordinator is taking place.
- LICA Watershed Committee is looking into a Watershed Scholarship.
- Numerous Policies were discussed such as Grant & Contract Administration, Health & Lifestyle Spending Accounts, Decision Making Process, Board & Committee Meetings, Administration in Absence of Policy, Volunteer Hours, Use of LICA Premises, LICA Signing Authority and Conflict of Interest.
- The Financial Report was in good standing.

March 27, 2025 – MCC Municipal Controlled Corporation Meeting (in-person)

- Financial Matters were presented by the Chairperson and President.
- SLTC Expenditure to cover Financial Information Review performed by JMD Group LLP.
- MCC for SLDC Financial Position – Bank Statement dated February 28, 2025 was presented.
- MCC Corporate Funds to proceed with payments of \$100,000.00 to each Shareholder as defined in the Loan Agreement Schedules by March 31, 2025.
- The decision was made to proceed with a Material Change to the Corporation's Operations with the nature of the material change needing to be specified.

April 09, 2025 – Highway 28/63 Regional Water Services Commission Regular Meeting (Dan and Lorne in-person)

- The Commission Manager discussed January 29th and March 5th meeting with Whitefish Lake #128 Council including Legal representing each party, holding another successful meeting discussing Whitefish Lake Member Agreement progress with Whitefish Water Services Society now created etc., Water for Life Grant SCADA System work was awarded to Westcan Advanced Communications Solutions with work expected to be completed by Q4/25. Warspite Generator Project was awarded to Generac and continuing to work through the By-Law review.
- Information Requests from Board Members Policy was presented/adopted.
- The Financial Reserves Policy was presented, needs revision and will be brought back to the next meeting.
- Highway 28/63 Regional Water Services Commission ByLaw was presented and may need some revisions such as putting Construction & Excavation into another ByLaw and will be brought back to the next meeting.

- The Financial Manager presented the financial report with all in good standing and the Five-Year 2025-2029 Operating and Capital Financial Plan was approved.
- Barb McCarthy JMD Group LLP presented the Year-2024 Audited Financial Statements with all in good order.
- Business Plan will be worked on and is expected to be completed in 2025.

9. Reeve & Div Five Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Jered Serben – Reeve & Division Five Councillor written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

March 27, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Requests for Decision:
 - First reading of Bylaw No. 1477-25 to redistrict land from Commercial to Agriculture; Public Hearing scheduled for April 24, 2025.
 - Acceptance of an offer to purchase county-owned land for \$1,050.00.
 - Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation BBQ scheduled for June 13, 2025.
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- Policy Amendments:
 - Adoption of updated Signing Authority policy.
 - Rescinded an outdated policy on Organizational Meetings.
- Delegations:
 - Town of Smoky Lake Library delegation to discuss funding for family programming Approval of \$2,500.00 funding.
 - RCMP delegation provided analysis of local crime workload.

March 25, 2025 – County Council Committee of the Whole Meeting - Strategic Planning Meeting

- Island Lake Development: Emphasis on improving services, and collaborating with local organizations for project funding and planning.
- Public Awareness Campaign: Ongoing efforts to reduce crime and improve services (policing, fire and rescue, EMS, healthcare, housing).
- Trail and Campsite Maintenance.
- Fire Services Education: Encourage ratepayers to obtain fire insurance and raise awareness about County fire service charges.
- Local Trades Education Partnership: Explore collaboration opportunities with school boards and local institutions to develop trade education programs in various fields.
- County Brand Redesign: Consideration rebranding the County logo to better reflect its identity, emphasizing agriculture and lakes.
- Community Peace Officer Services Review:
 - The role of Community Peace Officers (CPOs) in educating the community about speed limits, enforcing bylaws, and enhancing their presence in lake subdivisions.
- Tour of the Red Deer Healing and Wellness Center:
 - Council Members will attend a tour April 29.

March 31, 2025 – Joint Health & Safety Meeting (Jered & Dominique with virtual audio difficulties)

- Nominations:
 - Re-election of Co-Chairperson

- Re-Election of Secretary
- Action Log and Policy Updates
 - Action Log Acknowledgment: The updated Action Log List was received by the Committee.
 - Policy Adoption:
 - Wildlife Encounters Policy (Policy Statement No. 073601)
 - Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Policy (Policy Statement 110101)
 - Facility and Tool Maintenance Policy (Policy Statement 110201)
 - New or Reassigned Worker Health and Safety Orientation Policy (Policy Statement 120201)
 - New or Reassigned Worker Competency Policy (Policy Statement 120201)
 - Emergency Response Plan Directive Policy (Policy Statement 150201)
 - Emergency Preparedness Policy (Policy Statement 150102)
 -
- Health & Safety Coordinator Reports
 - Health and Safety Coordinator Report: Summarized incidents from February 19 to March 26, 2025
 - Summary of Incidents: Acknowledged incidents occurring during the same period
 - Training Report: Review of training completed from February 19 to March 26, 2025
- Acknowledgment of Received Documents
 - Enforcement Services Hazard Assessment (Nov. 26, 2024)
 - Shop Work Equipment Repairs (Mar. 3, 2025)
 - Emergency Response Plan (Main Office)
 - Emergency Response Plan (Public Works Shop)

April 5, 2025 – Smoky Lake Ag Society Dinner (Stars Fundraiser)

- Speech from the Reeve
- Helped in the kitchen and cleared tables
- Smoky Ag Society Raised \$120,000.00 for STARS and the Smoky Lake Ag Society name will be added to the outside of the air ambulance.

April 8, 2025 – Agricultural Service Board Meeting

- Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA):
 - Reported on extension events and upcoming programs, including workshops and youth educational programs.
 - Research trials planned for 2025.
- Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association:
 - Provided an introduction and available resources; report accepted.
- Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter:
 - Presented on work in Smoky Lake County; report accepted and promotion of hen house installation request directed.
- Recommended a \$55,000 contribution to LARA's operating budget for 2025.
- Recommended approval of firearms authorization for Animal Control Technician.
- Updates on Leafy Spurge Biocontrol and Wild Boar programs accepted.
- Directed to gather permits and draft a letter regarding improving water flow in Smoky Creek.
- Suggested increased funding to local Agricultural Societies.

April 10, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Requests for Decision:
 - 4H Beef Club Sponsorship: Granted \$1,400 for trophy sponsorship.
 - LARA Partnership: Approved a \$55,000 contribution for the agricultural research association.
 - Firearm Authorization: Approved for Animal Control Technician.
 - Truck Fill Options: Directed staff to explore upgrades and monitoring strategies.
 - Lagoon Security: Directed study on securing lagoon sites.
- Community Safety Report (CPO): Monthly report style approved for posting on County website and social media.
- Policy Amendments:
 - Policy 6110 Disposition of County Own Lands;
 - Changes offered clear, concise and efficient process. Title changes to reflect the specific sale of County-owned lands rather than ambiguous County-owned property.
 - Policy 0818 Council Remuneration and Expenses;
 - Amended to clarify that although the council members will keep their laptop after leaving elected office, they will lose all software subscriptions.
- Tax Waiver Request: Approved waiving penalties on a specified property.
- Golf Course Funding: Directed Council to invite Golf Course representatives for a future meeting presentation regarding their request.
- Bylaw 147925 Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw: Bylaw for Bellis Sewer Tax was introduced and passed three readings.
- Public Queries: Addressed concerns from a resident regarding local enforcement presence.
- Surplus Equipment Auction: Authorized sale of surplus equipment through structured auctions.
- Ukrainian MOU Extension: Adjusted and approved the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with Ukrainian counterparts from five years to three years.
- Property Assessment Presentation: Accepted information regarding the County's 2024 property assessment.
- Bellis 4H Beef Club:
 - provided an update on club activities and requested sponsorship for trophy belt buckles for the upcoming Achievement Day.
- JMD Group LLP:
 - presentation on the Smoky Lake County Consolidated Financial Statements and Gas Utility Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024.
- Accurate Assessment Group Ltd; Property Assessment Presentation:
 - information regarding the County's 2024 property assessment.

April 15, 2025 – Smoky Lake Ag Society Meeting

- Fundraising Initiatives:
 - Upcoming fundraising efforts
 - Grant proposal writing
 - Soliciting bids from companies for naming rights to the arena for a designated period
- The Pumpkin Patch Daycare is seeking a trial period of 3 to 4 months to rent the conference room at the complex for five days a week.
- The replacement of the HVAC system is scheduled to commence at the end of April.

- The ice installation is being considered for September 1 instead of the second week of October to enhance revenue generation.
-

April 17, 2025 – Annual Health & Safety Meeting

- Opening Remarks for the Annual Safety Meeting.
- Managers shared updates and delivered safety messages to all employees.
- Review of incidents that occurred in 2024.
- Moment of Silence to commemorate the National Day of Mourning on April 28, 2025.
- Presentation on Employee Benefits.
- Overview of Fire Drill Procedures.
- Presentation on Formal Hazard Assessments.

Reeve's Report and Councillors Reports on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

479-25 Céré

That Smoky Lake County's Reeve Report received for the period March 22, 2025 to April 17, 2025, be posted to the County's website and the Councillors reports on various committees, boards and commissions, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

10. Correspondence:

10.1 Rural Municipalities of Alberta District Update - April 2025

480-25 Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Rural Municipalities of Alberta District Update – April 2025 as Information.

Carried.

11. Information Releases:

Nil.

12. Financial Reports:

12.1 Monthly Financial Statement as of March 31, 2025

481-25 Halisky

That Smoky Lake County's Financial Statement, updated March 31st, 2025, as prepared by the Finance Manager, be filed for information.

13. Next Meeting(s):

13.1. Reconfirm the Scheduled County Council Meeting Dates

482-25 Gawalko

That the next Smoky Lake County Council Meetings be reconfirmed as follows:

Thursday, May 8 and 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular),
Tuesday, June 3 and Thursday June 12 and 26, 2025, at
9:00 a.m. (Regular),

Thursday, August 14 and 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
(Regular),

to be held physically and/or virtually in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

14. Executive Session, including the Addition to the Agenda:

14.1. Land

483-25 Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session in the presence of all Council and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to discuss Personnel Issues and Land: in respect to staff

from the CAO and also in respect to Land, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Sections 27: Privileged Information, and 17: Third Party Personal Privacy, time 3:33 p.m.

Carried.

484-25 Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 4:13 p.m.

Carried.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

485-25: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting of March 27, 2025, be adjourned, 4:14 p.m.

Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER