

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **County Council Meeting** held on Thursday, **March 27, 2025**, at 9:05 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		
Div. No.	Councillor(s)	Thursday, Mar. 27, 2025
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
Municipal Clerk/RS	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers
Executive Assistant	Patti Priest	Virtually Present

Observers in Attendance Upon Call to Order:

Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Virtually Present
P & D Manager	Jordan Ruegg	Virtually Present
Health & Safety Cor.	Jasmine Schaub	Virtually Present
Acting Ag Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Virtually Present
Enviro Ops Manager	Dave Franchuk	Virtually Present
Natural Gas Manager	Daniel Moric	Virtually Present
Fire Chief	Scott Franchuk	Virtually Present
Deputy Fire Chief	Spencer Kotylak	Virtually Present
P.W. Manager	Chris Minailo	Present in Chambers
Public	6 Members	Virtually Present

2. Agenda:

362-25: Halisky That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 27, 2025, be adopted, as amended:

Deletion the Agenda:

3.2 Minutes of the Municipal Planning Commission Meeting, Thursday March 13th, 2025

Addition:

1.1. In Camera (Executive Session) Personnel Issue, 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 13, 2025**

363-25: Céré That the minutes of the Smoky Lake County Regular Council Meeting, held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

7. Request for Decision:

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

364-25: Fenerty 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 FIRST READING; and schedule a Public Hearing on said Bylaw, to be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., and advertise said Public Hearing in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, in the Redwater Review and on the County’s website.

Carried.

7.2. **Offer to Purchase County-Owned Plan 716CL, Block 2, Lot 1, Warspite**

365-25: Céré That Smoky Lake County accept the Expression of Interest to Purchase in the amount of \$1,000.00 + G.S.T., (total sale price of \$1,050.00) received from Mr. Bruce Morton, for the purchase of the lands legally described as Plan 716CL, Block 2, Lot 1, and advertise for 2 weeks consecutive, in accordance with Smoky Lake County Policy Statement 61-10: Disposition of County Owned Lands, and if no other offers being received before closure, to execute a sale agreement with the applicant upon receipt of full payment.

Carried.

7.3. **Request to clear undeveloped road allowance & construct road – SE-14-59-16-W4M**

366-25: Céré That Smoky Lake County instruct the Public Works Department to clear a portion (approximately 300 meters in length) of the undeveloped government road allowance lying south of the lands legally described as SE-14-59-16-W4M, and to construct a low-grade road on said cleared portions, pursuant to the scope of work provided by the Smoky Lake County Road Foreman, dated March 5, 2025; at no cost to the County; and enter into a Hold Harmless Agreement with the said lands’ owner.

Carried.

Delegations VanDerVaart Manager and Susana Eldridge entered council Chambers, time 9:31 a.m.

4. Delegation:

4.1. **Lise VanDerVaart – Town of Smoky Lake Library**

Present before Council from 9:32 a.m. to 9:46 a.m. was Lise VanDerVaart Manager and Susanna Eldridge of the Town of Smoky Lake Library, at the request of Council, as per the February 13, 2025, Council Motion #287-25, for the purpose of answering questions in respect to the library’s’ deferred Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grant, application for funding their Family Programming.

367-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County approve to allocate funding from the 2025 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grant budget in accordance with Policy no 08-17-01: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) grant as follows:

Community Group	Eligibility	Funding
Town of Smoky Lake Library	Family Programming	\$6,500.00

Carried.

Chris Minailo, Public Works Manager entered Council Chambers at 9:47 a.m.

Sgt. Anita Doktor of the Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment and Supt. Tony Handson Entered Council Chambers at 9:49 a.m.

4.3. Sgt. Anita Doktor & Supt. Handson - RCMP

Present before Council from 9:53 a.m. to 10:29 a.m. was Sgt. Anita Doktor of the Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment and Supt. Tony Handson of the Eastern Alberta District (EAD) RCMP, to discuss Smoky Lake's crime workload analysis.

Town of Smoky Lake Library Information from Delegation

368-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the information received from the March 27, 2025 Delegations Lise VanDerVaart Manager and Susanna Eldridge of the Town of Smoky Lake Library.

Carried.

RCMP Information from Delegations

369-25: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the information received from the March 27, 2025 Delegations Sgt. Anita Doktor of the Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment and Supt. Tony Handson of the Eastern Alberta District (EAD) RCMP, in respect to Smoky Lake's crime workload analysis.

Carried.

4.2. Harvey Prockiw – Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227

Virtually Present before Council from 10:32 a.m. to 10:41 a.m. was Harvey Prockiw, Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227, to ask for support towards the Legion's floor replacement.

Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227 – Funding & Support Letter

370-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County approve to provide funding in the amount of \$2,500.00 and a letter of support to the Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227's in respect to their application to the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) program, to fund their floor replacement project.

Carried.

Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227 Information from Delegation

371-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the information received from the March 27, 2025 Delegation, Harvey Prockiw, Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion Smoky Lake Branch #227.

Carried.

4. Delegation:

4.4. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Member Visit CANCELLED

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) representatives were unable to attend due to weather conditions.

372-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) representatives were unable to attend the March 27, 2025 Council Meeting as scheduled, and re-coordinate their attendance as Delegations to a future meeting to reschedule the RMA's 3-year rotation, Member visit.

Carried.

7.4. Policy No. 01-54-01: Signing Authority

373-25: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 01-54-01: Signing Authority be adopted as follows:

Title: Signing Authority		Policy No.: 54-01
Section: 01	Code: P-A	Page No.: 1 of 2 <i>E</i>
Legislation Reference: Municipal Government Act Sections 213 and 270. And Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw 1452-23		
Purpose:	This policy clarifies which positions in the organization may sign or authorized which municipal documents to support accountability for both financial and non-financial transactions.	
Policy Statement and Guidelines:		
1.	STATEMENT: The Municipal Government Act gives authority to the Chief elected official or another person authorized by council to sign cheques and other negotiable instruments.	
2.	OBJECTIVE: This policy designates general legal signing authority to improve the efficiency of business operations while maintaining effective internal controls and approval processes.	
3.	DEFINITION: 3.1 "Agreement" is a document initiated by a financial institution or other party that requires signatures by the designated signatories. 3.2 "CAO" means Chief Administrative Officer 3.3 "County" means Smoky Lake County. 3.4 "EFT" means Electronic Funds Transfer payments (digital money transfer to or from bank accounts belonging to another entity)	
4.	GUIDELINES: Authority is delegated as follows to sign or authorize the following: 4.1 Bank accounts and investments 4.1.1 Authority for signing service agreements that open or close financial accounts shall be: i) First signature – Reeve or Deputy Reeve ii) Second signature – CAO or Finance Manager 4.1.2 Authority to transfer funds between County bank accounts shall be: i) Either the CAO or Finance Manager ii) The Payroll Clerk may transfer funds between the County General Chequing account and Payroll account. 4.2 Cheques and EFTs 4.2.1 Authority for signing cheques as well as authorizations for EFT payments shall be: i) First signature – Reeve or Deputy Reeve ii) Second signature – CAO or Manager of Finance 4.3 Agreements for budgeted expenditures are delegated under Purchasing Guidelines Policy 08-16	

Title: Signing Authority		Policy No.: 54-01
Section: 01	Code: P-A	Page No.: 2 of 2 E
4.4 Other Agreements and negotiable instruments 4.4.1 Authority for signing other agreements and negotiable instruments shall be: i) First signature – Reeve or Deputy Reeve ii) Second signature – CAO or Finance Manager 4.5 Minutes of Council Meetings shall be signed in accordance with the Municipal Government Act Section 213(1) - the person presiding the meeting and the CAO 4.6 Bylaws shall be signed in accordance with the Municipal Government Act Section 213(3) – The Reeve or Deputy Reeve and the CAO 5. RESPONSIBILITIES: 5.1 Council Responsibilities: 5.1.1 Approve the Signing Authority Policy 5.2 CAO Responsibilities 5.2.1 Ensure that the management team are aware of and understand the implications of this policy 5.2.2 Implement and monitor the policy 5.2.3 Direct administration to develop the necessary administrative procedures to implement this policy 5.2.4 Regularly review and make necessary amendments to the policy 5.3 Management Team 5.3.1 Ensure that employees are aware of and abide by the policy 5.4 Authority delegated to a position extends to any person acting in the position. 5.5 Only employees who have been delegated signing authority through the policy, or through further delegation permitted by this policy, may sign municipal documents referenced here. 5.6 Employees who have been delegated signing authority are responsible for: 5.6.1 ensuring documents are signed in accordance with this policy; and 5.6.2 ensuring the accuracy of the document being signed 5.6.3 being aware of and complying with all relevant bylaws, policies, procedures, as well as external legislative requirements when exercising delegations		

Carried.

7.5. Request for Donation to Smoky Lake Holubka Dancers Highway Cleanup

374-25: C    

That Smoky Lake County Council approve to provide funds in the amount of \$350.00 to the Smoky Lake Holubka Dancers, towards their lunch during their participation in the annual highway cleanup, scheduled for May 3, 2025.

Carried.

7.6. Rescind Policy 01-01-02 Procedures and Transacting of Organizational Meeting

375-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 01-01-02: Procedures and Transacting of Organizational Meeting, be rescinded as this policy's guidelines are address in other bylaws and policies making it redundant.

Carried.

Kierstin Dubitz, Acting Agricultural Fieldman, entered Council Chambers at 10:51 a.m.

7.7. Request for Donation from Faud Bayramov to attend SHAD Canada

376-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council approve to provide a County hoodie plus funds in the amount of **\$250.00** to the H.A. Kostash student: Faud Bayramov, in response to their letter requesting support to attend SHAD Canada's annual Canadian summer enrichment program for high-achieving high school students in 2025; **subject to** the said County funds being returned should the said student be unable to obtain the full required amount to attend the program; **and** request an update from the said student to be presented at the April 24, 2025, Council meeting.

Carried.

7.8. Request for Donation from Delta Waterflow Parkland Pintails Chapter

377-25: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County Council donate funds in the amount of **\$200.00** to Delta Waterfowl's Parkland Pintails Chapters Hen House Program, allocated from the Agricultural Services Budget; and also provide County promotional items for the said organization's fundraising dinner, scheduled for April 26, 2025.

Carried.

Scott Franchuk, Fire Chief, entered Council Chambers at 11:19 a.m.

7.9. 2025 Farmers & Ranchers Appreciation Event, June 13, 2025

378-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council approve to host the annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation BBQ event on June 13th, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Smoky Lake Agricultural Complex, in the Town of Smoky Lake.

Carried.

Kierstin Dubitz, Acting Agricultural Fieldman, left Council Chambers at 11:22 a.m.

7.10. Discount Fuel for Volunteer Firefighter

379-25: Halisky That Smoky Lake County approve Firefighter compensation for all volunteer fire fighters to receive a "Pay as You Go" UFA fuel card for discounted fuel purchases under the Smoky Lake County bulk fuel account with UFA as determined by the station chiefs as per Regional Services awards recognition policy 02-06-03 for all current active members.

Carried.

11:30to 11:40a.m.

Public Question and Answer Period:

Hank Holowaychuk, member of the Public questioned who makes the decision on who is attending the Fire Chiefs Convention and expressed importance of attending the event, as an opportunity to lobby.

Jered Serben, Reeve, responded that a lot of the public does not see what we're doing behind the scenes as far as advocating and lobbying directly to the ministers, and we can have a further discussion here as far as the Fire Chiefs Convention attendance. Further to that, we need to do a lot more work on both sides the fire departments and the councils because

there's a disconnect there. I personally don't know when the fire when there's firefighter meetings that fire halls, we need to do better on both sides to get the reports. We need to be part of those discussions and so that we can all move in the same direction because from what I see in picture of volunteer firefighters, and how many there were in the past, to how many there are now, I think has a lot to do with what the expectations are from the province and that is not what local firefighters are signed up to do. So, answer your question, we are lobbying, and we need to do better as far as communication between fire department and us municipalities and councils, and we need to have a greater look into how we can lobby and put our lobbying efforts into attending the fire conference and bringing back good information that we can apply for our municipality. Thank you.

7.11. Fire Department Equipment Insurance

380-25: Céré That Smoky Lake County approve to add the value of the unattached equipment on fire apparatuses as a separate line item on the Heavy Equipment policy with a \$5,000.00 deductible and bring forward a current quote to the next Council meeting.

Carried.

Fire Department Firehall Surveillance - Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC)

381-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County bring forward to the next (or future) Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) meeting, a topic for discussion in respect to options for security surveillance of the Smoky Lake Region's firehalls.

Carried.

7.12. Legislative Service Position

382-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council formalize the position of Legislative Service, as administration is currently undergoing a series of internal restructuring efforts related to staffing positions; whereby the title of "Legislative Service" is a modernized version of the title "Legislative Service to the Chief Administrative Officer" Legislative Service shall be excluded from within the Canadian Union of Public Employees - Local 4575 Collective Agreement due to the require involvement with confidential and privileged information.

Carried.

Meeting Recessed Meeting recessed for Lunch, time 12:04 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened The meeting reconvened on a call to order by the Reeve at 1:00 p.m. in the physical (or virtual) presence of all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Manager, Executive Services Clerk, Natural Gas Manager, Planning & Development Manager, Health & Safety Coordinator, Assistant Ag. Fieldman, Fire services Clerk, Communications Officer, and Members of the Public.

8. Chief Administrative Officer's Report:

8.1. CAO Report, March 21, 2025

CAO Report
Executive Summary:
This report provides an overview of key activities, meetings, and engagements undertaken recently by county staff and representatives. These activities span operational performance evaluations, infrastructure projects, regional studies, intergovernmental and community meetings, and strategic discussions with provincial ministers and law enforcement. The following summary highlights progress, challenges, and collaborative efforts that align with our county's strategic objectives and ongoing projects.
1. Operational and Performance Evaluations

- Staff Performance Evaluation:**
An in-depth review of a new team members performance was completed, assessing the contributions, compliance, and leadership in the role. Recommendations have been made for further professional development and enhanced operational efficiency.
- Annual Fleet Review with Enterprise Auto Group:**
A comprehensive review of county fleet operations was conducted, focusing on maintenance, cost

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management, and future procurement strategies to ensure safe and efficient county transportation services.

2. Health, Safety, and Operational Meetings

- **Joint Health & Safety Meeting:**
The committee reviewed current safety protocols, incident reports, and upcoming training sessions, reaffirming our commitment to a safe working environment.
- **Managers Weekly Meetings:**
Department heads discussed departmental updates, interdepartmental challenges, and coordinated plans for ongoing projects, emphasizing communication and efficiency.
- **Traffic Accommodation Meeting:**
Discussions focused on addressing local traffic concerns, evaluating current road usage, and planning for future modifications to enhance safety and flow.

3. Infrastructure and Construction Projects

- **BF76552 Culvert Replacement:**
 - *Pre-construction Meeting:* Reviewed project scope, environmental considerations, contractor responsibilities, and traffic management plans in preparation for the construction phase.
 - *Construction Progress Meeting:* Provided updates on milestones, encountered challenges, and adjustments needed to maintain project timelines.
- **Timber Sales from Pit Area:**
Discussions and planning sessions were held regarding the sale of timber from the pit area, ensuring that asset recovery aligns with county policies and market opportunities.
- **Smoky Lake Bridge Program Check-In Meeting:**
Reviewed progress on the bridge program, discussing maintenance, safety improvements, and future planning to support regional connectivity.

4. Strategic and Collaborative Engagements

- **MCC Shareholder Meeting:**
County representation at the MCC meeting focused on financial performance, governance issues, and long-term strategic investments to benefit community infrastructure.
- **Meeting to Discuss 955 Back Pension Issue:**
Engaged with stakeholders to address concerns regarding the pension backlog, aiming for timely resolution and improved employee relations.
- **Meeting with Steve:**
A focused discussion with a private logging contractor centered on operational improvements and feedback on current and future county projects.
- **Update Meeting with 28/63 Associate Engineering:**
Provided project updates and engineering insights for ongoing infrastructure initiatives, ensuring technical requirements are met.
- **Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Design Study with Mirek Grzeszczuk:**
Collaborative study focused on optimizing regional water and wastewater design, addressing future growth and sustainability challenges.
- **Joint Town/County Council Meeting:**
A collaborative session with town council members to align strategies, share best practices, and discuss inter-municipal projects.
- **28/63 Commission and Whitefish Lake Meeting with Legal Teams:**
Addressed legal and regulatory considerations related to regional projects, ensuring compliance and mitigating risks.
- **RMA Conference Attendance:**
County representatives attended the RMA conference to gather insights and network with other regions, significant learning opportunities for attendees.
- **Meeting with Minister (staffer) of Technology and Innovation:**
Discussed potential opportunities for integrating innovative technologies in county operations, focusing on improved service delivery.
- **Meeting with Minister of Indigenous Relations - Rick Wilson:**
spoke to the positive county-indigenous relations, focusing on collaborative community projects and mutual growth initiatives. Importance of river access with increased public activity for potential rescue operations.
- **Meeting with Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Services - Mike Ellis and Minister of Municipal Affairs - Ric McIver:**
Engaged with provincial ministers to discuss county priorities, funding opportunities, and strategies for enhanced public safety and municipal governance. Spoke directly to regional fire operations and the future infrastructure needs.
- **Meeting with RCMP Superintendent Dave Kalist, OIC of “K” Division:**
Reviewed current law enforcement challenges, resource needs, and collaborative approaches to ensure community safety.
- **Toured the RCMP Real Time Operations Center in Edmonton:**
The tour provided valuable insights into advanced operations and technology integration that could benefit our county's emergency management capabilities.

5. Human Resource Challenges and Departmental Realignment

Amid our ambitious operational and infrastructure initiatives, we are also confronted with significant human resource challenges that require immediate attention. As we refocus staff and realign departmental direction to better support our evolving strategic objectives, it is crucial to address gaps in skills, resource allocation, and workforce capacity. To ensure our county can meet future challenges and deliver high-quality services, we are actively posting and advertising several open positions across various departments within Smoky Lake County. These efforts are aimed at strengthening our teams, enhancing our collective expertise, and ensuring that the county's operations remain efficient and responsive. In addition to recruiting new talent, we are committed to providing targeted professional development and training for existing staff to facilitate a smooth transition during this realignment. Transparent communication, coupled with a strategic approach to human resource management, will be key as we navigate these changes. Our goal is to build a more agile and resilient workforce that is well-equipped to handle the demands of our renewed mission and future county initiatives.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The diverse range of meetings and engagements detailed in this report underscores our commitment to improving county operations, enhancing community safety, and advancing infrastructure projects. Moving forward, it is recommended that:

- Action items from each meeting be closely monitored and integrated into departmental plans.
- Cross-departmental collaboration be strengthened to address operational challenges and leverage innovative solutions.

- Regular updates be provided to the Council on progress, with particular focus on high-impact projects like the BF76552 Culvert Replacement and the Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Design Study. This report will serve as a basis for further discussion and decision-making at today's Council meeting. Your guidance and support remain essential as we continue to drive forward initiatives that benefit the residents of Smoky Lake County.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lucas EMBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Smoky Lake County

CAO Report for March 21, 2025 & Legacy Pit

383-25: Céré

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Chief Administrative Officer's report, dated March 21, 2025, as presented, which included the "Name that Pit" Contest to name new gravel pit located on the lands legally described as NE16, SE21, SW22-61-18-W4 and N1/2 16 & S1/2 21- 61-18-W4, and acknowledge the winning name is "Legacy Pit".

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:

- January 20,21,22 attended the ASB Conference in Edmonton with board member Tori Ponich & Ag Fieldman Kierstin Dubitz, the first afternoon we went to the ASB chair and fieldman meeting with speaker John Conrad ADM he discussed the 5 year grant renewal program for ASB's for 2025 - 2029, he gave an update on the weed review, wild boar, ground squirrel and the water review act, 1.7 million from the province to AgKnow and producer mental health, in the evening we were welcomed to the conference by Lacombe County, then Minister RJ Sigurdson gave a welcome address also, the next day we had an ASB update, they have been in Alberta for 80 years serving 41,000 farms, Dr. John Church gave a talk about precision ranching, drones with thermal imaging, virtual fencing, plants and animals together enabling a smart biome, Bill Kingston then gave an overview of the wetland policies the benefits of wetlands the wetland replacement program & funding available from different sources, Dave Johnson gave an update on ag waste recycling the EPR program for chemical jugs, grain bags & twine pilot projects & the option for large farms or groups of farmers to have 10 or more bags picked up on farm. Karen Wickerson gave an update on the Alberta rat program, no rats in Alberta which is great for trade, the province gave \$215,000 towards the rat program for 2025, the Alberta Sask. border is inspected twice yearly with 31 confirmed rats reported in 2024. Jane Tansey gave the Richardsons squirrel update on the reproduction cycle they have 1 litter per year with 5-8 in a litter, 60-80% of them can be removed by a single badger, also suggested making bird boxes for the barn owls and raptor stands and platforms as these also help
- to control this type of ground squirrel, Micheal Marlow gave an overview of the USDA national swine feral program how the swine are causing crop damage, infrastructure damage to grave yards golf courses & more, in excess of 6 million animals in the US in 30 of the 50 states he says to control before it gets out of hand using legislation also. Then we went in to the resolution session for the remainder of the day. The following morning started with Mikki Shatosky discussing the legal tools used to get easements for agricultural land into a Alberta Farmland trust or conservation formats used and the benefits of, Tanis Baker then gave a presentation of Ag tourism and the Alberta open farm days in August they partner with Travel Alberta & Ag society's, they anticipate 9.4 billion people in the world in the next 5 years, 84% of Alberta tourism are Albertans, John Knap they talked about the future of Ag in Alberta the fertility rates on the planet, the rising sea, taking out delta farmland in the world, we'll need 173 million more acres to produce 50% more food, John believes the ag industry will form a progressive larger part of Alberta's future economy, Megan Evans talked about the state of Alberta's native bee's, the threats to bee's, there are 375 bee species in Alberta, 40% of insect species at risk of extinction in Alberta from insecticides, pathogens & pests, these bees are important pollinators in our world. Dr. Alycia Chrenek then talked about connecting mental wellness to sustainable agriculture & the causes of veterinarian mental crisis & farmers needing help, talking is one of tools along with changing your prospective on things, AgKnow and in the Know are some of the groups available for Help. - January 24, attended the RMA district 5 meeting in Killam with councillor Lorne Halisky & CAO Kevin Lucas, a good discussion was
- held about participation in FCM, a new member was elected to sit on the board representing RMA @ FCM meetings, roads were very bad getting worse the further south you went. - January 27 attended the LARA board of Directors meeting, discussed capital funding, 12 associations submitted applications will know by end of January then sign contracts, Lara is working on a new logo, municipal funding was also discussed with St. Paul county providing 70,000 per year for 3 years & the MD. of Bonnyville giving 80,000 for 2025, on March 31 will be holding a strategic planning session with Lakeland Human Resources, Alyssa gave the financial report, OFCAF will schedule a meeting to give an update of what needs to be done & reported on for the grants, the AGM will be in Mallaig on March 6th with 2 positions on the board to be elected 1 in Smoky Lake County, 1 in MD of Bonnyville, Alyssa gave the Executive director report she applied for 5 positions for Canada summer jobs, making a plan for the garden & greenhouse, 98 feed samples in 2024 using ½ the sample budget, researchers are busy ordering seed, attended the soil conference & working on projects for RDAR check out the upcoming events on LARA website or Smoky Lake county website.

- January 30 attended the Securing Success programs & funding opportunities for your farm or ranch in Smoky Lake with councillor Lorne Halisky & Ag Fieldman Kierstin Dubitz put on by LARA, Lance introduced the LARA staff in attendance & gave a presentation on what LARA has done in the last 33 years on unbiased research & what they can do for producers, feed tests, help with grant applications, Kierstin then gave an update on what the county is doing, ditch mowing, spraying ditches, 400 weed notices sent out in 2024, clubroot survey, EFP's, animal control for beaver & dogs, Sonia from the OFCAF program & CFGA gave an update on the
- program, online learning, events, workshops, fencing, pasture improvement, rotational grazing, need an EFP for these programs and Agri Invest for 2025, Chris from the RALP program talked about the program, inter cropping, pollinator strips, trees, wetland restoration, annual crops to forages, he also mentioned the Alberta Water Program for wells & dugouts, the RALP program opens February 3/25 closes November 30/25, call 1866-310 RALP for more info or Lance @ LARA or your ag fieldman. These are some good programs for our producers. - February 7 attended the Farmer Appreciation Event in Glendon put on by LARA with the talents of Ben Crane entertaining the crowd.
- February 11, Smoky Lake County ASB board meeting with several producer board members in attendance, Alyssa Krawchuk gave her update on LARA, updated policy statement 62-10-09 ASB business plan for 2025, drafts of the 2025 ASB resolutions results, 1.7 million from the province to AgKnow and producer mental health programs, discussed the June 13 farmers & ranchers appreciation BBQ, next meeting April 8, 9am.
- February 20, attended the Evergreen regional waste management commission meeting, had an update on the EPR, product care and circular materials programs, update on White Fish Lake transfer station we should be receiving material March or April of 2025, policy review of operations and code of conduct also bylaw 6 review, Ashley gave the treasurers report, Paul gave the site report no TDA tire shred for MSW cell construction till late spring/summer, working face is now east end of cell 1 & west end of cell 2 reworking south slope of these cells, all services on equipment completed, received a letter approving the ACP grant
- with town of St. Paul as the manager for 150,000 dollars, April 1 2025 the electronics recycling program will be expanded 500 additional items, next meeting March 20. - February 21, attended the Federation of Alberta gas co-ops spring zones 3 & 4 meeting in Bonnyville with Smoky Lake county gas manager Daniel Moric, directors report the 2024 convention was very good, a new brand and logo were presented, round table discussions were about convention 2025, amalgamations training and ISC permitting, Gas Alberta gave an update on where gas prices will be going in 2025 and planned pipeline outages, Michael O'Mara gave an update on your benefits plan, reviewed options for the O & M audits and the rural gas grant program August 13 is the annual golf tournament, the fall zone meeting will be in the county of Vermilion river, 2025 convention will be held on November 24 – 27 @ River Cree Resort.
- February 24, attended the LARA meeting discussed LARA logo redesign, weather stations, and capital funding from RDAR, Alyssa gave her executive directors report, working on the yearly audit, hired 4 summer students, extension & upcoming events, on the research side they are writing their annual reports, assisting producers with grants, financials were presented.
- February 26 – 28 attended the 14th annual Alberta Care Spring Seminar along with councillor Lorne Halisky and county waste management employee Scott Adamson, very good seminar lots of value, SWANA has a course for landfill fires, you need a emergency plan for fires also, see attached commission managers' report.

March 6, attended the LARA AGM in Mallaig with councillor Lorne Halisky & producer reps Amanda Fischer and Charlie Leskiw, a new producer rep for Smoky Lake County was acclaimed Landon Homeniuk and Teegan Miller was elected for the MD of Bonnyville for 3 year terms, Barb McCarthy gave a presentation of the audited financials, the staff at LARA presentations on the work they did in 2024 including the trials, the chair and executive directors gave their reports which can be viewed in the 2024 annual report, next came the organizational meeting Jay Cory was acclaimed as chair, Amanda Fischer Vice chair and Nick Kunec as secretary/treasurer, strategic planning & directors meeting March 31 in Ashmont@ 10:00 am. - March 20, Attended the evergreen regional waste management commission meeting, update from Whitefish lake they will have a state of art transfer station will be receiving material from the site cleanup, Tom Moore gave a presentation on the EPR program and the starting dates & the costs to municipalities, Alberta is the last province in Canada to participate. Clean Farms will be collecting unused medication for vet drugs in the 2025 year something our producers and ratepayers should know, Nathan & Jason gave an update on the circular workshop they attended, Ashley presented the financials, next meeting April 17, 10:00 am

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 – February 10, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)

- Administration circulated an updated budget. Discussion included trestle repairs and the work. RRTS crew may not be able to complete the work so we might have to work with the three rural municipalities to complete the project which may move it into 2026.
- Alberta Transportation to appear as delegation at March meeting. There is some rebuilding occurring on Highway 28, some parts of the trail may be affected.
- RRTS (Riverland Recreational Trail Society) Marvin Bjornstad reported receiving several calls about oilfield vehicles on the Husky Trail. The trail shows up as a road on GPS however, as soon as they were made aware of their mistake, the company stopped using the trail.
- Met with Propulso regarding further trail use data and they are working on a quote for RRTS, more program details to follow as to how we can extend it to include the snowmobile trails.
- Still in communications with the Alberta Wagon Trekkers Association. They will visit the trail in the spring to see if they can assist with funding some projects.
- Heinsburg staging area has some vandalism and RRTS volunteers are replacing or boarding up windows.
- RRTS is working with the municipalities to complete a GIS map of all the access routes in communities to services and attractions.

- Discussion on geo vehicles being used on the trail. They are a type of motorized scooter but are not licensed for highways. They will not be allowed on the trail at this time.
- Access Request made by Atco Electric, 2nd Chance Trail Ride - approved access requests as per our standard agreement.
- RRTS met with MLA Scott Cyr for a discussion on funding options as both the Iron Horse Trail and the Husky Trail are excluded from the provinces current trail funding program on public lands. The trail community has lobbied the Gov't for some of the OHV registration fees to be allocated to a trail building and maintenance fund. Muni-Corr Executive may possibly meet with Ministers to address advocacy.
- Alberta TrailNet (ATN) has a number of assets that have encroachments ie; squatters rights. In 2022, the province changed legislation which abolished "squatter's rights". Good for Muni-Corr to know as we do have situations where adjacent landowners have been using our property.
- Vilna school bus crosses the trail where there is no road crossing by the bottle depot. Director Hedrick volunteered to check it out and report back to administration.
- Motion made to send a letter to Catalis informing them we are no longer using their program and request they release us from the contract for 2025.
- Motion made to approve Inter Pipeline Ltd.'s request to amend the Utility Right of Way Agreement dated October 1, 2022 with the addition of Amendment "B" stating the Agreement be renewed for a five year term from October 1, 2022 to October 1, 2027 at the annual cost of \$350.00 plus GST per crossing invoiced annually.
- Next meeting: March 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Smoky Lake Heritage Board/Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board – County Chambers – February 18, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

- Organizational structure will remain the same as previous year.
- The Board does not have any new structure to work on this year, however there is ongoing maintenance on the existing ones.
- Oral histories – ongoing
- Photo and documents archive – Noreen and MaryAnn will continue their work on this. We are looking for an individual through the Colleges who may be interested in taking the project on and have considered offering a scholarship. More to be discussed at next meeting.
- Casino is March 8 & 9, 2025 – will need 4 to 5 people.
- House in the Middle of the Road – received a coat of stain on window frames and fascia
- Ruthenia School – latex paint was used, motion made to spend up to \$7,500.00 to repair.
- Heritage Awareness/Promotion – Digital Museum – Clayton Didier has applied for a grant through Fed Gov't. Film – local film producer, Theresa Wynnyk has also applied for a grant for a film on Post Offices in east part of County and collaboration at the time with Pioneers and Indigenous peoples.

Community Futures Meeting – February 19, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

- Jody presented the delinquency report and the current loan portfolios. He advised that the delinquent accounts were due to some business challenges. The office was informed beforehand.
- Penny presented the Manager's Report and reviewed it briefly with the Board. Safety Training – The whole team attended the Safety Training hosted by the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce on February 3rd. From their learnings, the team evaluated the office for safety hazards that should be addressed. They have reorganized the office materials, revisited the security cameras and other devices, and installed a security angled mirror. Power Up North – The location for the Brews & Chews will be in St. Paul Legion. The team is still looking for more speakers, and the sponsorship package will be sent out as the planning committee finalize it. Lemonade day – The team is currently reaching out to schools for the Lemonade Day, in which the registration starts on the 1st of March.
- Financial Audit – The office was informed that the financial audit schedule would happen between April 14-16.
- CFNA Symposium will be September 17 & 18 in either Edmonton or Nisku.
- The office has budgeted 3 attendees for the conference to be held in St. John's, NL on May 4-6. Jody and Joan will be attending. The last slot will be given to a Board Member which will be picked randomly for those who are interested in joining. The decision of the draw will be announced at the next Board meeting.

MCC Shareholders Meeting – February 24, 2025 – Town Office – 1:00 p.m.

- This meeting was conducted as part of the final steps in the dissolution process.

NLLS Meeting – via Zoom – February 28, 2025 (via Zoom) – 10:00 a.m.

- The 2024 Annual Report for the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) was presented. It highlights achievements, initiatives, and challenges which were accomplished during the past year. They include the establishment of the Elizabeth Métis Settlement Library, bringing in the Art Smith Aviation Academy, and the launch of the app GoLibrary. NLLS has strengthened relationships with Indigenous communities, such as forming library boards at Kehewin Cree Nation and Fishing Lake Métis Settlement. Some of the money-saving items that have been implemented was the sale of the delivery vans and hiring contract drivers. Upgrades were made to network security which positioned NLLS for cybersecurity insurance eligibility. Despite the changes, such as staff transitions and adapting to contract drivers, the system achieved greater operational efficiency and strengthened its team.

Community Futures Meeting – February 19, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

- Jody discussed delinquency report and loan portfolio (confidential)
- National Symposium – Linda Fenerty was appointed to be CF representative at St. John's, Nfld, but due to her mobility issues, will be unable to attend. Dale Hedrick will attend in her place.
- Amendment made to Personnel Policy for annual vacation. Current policy only goes to 15 years. Jody is already in his 15th year. Change made: 16-20 years of service entitled to 6 weeks of vacation.
- Lemonade Day – CF team is reaching out to schools with information regarding Lemonade Day

Ukrainian Twinning Meeting – March 24, 2025 – 1:00 p.m. – via Zoom

- A very short meeting mostly to go through the new bylaw with partnership with Smoky Lake County and Town of Smoky Lake.

Smoky Lake Tourism Company – March 26, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.

- Met with Metis Crossing to discuss final billings between MCC & MCVL.

Other Meetings

- February 7, 2025 – RMRF Municipal Law Seminar, Wyndham Hotel
- February 12, 2025 – Village of Waskatenau Annexation Meeting – Waskatenau Seniors' Centre – 10:00 a.m.
- February 13, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- March 3, 2025 – Joint Town/County Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:30 a.m.
- March 13, 2025 - Regular Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m. (I was only there until 10:00 a.m.)
- March 17 – 19, 2025 – RMA – Edmonton Convention Centre
- March 25, 2025 – Strategic Planning Session – Council Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- March 25, 2025 – SLTC – Metis Crossing – 3:30 p.m.
- March 27, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting – County Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- March 27, 2025 – MCC Meeting – Town Chambers – 2:30 p.m.

Request for Update from MCSNet on Broadband

384-25: Céré

That Smoky Lake County extend an invitation to MCSNet to be a delegation to an April 2025 Council Meeting to provide an update in respect to their broadband projects, since their last presentation received by Council in April 2024.

Carried.

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:

January 25 District 5 Meeting; Killam, (Zoom) (in person: Lorne, Dan)

- Organizational mtg held first

February 06 Physicians and Health Care Professionals Committee

February 07 RMRF 40th Annual Central Municipal Law Seminar, Edmonton (Linda, Lorne, Dominique)

February 10 Village of Waskatenau's Meeting for Annexation Waskatenau

February 11 Ag. Service Board Mtg., (Zoom) (in person: Dan)

February 11 Refocusing Alberta Health System Winter 2025

- Video presentation from Minister A. LaGrange which included the message that every Albertan should have access to health care, the importance of transparency and collaboration as well as the government is very invested in learning and hearing from Albertans.
- A brief overview of which ministries are involved in the refocus of Alberta Health as well as the new health corridor boundaries.
- Encouraged all Albertans to take part in a survey presently under way which closes on March 3, 2025: [Alberta.ca/leadtheway](https://alberta.ca/leadtheway)
- Approximately 75+ participants were in attendance; discussions took place at each table (there was a notetaker and a facilitator at each table to take/record notes). Some of the issues raised at our table included: lack of funding available in programs which included home care, long waiting lists for continuing care, AHS needs to get better at Care Management, the need for government to make better use of facilities (hospitals) in rural Alberta, return services (such as minor surgeries and dialysis, for example) back to those facilities, incorporate incentives to help with getting more professionals (doctors, nurses, specialists...) in the rural areas and provide better/more/easier/quicker access to required health care.

February 13 Regular Council Mtg., (in person: Dan, Linda, Lorne, Dominique)

February 14 Alberta Bilingual Municipalities Association mtg., (Zoom)

- Provided an update of Grant applications:
- Alberta Community Initiatives Program – Bilingual Bridges: a project to develop a multimedia content with the aim to captivate and educate a global audience about the extensive presence of bilingualism found in Alberta. It will also facilitate community storytelling initiatives where residents will share personal narratives and local anecdotes related to bilingualism.
- PrairiesCan- Currently working with PrairiesCan to create an Expression of Interest through the Community Economic Development and Diversification. Currently in early stages.
- Northern and Regional Economic Development Program – ABMA is seeking funding to develop a comprehensive strategic plan in collaboration with its member municipalities. Looking for about \$38,000.
- Franco-Municipal Forces Initiative and Government of Quebec – The MRC of Montmagny is leading this project and will be the organization applying for the grant. They have asked if ABMA would contribute \$6,500 to help cover the costs of bringing a delegation from Quebec to Alberta.
- Finally, a membership fee for all members of ABMA is being proposed. ABMA looked at numerous models including NAAG&O and came up with what they believe to be an affordable rate. The rate for counties and municipalities would be \$1,100.

February 19 Special Meeting

February 24 Joint Health & Safety Meeting Zoom;

- No sound; texted both CAO and EA but no reply

February 24 MCC for Smoky Lake Development Corporation Meeting

February 28 Smoky Lake Foundation

March 3 Joint Town & County Mtg.

March 11 Physicians & Health Care Strategic Planning Meeting

March 13 Regular Council Meeting

March 13 Municipal Planning Committee

- Approved the following Development Permits:
- DP-005-25: Natural Resource Extraction and Processing Facility (Sand & Gravel)
- DP-006-25: Natural Resource Extraction and Processing Facility (Sand & Gravel)

- DP-004-25: Recreational Use (Archery Range)
- March 16-19, Rural Municipalities Meeting
- Attended some of the sessions at RMA; remainder of the time was spent attending meetings with the following ministers and/or their staff: Minister Glubish, Minister Williams, Minister Rick Wilson, Minister Ric McIver and Minister Ellis.
 - Met with staff from Minister Glubish's office; was informed that there are numerous projects in the works but that both Provincial and Federal governments need to be present to make the announcements. Should see changes in 1-2 years. There are presently 30-32 projects which are shovel ready. Broadband project to end in 2027.
- March 21 Smoky Lake Foundation (I attended via Zoom)
- March 25 Committee of the Whole Meeting for the Purpose of Strategic Planning
- Other Meetings:
- February 24 Warspite Hall Annual Mtg. followed by General Mtg.
- March 20 FCSS Meeting, Zoom

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:

- January 20, 2025 – Bellis Board of Trade Meeting (in-person)
- Highway Sign on the corner of Hwy 28 and RR152 needs work so the members are looking into options such as type/size/material etc. and funding opportunities.
 - Russ Barrell Race is cancelled for 2025.
 - Unsightly premises are continued to be actioned by the County CPO.
 - Waste Disposal at Bellis Lagoon work is ongoing with County Administration.
 - Financial report was giving with all in good standing and no budget is required for 2025.
 - Bellis Hamlet Domestic Water and Wastewater Study is currently in the works.
 - Developing a Bellis Business Brochure and looking into fundraising initiatives.
- January 22, 2025 – LICA Board of Directors Meeting (virtually)
- Executive Director, Manager of Environmental Monitoring Programs, Environmental Coordinator, Education and Outreach Coordinator, and Community Outreach Coordinator gave updates on current projects etc.
 - 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.
 - Appointment of Hiring Committee took place for the Community Outreach Coordinator.
 - Financial Report was in good standing.
- January 22, 2025 – SLTC Smoky Lake Tourism Company Meeting (virtually)
- Discussion with legal in attendance was held on if/or not to compensate the CEO Candidate that was never fully hired, determining to do nothing on the matter.
- January 24, 2025 – RMA District 5 Meeting in Killam (Dan & Lorne in-person)
- Nominations of Chair, Vice Chair, RMA Resolutions Committee Alternate Member, FCM Representative and Appointment of Secretary Treasurer took place.
 - Good speaker presentations given by Battle River Railway and The Flagstaff Crafted Story on Economic Development.
 - Financial Report was in good standing.
 - RMA President, RMA District 5 Director and FCM Representative gave their reports.
 - Water and Waste Water System Funding Resolution – County of St Paul (passed), Formation of a Federal Lobby Association for Rural Municipalities Resolution – MD of Bonnyville (passed).
- January 29, 2025 – Highway 28/63 Regional Water Services Commission and Whitefish Lake #128 Meeting (in-person)
- Commission Manager, Commission Finance Manager, and Commission Chair continue to build a relationship with WFL.
 - Continue discussions on WFL becoming a Commission Member, the status of that process and what needs to get done to continue to complete this matter was held with all agreeing on the actions etc. required.
 - A Safety Moment on Winter Driving was shared with discussion on preparation, awareness, communication etc.
 - Continued discussions on other opportunities such as RR130 and Twp620 support etc., Education, Fire & Rescue, Health Services, Waste, Policing etc.
- February 05, 2025 – SLTC Smoky Lake Tourism Company Meeting (virtually)
- Discussion was held on debts and liabilities and payment of outstanding commitments.
 - Acknowledgement of the decision to not compensate the CEO Candidate.
 - Discussed Lawyer required steps for dissolution, holding to the target date of March 31, 2025.
- February 07, 2025 – RMRF 40th Annual Central Municipal Law Seminar (in-person)
- Attended the Behind Closed Doors: Navigating Closed (In-Camera) Meetings, Thinking Outside the Box: Private Law Development Controls, Effective Strategies for Conducting Workplace Investigations, and Bill 20: New Tax Incentives and Exemptions to Incentivize Affordable Housing.
- February 19, 2025 – Highway 28/63 Regional Water Services Commission Regular Meeting (Dan and Lorne in-person)
- Commission Manager discussed January 29th meeting with Whitefish Lake #128 Council and holding another successful meeting discussing Whitefish Lake Member Agreement progress etc., Water for Life Grant SCADA System work was awarded to Westcan Advanced Communications Solutions. Warspite Generator Project progress with RFP process and continuing to work through the By-Law review.
 - Financial Manager presented the financial report with all in good standing.
 - Feedback from Directors was received on the Draft By-Law and Business Plan to have final documents completed in 2025.
- February 21, 2025 – Alberta HUB AGM Meeting in Two Hills (in-person)
- MLAs Scott Cyr and Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk were in attendance.
 - Alberta HUB Value/Purpose/Expectations were presented.
 - Discussions on the importance of Alberta HUB and lobbying to ensure it stays in the Northeast Region and the GOA needs to recognize all the resources etc. the HUB provides.

- Alberta HUB new Financial/Bookkeeper Kayla Ford was introduced, gave the financial report will all in good standing and a motion to give her signing authority was moved.
- A presentation on Alberta HUB UAV/AAM & Skyways Project – Aerium Analytics using drones for delivery of products etc.
- Atco Electric gave a presentation on the cost of electricity and site selection requests process which can take lengthy time to complete etc.

9.5 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:

January 17, 2025 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Received update from the CAO on new artwork, appliances, and Workplace Health & Safety Program.
- Received the 2024 YTD Financial Statements for the Supportive Living (lodge) and the Seniors Subsidized Apartment and Community Housing programs.
- Purchasing Agreement was finalized which will provide a 5% rebate for select food, linens, cleaning, facilities management, and office supplies.

January 22, 2025 – Joint Health & Safety Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Reviewed the Action Log, 11 incidents, and training taken.
- Received safety program updates from the Health & Safety Coordinator.
- Acknowledged the results from the Alberta Municipal Health & Safety Association (AMHSA) Certificate of Recognition (COR) results from their external audit of the County.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 01-01-05: Health & Safety Policy.

January 23, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Gave 3rd Reading to Bylaw No. 1464-24: Non-Residential Tax Incentive.
- Approved \$1,500 of FCSS grant funds to the Vilna Veselka Dancing Club.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-06-02: Agricultural Service Board Poster Contest.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-28-07: Mowing Program.
- Gave 1st Reading to Bylaw No. 1472-25: to redistrict & reclassify NE-34-59-13-W4 from Residential to Agricultural Land (Public Hearing Scheduled for March 13, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.)
- Adopted Policy Statement No. 02-39-01: Primary Highway Enforcement.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 02-13-02: Emergency Vehicle Operations.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 02-11-16: Peace Officer: Annual Reporting.
- Approved to honor an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kosiv District, Ivano-Frankivska Oblast, Ukraine, to show support for our Ukrainian counterparts.
- Approved to seek side-meetings with willing Ministers at the Spring RMA Convention.
- Acknowledged Community Learning Council (CLC), as the legal host of CLC since 1975, and their 50th anniversary.

January 27, 2025

- Discussed the HVAC system replacement.
- Discussed the potential to discontinue Bingo due profit loss.
- Discussed the STARS fundraising event scheduled for April 5, 2025.

February 19, 2025 – Special Council Meeting (All Council)

- Received a personal update from the Reeve and business continuity update from the Chief Administrative Officer, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Sections 27: Privileged Information and 17: Third Party Personal Privacy.

February 24, 2025 – Joint Health & Safety Meeting (Jered & Dominique with virtual audio difficulties)

- Reviewed the Action Log, 16 incidents, and training taken.
- Received safety program updates from the Health & Safety Coordinator.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 01-05-04: Health and Safety Committee Terms of Reference.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 03-02-03: Hazard Identification and Assessment.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 03-03-03: Hazard Assessment Checklist.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 06-02-02: Workplace Violence & Harassment Prevention Plan.
- Rescinded Safety Policy Statement No. 06-01-02: Workplace Violence Directive.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 09-01-01: Grader Operation.

February 28, 2025 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Received update from the CAO, Financial Statements, Occupancy Report and report from working groups.
- The skid steer will be offered for sale in consignment.

March 3, 2025 – Joint Town of Smoky Lake & Smoky Lake County Council Meeting (All Council)

- Received in formation from delegation: Kari Anderson, Assistant Director, Public Library Services Branch and Jen Pringle, Public Library Grants Program, Government of Alberta, to provide an update on the Library Services Act and Library Regulations in 2025.
- Discussed: Ukrainian Twinning Committee, Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board Collaboration, Municipal Land Use Tool (MLUST), Smoky Lake Agricultural Society.

March 11, 2025 – Physicians & Healthcare Professionals Committee Strategic Planning Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- This meeting was for the purpose of conducting a workshop on strategic planning.

March 13, 2025 – Public Hearing for Bylaw: No. 1472-25: to Redistrict & Reclassify NE-34-59-13-W4 from Residential to Agriculture (All Council)

- There were 5 members of the public in attendance online, none of which wished to speak in favour or opposed to the Bylaw, and there were 4 written submissions received in opposition, one member of the public spoke in favour.

March 13, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Approved to provide \$1000 to the Victoria Trail Agricultural Society Fair Days.
- Approved to provide \$400 & promo items to the Endurance Riders of Alberta for the Mighty Moose Miles, being held near Warspite.
- Gave 3rd & final reading to Bylaw No. 1472-25: to Redistrict & Reclassify NE-34-59-13-W4 from Residential to Ag.
- Gave 3rd & final reading to Bylaw No. 1476-25: Borrowing Bylaw.
- Appointed external members to the Assessment Review Board (ARB) for Year-2025.

- Appointed Councillor Halisky as the voting delegate and Councillor Gawalko as the alternate voting delegate, to vote at the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd. meetings, conventions, annual general meetings.
 - Amended Policy Statement No. 14-A.02-04: Incident reporting.
 - Approved the Health & Safety Coordinator/Director of Emergency Management to take the Alberta Emergency Alert Course with the Government of Alberta to become authorized to issue emergency alerts as the Director of Emergency Management for the County.
 - Approved to close both County offices for the Annual Safety Meeting – April 17, 2025.
 - Approved two backsloping applications for NW-12-58-14-W4 and SW-1-60-14-W4.
 - Approved \$2,500 of FCSS funding to Bellis Board of Trade & \$1,590 to Friends of the Vilna Pool Hall Society.
 - Approved to provide \$300 & County banner to Travel Lakeland Promotional Booth displayed at the Edmonton Boat and Sportsman.
 - Approved to transfer \$500,000 into operating reserves and \$300,000 into capital reserves.
 - Received a presentation from Aspen View Public Schools.
- March 13, 2025 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting (All Council)
- Approve Development Permit No. 005-25: NW 11-61-18-W4M, for the development of a Natural Resource Extraction/Processing Facility (Sand & Gravel), subject to conditions.
 - Approve Development Permit No. 006-25: S1/2 15-61-18-W4M, for the development of a Natural Resource Extraction/Processing Facility (Sand & Gravel), subject to conditions.
 - Approve Development Permit No. 004-25: PLAN 0627587, BLOCK 1, LOT 1, for the development of a Recreational Use (outdoor archery range), subject to conditions
- March 17-19, 2025 – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Spring Convention (All Council)
- Participated in a variety of plenary addresses and workshops, as well as the ministerial forum and resolutions session.
 - During the convention we also privately met at side meetings to advocate for Smoky Lake County, with the following
 - o Minister of Indigenous Relations - Rick Wilson, to talk about building partnerships to ensure future water availability through increased capacity.
 - o Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services - Mike Ellis, and Minister of Municipal Affairs - Ric McIver, to discuss increasing funding towards Regional Fire Services and Rural Regional Fire Services in relation to being prepared and resilient to the impacts of disasters
 - o RCMP Superintendent Dave Kalist, OIC of "K" Division, to discuss concerns
- March 21, 2025 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)
- Received the 2024 audited financial statements.
 - Adopted a policy on Mission, Vision, & Values Statement.
 - Received reports from the CAO, Occupancy Report and working groups.

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

385-25: Céré

That Smoky Lake County's Reeve Report received for the period January 17, 2025 to March 21, 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 Explore Two Hills Tourism Conference & Tradeshow Event

386-25: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County Council who can attend – attend the 1st Annual Explore Two Hills Tourism Conference & Tradeshow Event, scheduled for April 30, 2025, hosted by the Two Hills Economic Development in partnership with Go East of Edmonton.

Carried.

10.2 Tourism Development: Info Sharing for Entrepreneurs & Operators Event

387-25: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council who can attend – attend the Tourism Development: Info-Sharing for Entrepreneurs & Operators Event, scheduled for April 23, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre.

Carried.

10.3 Prairie North Corp. LTD. - BF76552 Culvert Replacement

388-25: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter dated March 10, 2025, announcing Prairie North Const. Ltd. has been awarded Contract 20233697-01 for Bridge File # BF76552, culvert replacement and other work crossing under Range Road 132, between Township Road 610 and 614, located at the intersection of the lands legally described as: NE-10-061-13-W4M, NW-11-061-13-W4M, SE-10-061-13-W4M, and SW-11-061-13-W4M; with a temporary road detour (where speed will be lowered to 10km/hr) during culvert replacement works, starting March 18, 2025 with an anticipated completion date of April 15th, 2025 (or sooner).

Carried.

10.4 Aspen View Public Schools Career Fair Event at Athabasca Regional Multiplex

389-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the flyer received for Aspen View Public Schools Career Fair Event, scheduled for April 23, 2025, at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex; and request further information from the organization.

Carried.

10.5 The 77th Annual Alberta Fire Chief Association Conference and Trade Show

390-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County approve two Elected Officials to attend the 77th Annual Alberta Fire Chief Association Conference and Trade Show, scheduled for May 26-28, 2025, being held in Calgary.

Carried.

10.6 Enbridge Fueling Futures Grant & Safe Communities Grant for Combi Rescue Tool

391-25: Jered

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the Enbridge Fueling Futures funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 and Safe Communities Grant funding in the amount of \$15,000.00, being allocated towards the purchase of a Combi Rescue Tool, as per the email correspondence between Spencer Kotylak, County Deputy Fire Chief and Perry Gillam: Emergency Response Specialist - Enbridge, dated November 2, 2024 and January 21, 2025; and send a letter of thanks for the said funding, and share the appreciation on the County's social media.

Carried.

11. Information Releases:

Nil.

12. Financial Reports:

Nil.

13. Next Meeting(s):

13.1. Reconfirm the Scheduled County Council Meeting Dates

392-25: Gawalko

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

Thursday, April 10 and 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular),

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. (Budget)

Thursday, May 8 and 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular), and

Thursday, June 12 and 26, 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. Personnel Issues

393-25: Céré

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session in the presence of all Council and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to discuss Personnel Issues: in respect to staff from the CAO and also in respect to the CAO, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Sections 27: Privileged Information, and 17: Third Party Personal Privacy, time 3:21 p.m.

Carried.

394-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time
4:54 p.m.

Carried.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

395-25: Céré That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting of March 27, 2025, be
adjourned, 4:55 p.m.

Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER