



Reeve's Report

**Jered Serben: Reeve and Councillor for Division 5
November 8, 2024, to January 16, 2025**

November 8, 2024 – Smoky Lake Regional Fire & Rescue Committee, held at the Smoky Lake Curling Club (All Council)

- Lorne Halisky was acclaimed as Chairperson & Linda Fenerty was acclaimed a Vice-Chairperson.
- Representatives from Transitional Solutions Inc. (TSI), presented the Smoky Lake Regional Fire & Rescue Services Fire Master Plan, to continue on the path towards fire service regionalization.

November 8, 2024 – HAK School Remembrance Day Ceremony (Jered)

- Participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony and addressed the students and those present to emphasise the importance of pausing to reflect on the lives lost and encouraged learning about: the sacrifices made by those who fought, the nurses and doctors in field hospitals, and the young women and men that worked in the factories constructing everything from planes, ships and artillery to clothing and bedding for those frontline soldiers.
- Paused to think about the soldiers who bravely faced danger and hardship; and reflected on the young people who showed incredible courage and selflessness, and how much we owe them our deep gratitude.
- Encouraged the students to show gratitude by simply being kind and respectful to everyone and be grateful for the freedom that we take for granted.

November 11, 2024 – Remembrance Day Ceremony in Waskatenau (Jered)

- Laid a wreath on behalf of the County. The County donated \$200 to the Waskatenau Legion.

November 12, 2024 – Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (Jered & Dominique)

- Dominique Céré became the Chairperson and Leroy Kunyk became the Vice-Chairperson.
- Agreed to incorporate the draft schedules; 911 Next gen dispatch, Fee for Services, Water Usage, and Fire Department Insurance into the Regional Fire Rescue Bylaw for the next Meeting.

November 13, 2024 – Joint Health & Safety Committee (Jered & Dominique)

- Adam Shupenia & Brett Rurka were acclaimed as Co-Chairpersons.
- The Visitor Check-In / Check-Out safety policy was amended to include a visitor orientation.
- Implemented and weekly Emergency Eye Wash & Shower Weekly inspection checklist.
- Amended the County Council Statement of Commitment with the current CAO info.
- Received updates on training and reviewed 10 incidents.

November 14, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Members from the Bonnie Lake Community attended as a delegation to talk about the need to upgrade amenities; Council responded by providing grant program information and will determine in-kind assistance required.
- Approved two backsloping applications.
- Rescinded Policy Statement No. 01-22-01 Policy Committee Terms of Reference, due to redundancy.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 08-13-01: Disposal of Assets, and updated the name to "Disposal of Surplus Equipment".
- Set the Remuneration for Public-at-Large to \$175 per meeting day.
- Renewed the agreement with Capital Region Assessment Services Commission for three more years to take care of Local & Composite Assessment Review Boards (LARB & CARB) Services.
- Gave Second Reading to Bylaw No. 1464-24: Non-Residential Development Municipal Tax Incentive.



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- Approved to advertise for a Returning Officer to conduct the Year-2025 Municipal Election.
- Approved to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Recreational Area Facility Supervision and Cleaning Services for 3 independent contracts: Contract 1: Hanmore Lake East, Hanmore Lake West, and Island Lake; Contract 2: Mons Lake; and Contract 3: Bellis Beach, with the option to include Kaduk Lake.
- The Village of Waskatenau Council was a delegation to request County Council's reconsideration in providing consent to the Village to acquire the lands north of, and adjacent to the Village; Council responded by rescinding the previous denial motion and approve to provide consent.
- Approved to provide \$240.00 to the Smoky Lake Christmas Hamper Program.

November 15, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Received updates from the Foundation CAO, highlighting the annual fire alarm and sprinkler system inspection is complete.
- A portable marketing sign will be placed outside of Vilna aimed to increase occupancy.
- Received reports for the year-to-date Financial Statements, Capital & Operating budget, and occupancy reports.
- Reallocated 2024 capital budget funds intended for the Bar-V-Nook dishwasher replacement that was repaired instead of replaced, to electric beds & additional dining room table and chairs.

November 20, 2024 – Budget Council Meeting (All Council)

- Adopted the 2025 Natural Gas System Operating Budget with a total revenue of \$3,121,900 and total expenditures of \$3,246,900 (including amortization).
- Adopted the 2025 Natural Gas System Capital Budget with a total revenue of \$169,000 and total expenditures of \$289,000.
- Approved to increase the budgeted contribution amount towards the Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board to be \$35,000.00 in Years 2025, 2026, and 2027.
- Received information in respect to the gap between tax revenue & inflation and the impact that previous 0% tax increases have created on the County's revenue which impairs the ability to replace capital items as needed.

November 21, 2024 - Smoky Lake Physicians & Healthcare Professionals Committee (Jered & Dominique)

- Discussed community support for Internationally Educated Nurses arriving in Smoky Lake with the Town's FCSS Director.
- Reviewed the Physician and Health Care Committee Bylaw to determine any updates needed.
- Received information on Health System Refocus Legislative Amendments, and the New Alberta Health Advisory Councils.
- Agreed to apply for the Rural Health Professional Action Plan (RhPAP) Attraction and Retention Grant of \$1,000.00 with the intention of using it for the Professional Recognition program.
- Received the 2024 Retention and Recruitment Financial position as of October 31, 2024 and recommended the 2025 budget be approved by each municipality's Council.

November 22, 2024 – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Evaluation Council Meeting (All Council)

- Council, in the absence of the CAO, discussed the work performance of the CAO and compiled the information in preparation for further review with the CAO present.



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December 4, 2024 – Committee of the Whole Council Meeting (All Council)

- Received information relating to Victim Services, RCMP, Prosecution, and Rural Crime, from the Delegations: Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment Commander Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake Area Victims Services Unit Advocate Sara McCullough, RCMP Eastern Alberta District (EAD) C/Supt. Gary Graham and Supt. Tony Hanson, and Patricia Hankinson, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Fort Saskatchewan Prosecutor's Office.
- Continued the Chief Administrative Officer's Evaluation.

December 10, 2024 – Agricultural Service Board Meeting (Jered, Dan & Dominique)

- Received a partial update from LARA under technical difficulties.
- Recommended to appoint Kierstin Dubitz as the Acting Ag Fieldman.
- Recommended to amend the grasshopper policy, and the agricultural use of right-of-way.
- Recommended the redundant license of occupation policy be rescinded.
- Recommended the animal health policy be adopted.
- Recommended to advocate for vehicle weight station in County.

December 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Amended Policy Statement No. 03-39-13: Dust Control, to recoup the actual cost of Blade Mix Oil dust control by reducing the length from 150 meters at \$3,000 to 100 meters at \$2,700, and changed the application deadline from May 1st to May 31st.
- Approved a backslipping application.
- Approved to write off penalties in the amount of \$493.38 on roll # 17590542 in response to the written & in-person request from the landowner.
- Gave 1st Reading to Bylaw No. 1467-24 to redistrict and reclassify a parcel of land 2 miles south of Warspite, (Plan 9121735, Lot A) and scheduled a Public Hearing, to be held on February 13, 2025, at 9:15 am.
- Accepted an offer to lease SW 12-61-16-W4M, from Clear Hills Grazing Association, for \$1,400.00 per year for 5-years.
- Approved to advertise a Limited Invitation to Tender to lease County lands SE 8-62-13-W4M & SW 8-62-13-W4M.
- Approved to renew the Geographic Information System (GIS) Software & Service for 5 more years.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 01-45-02: Geographic Information System (GIS), to correct outdated information.
- Approved to provide \$2,500 of FCSS grant funds to the Town FCSS and \$2,100 to Smoky Lake Holubka Dancers.
- Approved the 2025 Budget for Smoky Lake Region's Physicians & Health Care Professionals Committee with the County's contribution being \$14,650, but agreed to withhold the funds until the Committee's surplus has been diminished.
- Approved to donate \$100 to the Smoky Lake Food Bank on behalf of the 20th Annual Charity Dart Shoot in memory of Cathy and Tom Bullas.
- Agreed in partnership with the Members of N. E. Muni-Corr Ltd., to support an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2024-25 Grant application for creating nine staging area design plans for Alberta's Iron Horse Trail within Waskatenau, Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Heinsburg, Elk Point, Bonnyville, Ardmore, and at the Beaver River Trestle.
- Appointed Kierstin Dubitz, as the Acting Agricultural Fieldman.
- Appointed Chandler Kerr, as the designated Bylaw Enforcement Officer.



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- Appointed Jasmine Schaub, as the designated Director of Emergency Management (DEM).
- Approved a winter haul road agreement with DDC Sand + Gravel + Concrete, provided the conditions are right, from Twp Rd 610 South on Rge Rd 181 to Twp Rd 604 & West to Hwy 831.
- Approved the 2025 Interim Municipal Budget, with revenues of \$20,841,629 and total Expenditures of \$22,885,929 including amortization expense of \$2,044,300.
- Approved the Ten-Year Capital Budget for 2025 to 2034.
- Acknowledged the discontinuation of January 7th being recognized as "Ukrainian" Christmas and reopened the offices for that day.
- Approved to name: Smoky Lake Food Bank, as the chosen recipient to receive a \$3,500 donation from Gas Alberta through the Gas Alberta Gives Back program.
- Approved a time extension for the loan re-payment of \$100,000.00 to be received from the MCC for Smoky Lake Development Corp., subject to the entire principal of loan being repaid in full on or before March 31, 2025.
- Acknowledged the Probationary Period for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kevin Lucas has been successfully completed as of December 12, 2024, & the next evaluation will be June 3, 2025.

December 12, 2024 – Virtual Open House for Smoky Lake County 2025 Budget (All Council)

- There were 18 participants including Council and Staff.
- To review the presentation, please visit: <https://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/finance>

December 16, 2024 – Smoky Lake Agricultural Society Meeting (Jered)

- Grant approval for HVAC system to be replaced in March/April.
- Finalized the December 28th, New Year celebration event.
- The Ag. Society attended the Town Council meeting as a delegation, to ask for increased funding and the Town agreed to increase funding and in-kind services.

December 17, 2024 – Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (Jered & Dominique)

- Agreed to the first 2 pages of the draft Inter-Municipal Regional Fire Rescue Services Bylaw which will have an agreement attached as a schedule.
- Directed the CAOs to work collaboratively to draft a policy by February 2025, to address holding each respect Municipality accountable for the collection of their fire services fees.

December 18, 2024 – Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Appointed 17 employees as Members to the Committee.
- Reviewed 11 incidents and 2 nears misses.
- Received a report on training taken, upcoming training, and safety program updates.
- Amended Safety Policy Statement No. 07-31-03: Cold Weather Mobilization.

December 18, 2024 – Information Session on Changes to Policing Legislation (Jered)

- This information session was poorly attended. It was intended to cover information related to policing legislation for communities policed by the RCMP under the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) that will be represented by the Provincial Police Advisory Board, following the Police Amendment Act, 2022 (PAA), which passed in December 2022.
- The Police Governance Regulation and Police Governance (Ministerial) Regulation, both come into force on March 1, 2025, which provide further information in connection with these civilian bodies.



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December 20, 2024 – Smoky Lake Foundation Meeting (Jered & Dominique)

- Received updates from the Foundation CAO, highlighting that new artwork will be installed for Bar-V-Nook dining room and Pumpkin Neighbourhood, a new maintenance worker has been hired for Vilna Lodge, and working on retrofitting warm white LED for all dining rooms.
- Received reports for the year-to-date Financial Statements, Capital & Operating budget, and occupancy reports.

December 20, 2024 – Policing Study – Stakeholder Interview (All Council)

- The intent of this study was to analyze the current state of policing in the community, to gather from Council's perspective, aiming to address current policing challenges and explore opportunities for enhancing public safety.

January 9, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Gave 3rd & Final Reading to Bylaws 1468-25, 1469-25, and 1470-25, to designate three Municipal Historic Resources: Bellis Store & Heritage Shoppe; White Earth School Hall; and MacDonald Stopping House General Store & Pine Creek Post Office.
- Amended Policy Statement No. 62-05-07: Grasshopper Control Compensation, to align with the County not directly providing grasshopper control service.
- Adopted Policy Statement No. 62-08-01: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right of Way, which allows permits haying and rescinded Policy Statement No. 62-17-02: License of Occupation of Road Allowance for Ranching and Farming Purposes

January 13, 2025 – Joint Municipalities Meeting (All Council)

- Received an update from Sgt. Doktor: Cst. Lidstone is being transferred & the Detachment will be getting someone to replace him. The Members will be working closely and utilizing the County's new Community Peace Officer. The Victim Service Unit is up and running out of the Detachment.
- The Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, President Vitaliy Milentyev, encouraged the Smoky Lake Region to continue to support Ukraine.
- Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board, Chairperson Norreen Easterbrook, provided a presentation with recommendations to collaboratively manage historic resources to increase historic tourism.
- Discussed the decline of volunteers causing financial impacts on municipalities.
- MLA Glenn van Dijken, spoke about the upgrades intended for Hwy 28, including a roundabout installation for the intersection at Hwy 855. He also acknowledged the meeting Premier Smith had with Donald Trump and expressed concerns over tariffs.

Other Community Events attended:

- December 6th, Waskatenau Village light up
- December 19th, H. A. Kostash School Christmas concert
- December 28th, Smoky Lake Agricultural Society New Year Family Concert Event

Sincerely,

Jered Serben

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More information about County meetings, minutes, agendas, bylaws, policies, and departments, is available at: www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca