

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF VILNA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023, IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF VILNA MUNICIPAL OFFICE
5135 – 50TH STREET, VILNA AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Leroy Kunyk
 Deputy Mayor Thompson
 Councillor Paul Miranda (Virtual)
 Earla Wagar, CAO

ABSENT:

GALLERY: Michelle Wright, RCDC

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Kunyk called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

1. AGENDA:

RES: 001-023 Moved by Deputy Mayor Thompson that the Agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

1. AGENDA	
Additions/Changes	
2. DELEGATION	
a. Michelle Wright, RCDC	
3. MINUTES	
a. Regular Council Meeting – December 15, 2022	
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	
5. REPORTS	
a. Mayor	
b. Deputy Mayor	
c. Councillor Report	
d. Administration Report	
6. BUSINESS:	
a. RCDC Grant Application Resolutions	
b. Part Time Employment Position – Vilna Revitalization	
c. Brain storming – Community Development Ideas	
7. BYLAWS AND POLICIES	
8. FINANCIAL REPORT	
a. Accounts paid Dec 1-31, 2022	\$65,105.23
i. A/P Dec 1-31, 2022 (14190-14199)	\$30,036.11
ii. EFT Dec 1-31, 2022 (202299-2022109)	\$19,406.44
iii. EFT Payroll December, 2022	\$15,102.68

2. DELEGATIONS: Michelle Wright, RCDC

Michelle directed an informal discussion around the growth and development of business as well as residential development within Vilna. She indicated that Council as well as administration act as community navigators by providing information about the community and the available services and advocate for the Village in general.

One of the assets within the Village is the unused portion of the hospital. Current usage is limited to the Medical Clinic and Ambulance Service. Neither of these services pay rent or costs.

Suggested uses for the balance of the facility include”

- Long term care
- Recovery care
- Mental Health and Addiction care
- Mental Health and Addiction counselling
- Grief counselling
- Therapy centre
- Lakeland Destinations
- Tourism Marketing
 - Uses a Community Investment Grant

Discussions about the possibility of introducing opportunities for new technologies, i.e. changing the way things are done (leading down the path to better our community). Introduce the possibility of small manufacturing centres for these new technologies. Research wind technology, considering off grid opportunities using heat pumps, biomass furnaces, wood chip heating.

Discussion around working with our current assets included

- Brightening up the town by increasing lighting,
- Enticing local professionals to live in the community, including RCMP, teachers, nurses, pharmacists, business management.
- Increased marketing or branding of our municipality as a willing guinea pig for alternative ways to fund infrastructure. We won't be the first "solar village" but, what's next?
- Encourage branches of service and social clubs.
- Encourage more use of the existing facilities.
- Make Vilna a destination for tournaments.
- Better Highway signage
- Greater digital presence, perhaps QR codes, aggressive website and advertising.
- Ways to get out of the "shadow" of larger municipalities, and stand on our own, while continuing to partner and collaborate. We are forever the little duckling, always in debt or just breaking even. Break the cycle of shame, create pride, honor, and gain respect.
- *Historic Vilna, a door into the past, with a window to the future.*
- Revitalize/Create the Vilna Historic Society
- Encourage service businesses, i.e. general stores, card lock, mechanical service, discount retailers.
- Increase Bylaw Enforcement to increase the safety in the community
- Set up security cameras that can help the police in crime enforcement.
- Be prepared to invite people into our community – welcome baskets, plaques
- Film production attraction
- More community events

- Boardwalk markets to support the Farmers Markets
- Partnerships in community gardens
- Neighbours engaging with each other
- Potential for growing mushrooms – marketing around mushroom branding
- Encourage housing development,
- 3-D technology opportunities

Take advantage of available assets including partnering with neighbouring communities such as Whitefish Reserve, Saddle Lake Reserve and Kikino Settlement.

We have been given the opportunity to work with the organization called Unstoppable Conversations, which has the potential of addressing many of the above items by developing a positive community attitude.

With all of these suggestions and ideas, the Village is ready to Promote Growth. Michelle Wright has given notice that she will be resigning as the Regional Economic Development Coordinator, effective January 31, 2023.

Michelle suggested that this might be a good opportunity to look at RCDC and determine what RCDC should look like going forward.

Mayor Kunyk expressed the feelings of the Council and Community that her presence and hard work will be missed, and wished her the best in future endeavours.

3. MINUTES

a) Regular Council December 18, 2022

RES: 002-023

Moved by Deputy Mayor Thompson that the December 18th, 2022 minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5. REPORTS

a) Mayor Kunyk

Evergreen Regional Waste has decided not to purchase the proposed baler but to rent one instead, while researching the technology further.

Highway 28/63 Water Commission is currently researching the history of the Whitefish water line and reservoir.

Unstoppable Conversations provided a very positive mind set which can be used to effectively promote growth ideas.

Local Business growth

- The Black Cat Cauldron Tea House has reported a good turn out by the community.
- D & E Grocery is proposed to be sold effectively January 31, 2023
- Good Vibes Cannabis required another inspection by ALCB and are hoping to open shortly after.

- The Liquor Store is for sale.

b) Deputy Mayor Thompson

Smoky Lake Seniors Foundation are currently reviewing the bylaws. COVID shots are no longer mandatory although masking is still mandatory.

Ukrainian Twinning Committee had a virtual meeting with the municipality of Kosiv, but the power went out part way through the meeting and the Kosiv representatives had to move to a different location. They took the Smoky Lake Region representatives through one of their centres where food is served to refugees as well as local people who need help.

c) Councillor Miranda

Unstoppable Conversations Advancing our electronic technology and taking advantage of Social Media would enhance our growth.

HUB – “We need to be ready to invite people into our communities”.

d) Administration Report

BALANCE Current Taxes December 31 2022	\$45,819.57
ARREARS	\$108,457.66
<u>TOTAL TAXES OWING</u>	<u>\$154,277.23</u>
<u>Interest & Penalties</u>	<u>4,316.23</u>
Less Village property (Tax Recovery)	<u>(\$24,839.99)</u>
	\$139,753.47

PUBLIC WORKS

- Dale has taken the Water Wastewater Course and is now our licensed Operator, we no longer need to depend on the County License.

WATER RESERVOIR

- The test results have indicated that we no longer have to do monthly testing, but can reduce the testing to quarterly.

WATER BREAKS

- On December 18th, 2022 a water leak was reported on 49th Avenue East. The temperatures were in the low minus 30’s and the contractor found that it was too cold to open the street and do the repairs, although they were able to use the vacuum trucks to remove the water. The repairs were completed on December 30th.
- On December 20th, 2022 a major break occurred on 51st Avenue west of 50th Street. Because of the cold the repair was not possible to be done immediately. The services were shut off for the properties between 50 Street and 51 Street with the repairs being completed on December 30th, 2022.

RES: 003-023

Moved by

Deputy Mayor Thompson that the Reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED**6. BUSINESS****a) RCDC Grant Application****RES: 004-023**

Moved by Councillor

Miranda that the Village of Vilna agree to participate in the Northern Region Economic Development Program grant initiative, acknowledging the three projects to be addressed, those being 1) Lakeland DMO – a tourism initiative requiring a contribution of \$20,000.00 to be provided by Lakeland DMO; 2) Vilna Resource Coordinator – a development initiative requiring a contribution by the Village of Vilna in the amount of \$25,000.00, and 3) Professional Attraction and Retention Initiative – with funding from the reserves of the Doctor Retention and Recruitment Committee.

CARRIED**b) Business Revitalization Coordinator**

RES: 005-023 Moved by Mayor Kunyk that the \$25,000.00 included in the 2023 Interim Budget for a Administrative Clerk, be allocated to the Northern Region Economic Development Grant Project to contract a part time Community Development person to work with the Regional CEDO on the Vilna Business Revitalization Initiative that has been identified as an RCDC project.

CARRIED**7. BYLAWS AND POLICIES****8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

a. Accounts paid Dec 1-31, 2022	\$65,102.23
i. A/P Dec 1-31, 2022 (14190-14199)	\$30,036.11
ii. EFT Dec 1-31, 2022 (2022099-2022109)	\$19,406.44
iii. EFT Payroll December, 2022	\$16,659.68

RES: 006-023 Moved by Councillor Miranda that the Financial Reports, as presented for December, 2022, be accepted for information.

CARRIED**9. MEETING SCHEDULE**

- a. January 11, 2023 – Regular Council 5:30.
- b. January 20, 2023 – Smoky Lake Foundation – 10:00 a.m.
- c. January 26, 2023 – Citizens on Patrol – 7:00 p.m. Village Office
- d. January 30, 2023 – Dr. Recruitment & Retention
- e. January 31, 2023 – Smoky Lake Foundation – 10:00
- f. January 31, 2023 – Regional Fire Committee Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
- g. January 31, 2023 – RCDC – 3:30 p.m.

- h. February 2, 2023 – 28/63 Water Commission
- i. February 8, 2023 – Regular Council – 5:30 p.m.
- j. February 13, 2023 – MuniCorr
- k. February 16, 2023 – Coffee With the Cops – 10:00 a.m. Village Office
- l. February 17, 2023 - HUB

RES: 007-023 Moved by Mayor Kunyk that the meeting schedule, as amended, be accepted for information.

CARRIED

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

RES. 008-023 Moved by Mayor Kunyk that the Regular Meeting of Council held on January 18, 2023 be adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

CARRIED

Leroy Kunyk

S E A L

Earla Wagar, CAO