

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **County Council Meeting** held on Thursday, **May 22, 2025**, at 9:01 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:

<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Thursday, May 22,</u> <u>2025</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers
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
Executive Assistant	Chyenne Shaw	Present in Chambers
Recording Secretary	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers

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Observers in Attendance Upon Call to Order:

Acting Ag Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Virtually Present
P & D Manager	Jordan Ruegg	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
Public	<b>12 guests</b>	Virtually Present

**2. Agenda:**

517-25: Cere      That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday, May 22, 2025, be adopted, as amended/presented:

**Addition to the Agenda:**

1. 10.1 Deletion from the Agenda was acknowledged on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
2. Correction of numbers on the agenda

**3. Minutes:**

**3.1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, May 8th, 2025**

518-25: Gawalko      That the minutes of the Smoky Lake County Regular Council Meeting, held on Thursday, May 8th, 2025, be adopted with the following amendments:

1. 3.1 Amended as Regular **Budget** Meeting held on **Tuesday**, April 22, 2025.

Carried.

Delegations entered Council Chambers at 9:08 a.m.

**7. Business – Requests for Decisions**

**7.1 Alberta Emergency Alert Course**

519-25: Cere That Smoky Lake County approves the Communications Officer, Evonne Zukiwski, to take the Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA) Course with the Government of Alberta to become authorized to issue emergency alerts as the Communications Officer, with Jasmine Schaub, Health and Safety Coordinator being the alternate, for the County and authorize two senior officials to sign off on the required form.

Carried.

**7.2 Natural Gas Letter of Support**

520-25- Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council execute the letter of support in regard to enforcement of the Gas Distribution Act and ongoing compliance concerns letter template, and submit the letter to the Honourable Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Affordability and Utilities, as provided by email from Tom Kee, Executive Director, Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op's Ltd.

Carried.

**7.3 Gravel Request - Smoky Lake Town and Country Golf Club**

521-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council **approve** decision from Council with regards to the attached request from the Smoky Lake Town and Country Golf Club for three to four tandem loads of ¾" road crush to be donated and delivered to the golf course for the RV parking and Cart Shack storage area.

Carried.

**7.5 County Open House**

522-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council Direct Administration host an Open House with Hotdogs and Hamburgers for all relevant departments to demonstrate programs, equipment and services which are offered within Smoky Lake County, located at the Smoky Lake County Public Works shop, to be scheduled on August 29, 2025.

Carried.

Delegation members Bruce Morton Warspite Hotel Owner and maintenance employee Sebastian Lawyer, entered Council Chambers at 9:25 a.m.

Chris Minailo, Public Works Manager entered Council Chambers at 9:28 a.m.

**7.4 Quiet Nook Request**

523-25: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County approve to provide funding in the amount of \$500.00, promotional items at a value of \$100, as well as lawn maintenance prior to the event, be granted to the Quiet Nook event On Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Carried.

**4. Delegation:**

**4.1 Bruce Morton, Warspite Hotel, Horse Hitch Rail Project - 9:30 a.m.**

4.1 Delegation Bruce Morton

Present before Council from 9:32 a.m. to 9:49 a.m. was Bruce Morton Warspite Hotel Owner and maintenance employee Sebastian Loyer, for the purpose of discussion of installing a horse hitch across from the Hotel, and horse trough to the north of the hotel, for the following but not limited to incentives:

- Fathers' day event, Celebration of Summer Solstice, wagon rides and wiener roast
- Tourism attraction
- Property protection of adjacent landowner

524-25: Cere

That Smoky Lake County accepted the presentation of Bruce Morton, and Sebastian Loyer, Warspite Hotel Owners, and upcoming plans for the hitching post and water trough as information.

Carried.

## 5. Public Hearing

### Notice Of Proposed Material Change to Smoky Lake Development Corp

The Public Hearing was **called to order at 10:01 a.m.** by the Reeve, Jered Serben, in the physical presence of all Council members, with Linda Fenerty being absent, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal Clerk, Finance Manager, and Planning and Development Manager with **10 Members of the Public** online, as well as 6 other County Staff.

The purpose of the hearing was summarized: Today's Public Hearing has been called to gather public input on a proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.

Specifically, Smoky Lake County Council is considering the suspension of the current tourism development service within the municipal boundaries. This suspension would remain in effect until viable future economic opportunities are determined.

This Public Hearing provides an opportunity for residents to express whether they believe this proposed change is in the best interests of the municipality and its residents.

Anyone wishing to speak today must have registered in advance, and we will hear from those who have submitted written notice accordingly. We thank you for your participation and input on this important matter.

### 1. Opening

Reeve

Before we begin, in the event of a fire alarm or other need to evacuate this room, there are two exits, and please follow direction from County Staff.

I, Jered Serben, the Reeve for Smoky Lake County, will preside over this Public Hearing regarding the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.

I declare this Public Hearing open at 10:00 a.m.

I would like to take a moment to introduce Council.

Administration's advice will be provided by the CAO, Kevin Lucas.

All persons present in the Council chambers wishing to be heard at this Public Hearing must first properly sign in on the sheet located with legislative services on the table at the front of the Council chambers by providing both their name and municipal address, as well as whether you wish to speak in support or in opposition to the proposed material changes to the Smoky Lake Development Corporation..

I request that anyone who wishes to speak but has not yet signed in, please do so now.

*No one present*

If you are participating in this Public Hearing online and wish to be heard, then when the time comes, please un-mute or raise your hand, and when called upon, please state your name and municipal address, and whether you are in support of or in opposition to the proposed material changes to the Smoky Lake Development Corporation so that we may record your attendance into the record and that your name can be added to the sign-in sheet.

*No one present*

Reeve

I will outline the ground rules and the orders of speaking for this Hearing, which are as follows:

1. First, I will confirm that the requirements for referral and advertising have been met.
2. Second, the CAO will summarize the purpose of the Hearing and provide a short background report on the proposed material changes to the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.
3. Third, following the CAO's report, written submissions that have been received by County administration will be read into the Hearing record.
4. Fourth, following the reading of written submissions, the Proponent will make a submission on the proposal.
5. Fifth, following the Proponent's submission, members of the public who have signed in will be given the opportunity to speak in the order they have signed in, starting with those persons physically present in Council chambers wishing to speak in opposition to the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation, followed by those speakers participating online who are also in opposition to the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.
6. Sixth, following the conclusion of questions to those opposed, those members of the public who have also signed in who wish to speak **in support** of the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation will be given the opportunity

to speak in the order they signed in, starting with those persons physically present in Council chambers, followed by those speakers participating online who are also **in support** of the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.

- 7. Seventh, I will call again a final time for anyone else who has not yet spoken, who did not initially sign in, and who still wish to speak. They will be given the opportunity to speak, after stating their name and municipal address for the record, and whether they are in support or in opposition. Following these speakers, Council may ask questions and/or request points of clarity.
- 8. Finally, Council will then either close or recess the Hearing and retire to consider the information received during the Hearing.

If Council recesses the hearing, then we will reopen it another day, and Councilors cannot allow themselves to be lobbied by the Proponent, residents, or others outside of a Public Hearing now that we have opened it. We will **only** consider matters raised at the Hearing.

Please note that only Councilors may ask questions of the Proponent, other speakers, and staff during the Hearing.

If any person other than a Councillor wishes to ask questions of the Proponent, other speakers, or staff, they must ask Council to ask the question on their behalf. And Council will only ask the question if we wish to have an answer to the question.

Finally, following the Hearing, Administration will provide updates to those who have signed up and provided their email or mailing address.

Reeve	At this time, I would ask the CAO to confirm whether this Public Notice has been properly advertised and Notice provided in accordance with the applicable Provincial Legislation and County Bylaws.
CAO	Yes, it has Mr. Chairperson.
Reeve	Thank you. I would now ask the CAO, to summarize the purpose of this Public Hearing and provide a background report on the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.
CAO	Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, the purpose of this Hearing is for the Council of Smoky Lake County to obtain <b>public input</b> , both in support and in opposition to, the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.

Read into record the Public Hearing Background, specifying that you are reading from the document.

**2. Public Testimony and Written Submissions**

Reeve	Thank you. Have we received any written submissions on the proposed bylaw? If so, I would ask the CAO to read aloud and enter them into the record.
CAO	None Received
Reeve	<p>Thank you. I will now call upon persons signed up on the sign-in sheet whom are <b>participating online</b> and who are <b>in opposition</b> to the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation. Please state your <u>name and municipal address</u> for the record. Please note that each party wishing to speak will have only one opportunity to do so.</p> <p>Once again, I would ask that you not exceed 10 minutes, and either I or legislative services will let you know when your time has lapsed, and I will then ask you to wrap up.</p>
Opposed	<p>None in attendance</p> <p>Thank you. Does Council have any questions or points of clarification for those who have spoken in opposition to the proposed material changes to the Smoky Lake Development Corporation?</p>
Reeve	<p><i>Allow time for respectful Q&amp;A, with questions to be directed through the Chairperson.</i></p> <p>Thank you. I will now call upon persons signed up on the sign-in sheet whom are <u>present in the Council chambers</u> and who are <b>the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.</b></p> <p>Just as before, please state your <u>name and municipal address</u> for the record. Please note that each party wishing to speak will have only one opportunity to do so.</p> <p>I would ask that you not exceed 10 minutes, and either I or legislative services will let you know when your time has lapsed and I will then ask you to wrap up.</p> <p>Council Members may ask presenters questions for the purpose of clarifying the speaker's comments.</p>
Those in Support	<p>None in attendance</p> <p>Thank you. I will now call upon persons signed up on the sign-in sheet whom are <b>participating online</b> and who are <b>in support the proposed material change to the operations of the Smoky Lake Development Corporation.</b> Please state your <u>name and municipal address</u> for the record.</p> <p>Please note that each party wishing to speak will have only one opportunity to do so. Council Members may ask presenters questions for the purpose of clarifying the speaker's comments.</p> <p>I would ask that you not exceed 10 minutes, and either I or legislative services will let you know when your time has lapsed, and I will then ask you to wrap up.</p> <p>None in attendance</p>

**3. Public and Virtual Question period**

Reeve                      Thank you. That concludes speakers.  
At this time, does any Council member have **any** final  
questions of the proponent, **any** speaker, or staff,?

*Allow time for respectful Q&A, with questions to be directed  
through the Chairperson.*

*NIL*

#### **4. Closing Remarks**

There being no further testimony, nor questions at this time, I  
would like to thank all presenters for their time, perspectives,  
and comments.

Smoky Lake County Council will take your comments into  
consideration when deciding on this matter.

Thank you to everyone who took time to attend this morning.  
Once again, moving forward, Administration will provide  
updates to those who have signed up and provided their email  
or mailing address.

You are welcome but not required to remain and observe the  
rest of the Regular Council Meeting, once we revert back to  
that agenda.

I declare this Hearing on the proposed material change to the  
operations of the Smoky Lake Development  
Corporation **CLOSED** at 10:11 a.m.

#### **7.6 County Community Fund**

525-25: Serben      That Smoky Lake County Council Direct Administration bring  
back information on a restricted reserve for a County  
Community Fund, to help non-profit organizations to help  
assist projects to be completed to attract new residents and  
tourism within the County.

Carried.

#### **11: 30 to 11: 32 a.m Public Question and Answer Period:**

Rachelle Saybel, a member of the public, questioned what the  
decision was regarding previous (May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025) Regular  
Council Agenda item 7.5.

Jered Serben, Reeve, responded that no decision was made as  
Council made the motion to direct administration to research  
comparable Bylaws as well as direct Enforcement Services to  
acquire more information concerning the units affected by this  
bylaw. This information will be presented at the next County  
Council Meeting, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

Rachelle, followed up with inquiring if the Recreational  
Vehicles can still be on the property until then

Jered Serben, responded stating the Bylaw is on hold until a  
further decision is made

#### **8. Chief Administrative Officer's Report:**

##### **8.1 CAO Report, May, 2025**

526-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council accept the May 2025 Year to date CAO Report as information:

Carried.

## 8.2 Action List

527-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council accept the 2025 Year to date Action List as file for information with the amendments:

- Action taken for Motion 421-25: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between: the Kosiv District, Ivano-Frankivska Oblast, Ukraine, and the “Smoky Lake Region” with the Town of Smoky Lake, will be on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Ukrainian Twinning Kosiv/Smoky Lake Region Committee meeting.
- Resend letters referencing motion -25 to the updated addresses of the ministers

Carried.

## 9. Council Committee Reports:

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

-April 28 attended the LARA board meeting in Ashmont, we reviewed the strategic plan for 2025 and also looked at a new logo for LARA with Dark Horse media, Alyssa gave an update on the capital funding we will be purchasing a new seeder, crimp roller, grain analyzer, & a new tractor a MF 1840. Will be looking into hosting a regenerative agriculture soil health event with Don Huber, Alyssa gave her executive director report received funding for 2 summer jobs hired 4, Charlene R. will be retiring this spring so will be looking for someone to fill her position and also to work in the garden plot, working with LHR on new job descriptions and ordered a new microscope to be used with the kids in school programs, discussed starting a research committee with staff and 3 producer reps, updating the policy manual, research staff are getting the field trials ready Smoky Lake county will be at the Michael Carson field it has been soil sampled for clubroot & fertility and has been GPS pinned, also the weather station has been put up there which producers will have access to the data, Lance has helped over 22 producers with the new grant programs that have opened up on April 1/25, Alyssa gave the financial report no issues, Jay gave the LFA report, 390 heifers accepted into the pasture this year at .90/head/day and they updated the bull policy. Smoky Lake County field day will be on July 24 this year and LARA will also have a booth at Smoky Lake County Farmer appreciation BBQ on June 13 , next meeting June 23 @ 9am in Ashmont.

-May 15 attended the Evergreen Regional Waste Commission meeting with Councillor Lorne Halisky also in attendance, had an update on the EPR program, circular Materials & product care everything is going as planned, purchased a new Caterpillar 950 wheel loader, Ashley gave the financial report, Paul gave the site report wifi is poor at the site MCSnet is suggesting a 30-40 foot tower be installed at the commissions expense, hired a seasonal employee, Boscombe 4H Multi club came to the site on May 3 and picked up fugitive waste as a fund raiser 43 kids and parents attended, Mallaig school demolition is all coming to Evergreen the asbestos has been abated, May 22 The chair and Paul will visit 7 Lakes oilfield as their contract is up for renewal, June 13 RMA insurance will be visiting Spedden and some of our other sites, June 19 Regional Services Delivery zoom meeting for the ACP grant, next commission meeting June 19/25.



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

### **Northern Lights Library Services – May 2, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – NLLS Headquarters, Elk Point**

- Metrix Group presented the 2024 audit, no discrepancies noted.
- Jennifer Anheliger, NLLS Board Chair, gave her report. MicroSoft 10 has been discontinued, hence some computers will have to be replaced as they are not compatible with the new MicroSoft 11.
- 2026 DRAFT Budget was also presented. There will be a 1.5% levy increase to member libraries. Before the final budget is completed, a market analysis of the salaries will be conducted. Network security insurance is an ongoing issue and has not been included in budget yet, more to come on this. Approximate cost is \$20,000.
- An omnibus motion was made on revised policies, good work on the members of the Policy Committee.
- Elections were held for Board positions that are up to renewal this year. Jennifer Anheliger acclaimed as Board Chair. Kelly Chamzuk will be Zone 1 representative, Dwayne Spicer voted as Zone 3 representative, Officer at Large Indigenous rep will be Clifton Cross

### **Muni-Corr – St. Paul County Chambers – May 12, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – St. Paul County Chambers**

- RRTS report – Marvin met with Bonnyville Museum regarding tree removal between their buildings and the trail. This will be tended to by the Museum with contribution from RRTS. Landowner at Moose Lake is looking for dust control, may be a spot for an MG30 test strip but could be at landowners' expense. I spoke with Dave Franchuk regarding the MG30 strip at Edwand. Dave will be getting this done. There were a number of complaints regarding the ATV ban, but after posting some pictures of the Redwater farm destruction, it seems to have died down. Second Chance Trail Ride was May 3 weekend, a smaller event, but still a success.
- NE Muni-Corr report – bookkeeper, Louise, is planning on retiring, Marianne to look into purchasing SAGE program as it is less work.
- Thank you letter to be sent to Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay for undertaking the ACP Grant
- O2 Design. Jordan Ruegg to present the MLUST project as a delegation at July meeting.

### **Heritage Board Collaboration Meeting – May 13, 2025 – 3:30 p.m. – Smoky Lake Town Chambers**

- Terms of Reference paper – reviewed and accepted. Discussion on Train Station and how summer students will be utilized to provide tourists with information. Also discussed was purchase of a small Smart TV to showcase videos of Train Station and hopefully the Smoky Lake County Region. This will be brought discussed further at tomorrow's Board meeting.

### **Smoky Lake Heritage Board Society/Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board – May 14, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. – Smoky Lake County Chambers**

- **Smoky Lake Heritage Board Society** - Noreen will make a permit application for interior work on HITMOTR. Walls are peeling and need to be scraped before new paint is applied. Upstairs need some cleaning, as someone threw mud on the walls. Motion to spend up to \$3,000.00
- Ruthenia School – painting and scraping will be done in sections.
- Digital Museums grant request was not successful.
- Post Office film – 4 grants applications were made, and we may not know for awhile if we are approved. Grant amount is \$75,000.00. Michelle suggests writing a letter to Kalyna Country as they may support Heritage type projects.

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- **Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board** – we are planning for the official opening of the Ruthenia School with suggestion that it be on Heritage Weekend in August. Proposal made to have bus tours after the formal program to tour Ruthenia School and other heritage spots. Length of tour

would be about 3 hours. Motion made to rental bus/buses - \$2,500.00 Discussion held on purchasing a kiosk (interactive) for locations, i.e. Vilna, Waskatenau, Town of Smoky Lake. Possible we will start with a pilot project at the Train Station. Cost of kiosk is approximately \$3,000.00. Another idea bandied about was to purchase a Smart TV to display information about the history of the Train Station, approx. \$500.00. Motion made to spend up to \$3,500.00 for both kiosk and TV. May 19, the Heritage Board will visit the Wynnyk House which historically was the Stry Post Office and Confectionery store. A Grant MacEwan student will be working on photo & document archive, possibly with an office at either the Train Station or Pappy's. Nature Trail – a contest was held on naming the Nature Trail. It will officially be known as Lover's Lane. Maintenance to be shared – County will mow the trails and Town will mow the parking area. A Nature Trail event is tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2025 with a botanist on hand to identify plants along the way. Plaques have arrived and will be installed at the Bellis Store, White Earth Hall, MacDonald Stopping House & Pine Creek Post Office – Noreen to speak with owners prior to installation.

**Community Futures Meeting – May 21, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. – CFSPSL Office**

- Three loans were approved after much discussion on merit, appraisals, etc. Delinquency report and financial report will be in next month's agenda package.
- Manager's report – Power Up North – planning continues, tickets have gone on sale through GoEast. They are not using EventBrite as this is an American company, and Kevin Kiselivich has a similar platform for sales. Open Farm Days – 15 sites, one of the stops being the Vilna Boomtown Days parade and Pool Hall Visit. Eleanor Olszewski is the new Emergency Management & Community Resilience Minister, also responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada. She is from Alberta. The Board has directed Penny to speak with other CF offices and extend an invitation for the Minister to attend a future meeting. All CF staff have completed 6-week Business Coaching course. Jody, Dale & Joan spoke of takeaways from National Conference. Next meeting – June 11, 2025.

**Other Meetings**

- April 28 – Joint Municipalities Meeting – Waskatenau Hall – 5:00 p.m.
- May 8, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- May 22, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting – via zoom – 9:00 a.m (missed part of it due to medical appt.)

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

Dominique Céré – Division Three Councillor written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

April 24	Regular Council mtg., County Council Chambers, Smoky Lake
April 25	Smoky Lake Foundation Mtg., Bar V Nook, Smoky Lake
April 28	Joint Health & Safety Mtg., Zoom
April 28	Joint Municipalities Mtg., Waskatenau
April 29	Tour of Health Facility, Red Deer

- Program is a 4 stage program: Stage 1 is stabilization; Stage 2 is Primary treatment; Stage 3 is Therapy; and Stage 4 is Transitional
- No cell phones allowed in Stages 1 and 2 (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
- Stage 2 consists of primary treatment and may last from 60 to 120 days
- Stage 3 includes therapy, lectures, residents working in the building (maintenance, cooking, cleaning, to list a few). Residents are taught work force skills and cell phones are allowed only during the day. For example, the kitchen is a training kitchen. Residents are able to not only do dishes but also prepare the meals. Leadership positions are positions which residents need to apply and interview for. Leaders are rewarded with a single room otherwise residents share rooms.

- Stage 4 is transitional. At this point, plans are made to ensure that the residents have everything in place, safe housing for when they leave, finances in place, a job to go to and so forth. They now have their cell phones.
- The GOAL is to be able to function in society and be self-sustained.
- The men and women are kept separate for the majority of the time. There is some crossover but very little. For example, free time and meals are gender specific.
- Group and clinical counselling is available to all, the setting is such that it is based on a community model where residents can help each other.
- There is an electronic board which indicates what is going on when. There are set times for exercise, meals, smudge, specific meetings (AA, Mindfulness meditation, group therapy for example).
- There is a medication window and a nurse is on staff 24/7. Addiction specialists are on call.
- Residents set smart goals weekly. Individualized programs where residents do have a say.
- Visitors are allowed on Sundays but this is not for Stage 1 residents. Families are allowed to show up for “Cake Night”; this is when individuals are honored for their 30-60-90 day completions.
- Stage 3 and 4 residents do get day passes but if they are gone for any extended period of time, they do get screened upon return to the centre.
- There are numerous Rehabilitation Providers which operate differently. EHN (this facility’s provider), seems to offer quite a bit of counselling. They have a national center therefore draw from all over Canada. Fresh Start is another Rehabilitation Provider.

May 2            General Board Mtg., Northern Lights Library Board, Zoom

May 9            FCSS, Metis Crossing, Zoom

- Some issues with connectivity? Town appeared to be sharing screen but the screen was stuck on the RMA Spring Update slide. I received a message that it wouldn’t start until 9 am but it never did appear to get started.

Other Meetings/Functions:

May 20        FCSS Cancelled due to not meeting quorum

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

##### **April 23, 2025 – LICA Board of Directors Meeting (virtually)**

- LICA Vision, Mission and Values & Territorial Acknowledgement was delivered.
- Meeting Expectations and attendance file was reviewed/discussed.
- Executive Director, Manager of Environmental Monitoring Programs, Environmental Coordinator, Education and Outreach Coordinator, and Community Outreach Coordinator gave updates on current projects etc.
- Updates were given on 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.
- Discussed inviting Pathways Alliance to do a carbon capture presentation to a future meeting.
- Respectful Workplace Policy developed by Lakeland HR Solutions was approved.
- Hiring a Community Outreach Coordinator still taking place.
- Local Food Infrastructure Fund Grant proposal for garden beds and compost bins.
- LICA Watershed Committee are looking into a Beaver River Watershed Video Project proposal using the Panoramic Media’s Original Quote and looking into Educational Workshop Options.

- Went over Executive Director Job Description to ensure it reflects what's required for the position etc.
- Financial Report was in good standing including renewing a GIC and 2025/2026 Budget amendment approval.

**May 5, 2025 – Bellis Board of Trade Meeting (in-person)**

- Continued action on the Highway Sign on the corner of Hwy 28 and RR152 which needs work, so the members are looking into options such as type/size/material etc. and funding opportunities.
- Discussed speed through the hamlet with the County looking at the speed limit signage and the CPO to enforce.
- Unsightly premises are continued to be actioned by the County CPO.
- Waste Disposal at Bellis Lagoon work is ongoing with County Administration.
- The County was thanked for the donation for the 70<sup>th</sup> Bellis Board of Trade Anniversary Community BBQ which is scheduled for September 14 @ 12noon.
- Flowerpot Barrels will be filled with flowers and placed for hamlet beautification.
- Bellis Board of Trade Bylaw will need to be reviewed etc.
- Financial report was giving with all in good standing.
- Bellis Hamlet Domestic Water and Wastewater Study is currently in the works and expected to be completed by the end of 2025.
- Developing a Bellis Business Brochure and looking into fundraising initiatives.

**May 15, 2025 – ALDMO - Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization AGM and Board Meeting (in-person)**

- Elections called for President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions.
- Appointed signing authorities.
- ATB was appointed as the Banking Institution.
- Two quotes minimum will be required for a Financial Auditor to audit the financials for the year end.
- 2025 Schedule of Meeting Dates and Times was shared.
- The Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization Bylaw will be reviewed and brought to a future meeting.
- Financial report was deferred to a future meeting when the finances have been audited.
- Audited financial books is required for the 2025/2026 Travel Alberta Funding Proposal of \$250,000 for Travel Lakeland operations.
- Deferred the NE Muni-Corr Ltd. Contract using Management Services for ALDMO, asked for a justification letter for fees etc.
- Tourism Session at Metis Crossing was well represented and was an excellent event.
- Social Media contract including Website Management was discussed of how to manage this with minimal to no funding.
- Travel Alberta Representative Chris Downs will be leaving and will be replaced by Rene Rondo in July 2025.
- Travel Lakeland Management Report:
- Ongoing meetings with Travel Alberta; product development and implementation of the TDZ report.
- Finished the spring tradeshow with a really good response from Fort McMurray. Thanks to Dale Hedrick who helped out at all the tradeshow with the Town / County of St. Paul booth. So far, we have a few boxes short of a complete pallet of guides distributed.
- Took on the Super Host Ambassador training at the Lac La Biche Portage College campus.
- Attended the Explore Two Hills Tourism Conference & Tradeshow.
- Completed the 2025-year end financial reviews.
- Update meeting with Travel Alberta.

- Signed up for Sync account and will remove the Microsoft SharePoint. The new upgraded Microsoft account is \$60.69 a month and Sync is \$25.20 a month for up to 1 TB.
- Will be attending the LLB Tourism Kick-Off 2025.
  - Notify Lakeland DMO with what is new from you communities and feel free to post it on the new Alberta's Lakeland DMO Industry Facebook Group Page.

## 9.5 Division Five Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

### Council and Budget Meetings

#### April 22 – County Budget Meeting

Council met to finalize the 2025 municipal budget. Major highlights include:

- Approval of a **\$10.9 million capital budget**
- Balanced **total function budget** of **\$25.95 million**
- Increased funding to the **Vilna, Waskatenau, and Smoky Lake Agricultural Societies**
- A decision to **re-instate mowing to the fence-line** as part of the County's road maintenance program

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#### April 24 – Regular Council Meeting

A range of strategic, planning, and operational items were addressed:

- **Bylaw 1477-25** received second and third reading to redistrict land from Rural Industrial (M2) to Agricultural (AG) use
  - Council passed multiple **Community Peace Officer (CPO) policy amendments**, improving operational standards for:
    - Annual reporting
    - Use of force and batons
    - Operational records
    - Patrol vehicles
  - **Delegations:**
    - **MNP** presented the Community-Based Policing Study; Administration was directed to engage Ministers and RCMP for follow-up
    - **STARS Air Ambulance** provided their 2023–2024 service review
    - **Smoky Lake Golf Club** representatives appeared regarding operational funding
  - **Tax Rate Bylaw 1480-25** was passed in all three readings for 2025
  - Council scheduled a **Public Input Period on May 22** regarding a material change to the Smoky Lake Development Corp. (tourism operations suspension)
  - Stars Presented Council with a photo framed for ongoing support in the amount of \$6, 000.00 annually
  - 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.
  - That Smoky Lake County add the Smoky Lake Town and Country Golf course to the JMM Meeting on April 28, 2025
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## May 8 – Regular Council Meeting

Council focused on emergency readiness and capital investments:

- Approved more than **\$786,000 in equipment acquisitions after receiving approximately \$595,000 in equipment auction sales** to support Public Works and Fire Services, including:
  - **Water tanker, dual-purpose dump/sander, sander/plow, and a track hoe with mulching head**
- **Public Question Period** centered on wildfire preparedness:
  - I confirmed that **Thorhild County** had been contacted to offer assistance
  - **Health & Safety Coordinator Jasmine Schaub** and **CAO Kevin Lucas** updated residents on equipment readiness and emergency planning
- **Delegations:**
  - **Northern Lights Library System** provided a Year in Review
  - **Clayton Didier** presented opportunities for developing a **visitor-based economy** in Smoky Lake County
- Other items:
  - RV Bylaw 1432-23 was referred back for further research
  - **Aggregate Community Tax Bylaw** review and drone alternatives were requested
  - Organizational chart updates were deferred to June 26
  - Smoky Lake County was formally recognized with its **Certificate of Recognition (COR)** in occupational health and safety
  - That Smoky Lake County Council appoint Colten Gargus and Jorja Krysik as the Weed and Pest Inspectors for Smoky Lake County, effective May 8th, 2025, to termination of employment.

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## Regional and Community Engagement

### April 25 – Smoky Lake Foundation Board Meeting

Attended strategic discussions on housing and seniors' services:

- Occupancy in supportive living sites are at 100% except for Vilna. Vilna is at 61 and 58 percent occupancy in the two levels of care. This, again, is due to small rooms.
- Shingles, soffits, eaves troughs and fascia will be replaced on the manor housing in Smoky Lake and Waskatenau. Completion by Aug/Sep
- Financials are clean, on budget
- Staff training and professional development is available and ongoing
- Recreation programming and upcoming summer programming and community trips
- Increased resident attendance at recreation programs; and Introduction of more live music and entertainment.
- Seniors Apartments and Community Housing 2025 Budget Reallocation, Raymond Cormie advised that the Government of Alberta has provided an additional \$95,700 in deficit funding for the Seniors Apartments and Community Housing programs. In response, R. Cormie presented the amended budget reflecting the additional revenue and expense allocations.
- Updates to the Ministerial Order, R. Cormie reported that an updated draft of the 1995 Ministerial Order will be presented at the

next Board meeting for approval and submission to the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

- Skid Steer Consignment, R. Cormie reported that the skid steer had been sent to Martin Deere Line in Edmonton. Martin Deere Line did not accept the trailer on consignment due to their current number in stock. The trailer will be listed for a private sale.

**April 28 – Joint Municipalities Meeting (JMM)**

Engaged with municipal neighbors on key shared issues including:

- Highway 831 bridge safety repair, Letters have been sent to Mr. Glenn Van Dijken, MLA
- Community-Based Policing Study from Sgt. Anita Doktor, who provided a verbal update regarding:
  - BAIT Project was Successful and will continue
  - Community Peace Officer is assisting in Bylaw complaints, Animal Protection Act and other Provincial Legislation which makes the RCMP members available for Criminal Code Related Offenses.
  - New Member starting next week.
  - 1 Cpl leaving and a member from St. Paul will be transferring to the detachment.
  - Victim Services is in the process of hiring an Advocate for Smoky Lake, until then Redwater will cover one day a week, unless otherwise needed.
  - Sgt. Doktor will email MLA Glen van Dijken regarding the safety concerns of the Bridge repairs and reduced speed limit on HWY 831.
- STARS Air Ambulance contributions
- Smoky Lake Golf Club funding update
- Regional immigration support through the **AAIP Rural Renewal Stream**, update provided by Michelle Wright, Smoky Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Attendance boundary changes from **Aspen View Public Schools**, School Trustee, Elohe Chizawsky and Superintendent of Schools, Constantine Kastrinos, who provided a verbal update regarding:
  - Areas on the northwestern edge of the current Vilna attendance area were shifted to the Smoky Lake attendance area.
  - Rochester: The current Rochester attendance area was redistributed to the Athabasca and Thorhild attendance areas, with a boundary loosely following Highway 661. The changes aim to minimize bussing ride times and accommodate existing students while addressing concerns raised by families in the Rochester, Smoky Lake, and Vilna area.
  - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved Aspen View's Capital Plan for submission to the provincial government.
  - Aspen View Public Schools is facing a decrease in revenue and an increase in expenditures in the 2024/2025 school year, requiring spending reductions
- Presentation from Eastern Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society, Director of Regional Operations, Melody Littell, and Assistant Director of Regional Operations, Doris Pindroch, who provided an overview of East Area Regional Victim Services Program provided the following information points:
  - Victim services core values: respect, compassion, confidentiality, integrity, collaboration
  - Victim services as regional model

- EARVSS Service Structure roles: navigators, coordinator, administrative staff, tier 1 are employees and tier two are volunteers, emphasis on timely, compassion service delivery
- Community Referrals
- General Support Services
- Criminal Justice System Navigation

#### **April 29 – Tour of the EHN Red Deer Recovery Community**

Toured the EHN Sandstone Recovery Centre

- Nutritional rehabilitation to restore and normalize eating and food related habits, including meal support therapy and meal supervision
- Nutritional rehabilitation and structured meal support therapy
- In house counsellors, nurse practitioners, one medical doctor and administration
- Reward ceremonies for 30, 60, and 90 days of sobriety
- Residents follow schedules for regular household chores
- Medical detox
- Cognitive and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (CBT/DBT)
- Recovery Capital Model programming  
It serves as a provincial leader in long-term residential addiction recovery care.
- EHN have had zero attempts from residents to leave the facility early in the last two years.
- There is a “self check in” procedure, waitlist being 6 months
- Residents receive primary treatment for 60-90, up to 100 days
- Accommodations are separated from men and women
- Process groups supported by therapists and peers to work through situations and process emotions through different perspectives, support, encouragement and feedback in a safe environment
- Family sessions to support the family system and work through treatment goals that include skill and strategy integration.
- Jayden Ernst, Minister Williams chief of staff, to make arrangements with minister Nixon, Williams, Smoky Lake County Council, and Smoky Lake Foundation CAO, Raymond Cormie to meet for the purpose to increase housing within our region

#### **May 14 – 4th Annual AVIPS Robotics Tournament (Athabasca)**

Honoured to serve as a judge at this K–9 robotics event with 160 students’ attendance, assessing student creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. This initiative highlights the growing importance of STEM education and youth innovation.

#### **9.5 Division Five Councillor’s Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions**

528-25- Serben

That Smoky Lake County’s Reeve Report received for the period April 18, 2025, to May 14, 2025 be posted to the County’s website and the Councillors reports on various committees, boards and commissions, be accepted with the following amendments:

- Add Smoky Lake County letterhead
- Remove duplicate motion 499-25: That Smoky Lake County Council defer the organizational chart and salary range as provided per policy 01-03-28 Organizational Chart to the June 26<sup>th</sup> 2025 Regular Council Meeting.



- April 28<sup>th</sup> Joint municipalities Meeting Highway 831 bridge safety repair, letters sent to: Add Mr. Glenn Van Dijken, MLA, as the recipient.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> EHN: Medical doctors be changed to medical doctor
- Deletion of Muni-Corr meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Carried.

**10. Correspondence:**

**10.1 Minister signed letter to Reeve Jered Serben Smoky Lake County Dated April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025- Deletion to the Agenda**

That Smoky Lake County Council remove 10.1 Agenda item as it is a duplicate from the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Agenda.

Carried.

**10.2 RMA's Legislative Update Week of April 28 – May 1, 2025 – RMA**

529-25: Lorne That Smoky Lake County Council **Acknowledge receipt** of the 10.2 RMA's Legislative Update Week of April 28 – May 1, 2025 – RMA

Carried.

**10.3 RMA Releases Bill 49 Member Resource May 5, 2025**

530-25: Cere That Smoky Lake County Council **acknowledge receipt** of the RMA Releases Bill 49 Member Resource May 5, 2025

Carried.

**10.4 RMA Releases Member Guide to the AUC's Draft Blackline of Rule 007 Facility Applications**

531-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council Acknowledge receipt of the RMA Releases Member Guide to the AUC's Draft Blackline of Rule 007 , dated May, 23 , 2025, as presented and reply regarding the farmland safety.

Carried.

**10.6 RMA's Legislative Update Week of May 5 – 9, 2025**

532-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council accept the RMA's Legislative Update Week of May 5 – 9, 2025, **acknowledge receipt and file as information.**

Carried.

**10.7. Alberta Energy Regulator - Water Licensing in OneStop**

533-25: Cere That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Alberta Energy Regulator - Water Licensing in OneStop, **file and accept as information.**

Carried.

**10.8. Municipal Affairs - Smoky Lake County 2025 LGFF Funding Letter**

534-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council Acknowledge receipt of the information from Municipal Affairs - Smoky Lake County 2025 LGFF Funding Letter.

Carried.

**11. Information Releases:**

**11.1 NAAGO May 9th Follow up - Letters for Review**

535-25: Lorne That Smoky Lake County Council accept the NAAGO – Letters for Review 11.1.1 through 11.1.4, dated May, 13 ,

2025, and request that a letter be sent to Minister Ellis highlighting the emergency response issues to be included in the letter and File for information.

Carried.

**11.1.1 Letter to Minister Dreeshen**

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Letter to Minister Dreeshen , **and file for information**

**11.1.2 Letter to National Defense**

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Letter to National Defense, **and file for information**

**11.1.3 Letter to Oil and Gas Companies**

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Letter to Oil and Gas Companies, **and file for information**

**11.1.4 Letter to Councils**

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Letter to Councils, **and file for information**

**11.2 MNP - Your Feedback Needed\_ Review of Alberta Police Funding Model**

536-25: Cere That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge receipt of the information from the MNP Review of Alberta Police Funding Model.

Carried.

**12. Financial Statements for the month of December 31st 2024- February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**12.1 2025 February Monthly Council Reconciliation**

537-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council Acknowledge receipt of Financial Statement, updated February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as prepared by the Finance Manager, be filed for information.

Carried.

**12.2 2025 March Monthly Council Reconciliation**

538-25: Cere That Smoky Lake County's Financial Statement, updated March, 2025, as prepared by the Finance Manager, be filed for information.

Carried.

**12.3 Budget to Actual**

539-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County's Budget to Actual be filed for information.

Carried.

**13. Next Meeting(s):**

**13.1. Reconfirm the Scheduled County Council Meeting Dates**

540-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County rescinds Motion 513-25 from the previous Council Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Carried.

541-25: Serben That the next Smoky Lake County Council Meetings be reconfirmed as follows:

Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular and CAO Evaluation meeting),  
Thursday June 12 and Wednesday, 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular),

Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular),  
Thursday September 11 and 25, 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:**

NIL

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

542-25: Gawalko    That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting of May 22, 2025,  
be adjourned, 11:33 p.m.

Carried.

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REEVE,  
Jered Serben

S E A L

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,  
Kevin Lucas