

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF VILNA

IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF VILNA MUNICIPAL OFFICE

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Romanko
Deputy Mayor Frank Barry
Councillor Stephen Klassen

Loni Leslie, Chief Administrative Officer
Earla Wagar, Administration

ABSENT: Kevin Smith, Public Works

GALLERY:

ORDER: Mayor Romanko called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. AGENDA:

Additions to the Agenda:

6.d. Gas Tax Agreement

Res. 101-14 Deputy Mayor Barry moved the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2. DELEGATION:

3. MINUTES:

a. Regular Council Meeting – July 28, 2014

Res. 102-14 Moved by Deputy Mayor Barry that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of July 28, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

a. X-Ray machine for Vilna Health Centre

A meeting has been scheduled with Alberta Health Services to further discuss the replacement of the X-Ray machine at the Vilna Health Centre. It is understood that the delegates for AHS will include Dr. Kevin Worry, North Zone Medical Director, Mauro Chies, Lead Clinic Support Service, Ted Nessman, Director of Diagnostic Imaging, North Zone.

Representatives from surrounding communities and First Nations, as well as representatives from the Village of Vilna Health Service providers will be invited to speak. Dr. Anton Raubenhimer has agreed to attend to express the medical profession's views on having the equipment replaced.

It was agreed that a potential partnership between Alberta Health Services and Portage Collage using the facility as training centre could expand the facility use and lighten the burden for replacement costs.

5. REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION REPORT and PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Presented by CAO Loni Leslie September 15, 2014

- Taxes – 2014 not paid \$55,752.45, Total owing 174,029.85. Work is constantly ongoing to collect these. Two property sales and two who do not wish to be on the tax sale list total \$20,225.63 and these should be paid as promised by the owners by the end of the month.
- X-Ray – The conference call on September 3, 2014 has resulted in the rebooking of our meeting with senior level staff of Alberta Health Services to October 6, 2014 – 6pm. Please invite whomever you feel appropriate, but we need an RSVP to ensure we have enough soup and sandwiches. We currently plan on holding the meeting at the Village office, however can change the location if we have not enough room here. I am feeling

more optimistic than I was after the conference call with the President of AHS and hope that minds are still open there.

- Public Works – Kevin has been on vacation the past two weeks. The fellow who was doing the water testing and general public works worked out very well and we would be pleased to have him back at any time.
- Chloramine levels – since the turnover, we have had some difficulty keeping the chloramine levels in the water up to our previous levels.
- Bonnie Lake – Edith Campbell will be looking after the campground until it closes this year. We will seek another contract for the operations of Bonnie Lake for 2015. Revenues are not going to meet budget, likely due to the weather and the passing of Allen Marsh; however expenses are down equally.
- Water Rates – We will be reviewing the rates after the July/August billing is out. The billing should be completed this week. We have received a few complaints about rates, but generally people are pleased with the water.
- Lift Station - We are working on a replacement pump for the lift station as the one we have on loan is extremely expensive. Grant applications are also being worked on to upgrade both pumps.
- Coin op – The Laundromat will be holding their grand opening this Friday September 19 2014 at 3pm. The owner would like to have a member of Council to cut the ribbon. The Mayor will be away, so perhaps the Deputy can attend? They will be open for business on September 20th.
- Side Street Café has re-opened, and Lucas New and Used has leased the Home Comfort building. That is 3 new businesses open over summer! We hope that locals will support them in order that they can sustain.
- Vilna raised approximately \$2,150.00 for the Wild Pink Yonder Trail Ride. We have heard nothing but good things about our welcome.
- The Regional Cooperation workshop was held on September 11th and 12th in Smoky Lake and was well attended. 21 topics of cooperation were identified, discussed and plans arranged to deal with them as a region; or not, depending on the topic and the discussion. Topics included Bylaw Enforcement, Geospatial Information Systems, Landfill operations, FCSS, Emergency/Fire, the Foundation, Highway 28, the Regional boards. I found the session informative; however have reservations about some of the recommended outcomes. Partnerships were suggested but it was also stressed that not all partners needed to participate for “regional” to be an accurate term.
- The Safety Codes audit will be held on September 23rd and 24th at the County office. Hopefully I will only need to be there on the first day. I have already sent over all of the information requested, basically all of the permits for 2013 – Gas, Electric, Plumbing and Building.
- I will be attending the RCDC meeting tomorrow and the Water Commission meeting on Friday.
- Fire – a home fire in August will likely result in the demolition of the house, but likely the owner. A billing has been issued.

MAYOR ROMANKO'S REPORT

Highway 28/63 Water Commission, August 19, Smoky Lake

- Bellis truck fill has had a major failure, the tank failed. This is a warranty issue and will require engineering fees of \$20 000, which could be recovered from contractor. This means fill will not be available until at least November. The tank failed during commissioning.
- Phase II still has some deficiencies –rocks in right of way, mixed material, and fence issue.
- Study is beginning by Associated Engineering for St. Paul County regarding connection for Ashmont and Lottie Lake. Final report should be completed for the St. Paul County portion and ready for presentation on September 9, report will be given to 28/63 at a special meeting on September 2 at Smoky Lake.
- Running out of water at Spedden truck fill, reservoir too small for summer.
- Thorhild County has been restructuring and has reduced staff including recording secretary and Project Manager. Their role as managing partner of commission is in question because of this. Options include sharing partnership or having an independent body. They will continue until November. The Commission has asked for a review of the time used by Thorhild staff for Commission business. \$70 000 has been billed to Commission.

- Commission passed a resolution to hire former Project Manager until projects completed in November.
- Next meeting to be held on September 2, 2014 in Smoky Lake.

Smoky Lake Foundation Project Meeting, August 21, 2014

- Though the Province agreed to provide interim financing, the process is lengthy to get the funds, it does not allow payment to Contractor on time. It was resolved to try and obtain an overdraft or line of credit from ATB for \$1 million until building is completed to 50%. The board will receive the next 40% of grant from Alberta Health. Meeting was held with ATB representatives and they will report back for next meeting.
- Two change orders were dealt with—relocation of beauty salon and extra additional concrete and back fill because of soil conditions.
- Other decisions were deferred to later meetings.

Smoky Lake Foundation Regular Meeting, August 21, 2014

- Lodge Renewal Program is being revamped. It may include a sprinkler system for Vilna Villa and replacement of light fixtures.
- Final contract with Connecting Care is awaiting insurance and indemnity.
- A part time bookkeeper position is being advertised—3 day per week may expand to full time.
- Residents and workers were surveyed and results showed satisfaction rates were quite high.
- New policy manuals are being adopted using both board and Connecting Care policies where necessary.
- New resident application forms as well as rental agreements were adopted to replace former non-updated forms.
- Final eviction papers were to be given to Waskatenau Manor resident.
- Both lodges are at or near capacity.
- Next Meeting September 17, 2014.

Highway 28/63 Water Commission Special Meeting, September 2, 2014

- Associated Engineering presented the draft presentation to the board that will be presented to St. Paul County on September 9. The report states that present capacity will allow supply until 2020. If population growth is as projected, upgrades will have to be made to pumps in Egremont, Smoky Lake, a booster system at Edwand and a chloramine booster at Spedden.
- Discussion of Thorhild's letter requesting only Thorhild employees be involved in commission business, resulted in no action to be taken until Thorhild's next meeting.
- It was decided that the Commission Chair, Smoky Lake County CAO and Thorhild Financial Manager meet with former Project Manager to discuss entering into a Contract.
- Thorhild commission member reported that the business plan, as well as contracts between members, was not available. Informed that they were to be completed by previous Thorhild CAOs.
- Next Meeting October 17, 2014 in Thorhild..

COUNCILLOR KLASSEN'S REPORTS

Vilna Ag Society Meeting September 8, 2014

- The Treasurer's report showed that after all bills are paid, including the paving, the general account's balance was just over \$11,000 into the overdraft.
- The fair was a success but a breakdown to show the actual figures was not available at this time. The numbers that were given were a net profit of \$907.21 for the fair and \$1319.19 for Cowboy Fest. The fundraisers for Wild Pink Yonder were a fantastic success. \$2179.18 was raised for the charity.

- The Library will be hosting a Cultural Days celebration on September 27 and the Christmas Craft Sale will be held on November 8.
- There will also be a Safety Conference held at the Ag Society building on November 22 from 1 pm until 4 pm. After the Conference an evening of entertainment is planned featuring Jimmy the Janitor.
- There was also discussion on hosting a Volunteer Recognition Supper. Date and details on this to be determined.

Muni-Corr Meeting September 8, 2014

- The deadline for tenders for the repair of the Beaver River Trestle was extended until the end of today (Sept 8). The reason being that we were expecting a few late tenders to be arriving that day. Since the meeting I was informed that we had received three tenders all above the estimated projected cost of \$1.53 million.
- The Town of Smoky Lake crossing agreement was again deferred, as it was still unclear about the necessity of a new crossing within the Town.
- A quick debriefing was held about the Trail Ride on Sept 6. The members that were present went from St. Paul to Cold Lake and viewed the various sidings and areas of interest along the way. The following is my report from that day.
- We stopped and checked out the area at Abilene Junction. It was noted that this may be an area of interest for further development later on.
- Next stop was in Mallaig. Here we looked at the staging area and took note of the wonderful building that was placed there. No Plans for the sidings here at this time.
- In Glendon we were shown the plans they had for developing a camping area along the trails as well as the other areas in which they are either developing or have developed.
- Next on the list was the Anshaw Water Station. This area showed great possibilities in developing into a nice rest stop for travelers. It boasts an incredible view of the lake and is a very historical site.
- The next area was by Moose Lake Trestle. There was a bit of confusion here as the maps we had were conflicting in where exactly the parcel was. Marianne was to determine the actual location.
- Bonnyville was next. We stopped for a quick break at the museum.
- With warning, we proceeded to Ft. Kent on what was undeniably the roughest part of the trail. When we arrived we looked at the staging area, which is actually on LARA (Lakeland Agricultural Research Association) property. They had asked for it to be there and built a large covered area to accommodate travelers. It was noted that LARA may be relocating and that we will need to find a new spot to have the staging area.
- At Ardmore we looked at the sidings, which were being cleaned up by the MD of Bonnyville as they were using them for snow removal for the last number of years. A short discussion on a proposed access route.
- Beaver River Trestle was the last stretch for the ride. We looked at the damaged area of the trestle and listened to some of the history of the structure and area.
- After loading the ATVs and jumping on the bus, we headed to Cold Lake. Here we stopped at the staging area and checked out the sidings owned there. The Mayor of Cold Lake joined us and he proceeded to explain their Council's future plans for the area. There are big plans for future development in the area and the Iron Horse Trail is a big part of these plans.
- Part of this discussion was over municipal by-laws and what they were in regards to ATVs. St. Paul has a few amendments to allow ATVs access to and from the trail and services on certain roads only. Glendon has a relaxed stance that you may go from point A to B within the town as long as you're not causing a disturbance or danger. It was suggested that each municipality check their by-laws regarding ATVs.
- Next on the agenda was FPInnovations. The board approved the contract and they will be testing fire detection equipment at the Moose Lake Trestle on Sept 18 & 19.

Access & Crossing Agreements

- The Town of Smoky Lake requested access for 2 sewer line crossings. Both were approved.
- D.R. Hurl & Associates requested access. Approved
- An individual requested access. Approved
- Pembina Pipelines (by Waskatenau) requested that the board use Pembina's contract for crossing agreement. The board decided to stay the course with our own crossing agreement.

- A joint 3-year planning session is set for October 5 between Riverland Recreational Trail Society and Muni-Corr. The meeting will be held between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- Next meeting October 20, 2014

Res 103-14 Moved by Councillor Klassen that the reports be accepted for information.

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Municipal Sustainability Strategy Self-Assessment Questionnaire.

Alberta Municipal Affairs has provided a subjective questionnaire that can be used to determine whether Council deems their municipality to be viable. Because the document can be used by municipalities of all sizes, there are areas that do not relate to Villages.

It was deemed that there are areas where the Village of Vilna is struggling with sustainability, however it was also determined that viability has improved over the past years with 3 areas of the 10 requiring attention and indicating concern.

The first concern is the Villages ratio of current assets to current liabilities is .94/1 rather than the goal of 1/1.

The second concern is the percentage of uncollected taxes being 20% rather than the acceptable 5%. It was noted, however that this number has been decreasing.

The third area of concern is the decline of the Village's population over the past 20 years from 314 to 290. This too was identified as showing growth over the past few years.

Canada Post

A letter from Canada Post has indicated that they will no longer be providing Postal Service to Vilna on Saturdays. Although the service being cut is only a half day, Council expressed a concern that this move could be an indication of future cuts.

Res. 104-14 Moved by Mayor Romanko that a response be sent to Canada Post indicating Council's concern about the potential loss of Postal Service for a community that is approximately 37% seniors.

CARRIED

b) AUMA Advocacy and Strategy & Tactical Plan

Council received correspondence from AUMA identifying priorities that will assist municipalities in working with the provincial government to address the needs of municipalities. It addresses the need to have input into the revision of the MGA, getting the message across that municipalities need to have confidence in assured grant assistance, and a guide to assist in communicating with the province and its departments.

Res. 105-14 Moved by Mayor Romanko the Plan be accepted for information and used as guide when approaching the province.

CARRIED

c) Gas Tax Fund

A letter from Municipal Affairs has indicated that the Village of Vilna is eligible for an annual grant in the amount of approximately \$50,000.00 through the Federal Gas Tax Program which can be used to help build and revitalize local public infrastructure, while creating jobs and long-term prosperity.

Res. 106-14 Moved by Deputy Mayor Barry that the Village of Vilna enter into an agreement with the Government of Alberta in order to access the Gas Tax Fund grant.

CARRIED

7. BYLAWS & POLICIES

a) Policy 401-14, Vehicle Maintenance and Safety Policy

The purchase of the garbage truck has highlighted the need to update the Village's vehicle and equipment maintenance policies.

Res. 107-14 Moved by Deputy Mayor Barry Policy No. 401-14, Vehicle Maintenance and Safety Policy be approved.

CARRIED

Mayor Romanko called for a brief break at 8:45 p.m. reconvening at 8:50 p.m.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

a) Expenditures

Res. 108-14 Moved by Deputy Mayor Barry that the expenditures in the amount of \$109,634.46 through payment of cheques #12240 - 12278 in the amount of \$87,743.62 and direct deposits and payroll for the months of July & August in the amount of \$22,445.42 be accepted for information.

CARRIED

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resources, Re: AUMA Conference
- b. Alberta Municipal Affairs, re: Ministers Awards of Excellence
- c. Alberta Municipal Affairs, re: 2013 Water Pump Replacement
- d. Alberta Municipal Affairs, re: Gas Tax Fund Grant
- e. Alberta Health Service, re: Minister of Health re: X-Ray
- f. Alberta Recreation & Parks Assn. Re: membership invitation
- g. Kids Cancer Care Foundation, Re: Cancer Awareness Month
- h. South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
- i. ATCO Electric, re: Franchise Fee Report
- j. Alberta Safety Codes Council, re: Review of the Safety Codes Act
- k. Community Futures, re: Program update
- l. Alberta Hub, Re: Marketing

Res. 109-14 Moved by Councillor Klassen that the correspondence be accepted for information.

CARRIED

11. "In Camera"

12. NEXT MEETING:

Meeting Schedule:

- a) Monday, October 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
- b) Joint Municipality Meeting, Waskatenau, September 29, 2014
- c) Alberta Health Services meeting, October 6, 2014

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Res. 110-14 Mayor Romanko adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

CARRIED

Donald Romanko, Mayor

Loni Leslie, CAO