

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **County Council Meeting** held on Thursday, **March 7, 2024**, at 9:00 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		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Thursday, Mar. 7, 2024</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers
3	Dominique Cere	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present in Chambers
Executive Svcs/R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present

Observers in Attendance Upon Call to Order:

Plan. & Dev. Manager	Jordan Ruegg	Virtually Present
GIS Operator	Carole Dowhaniuk	Virtually Present
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Virtually Present
Public Works Manager	Chris Minailo	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Absent
Comm. Peace Officer	Tate Murphy	Virtually Present
Fire Services Clerk	Meaghan Andreychuk	Virtually Present
Public	6 Members	Virtually Present
Media	No Members	N/A

2. Agenda:

404-24: Fenerty

That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 7, 2024, be adopted, as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Executive Session, Personnel Issue, Administration, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 27: Privileged Information.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

Nil.

5. Public Hearing:

Nil.

6. Municipal Planning Commission:

Nil.

Public Participation:

For Proposed Bylaw No. 1454-24: Off-Highway Vehicle Control

Heidi Kugler-Kane, County Resident, expressed the following points, including but limited to:

- There is a need for this Bylaw due to high risk during fire bans.
- Garner Lake has only one way in, and one way out of the subdivision (other than exiting on the lake).
- How do we report the OHV if it does not have a license plate?

Tate Murphy, Peace Officer, responded with the following points, including but limited to:

- Mark down the make, model, and color of the OHV and also a description of the driver including what they are wearing, which can be very helpful in identify them.

7. Request for Decision:

7.1. Proposed Bylaw No. 1454-24: Off-Highway Vehicle Control

405-24: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1454-24: Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)**, for the purpose of regulating the operation of off-highway vehicles in Smoky Lake County and to provide enforceable OHV restrictions for fire prevention, be given **SECOND READING**.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Gawalko that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1454-24: Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)**, for the purpose of regulating the operation of off-highway vehicles in Smoky Lake County and to provide enforceable OHV restrictions for fire prevention, be given **THIRD & FINAL READING**, and the Reeve and Interim Chief Administrative Officer be hereby authorized to fix their signatures to all necessary documents and the corporate seal be fastened where it is deemed to be necessary.

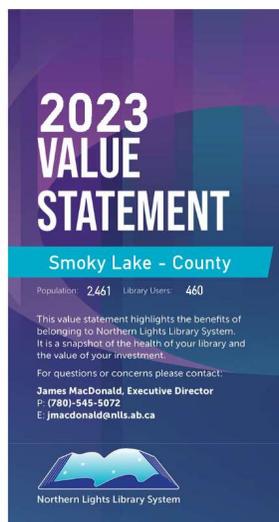
Carried.

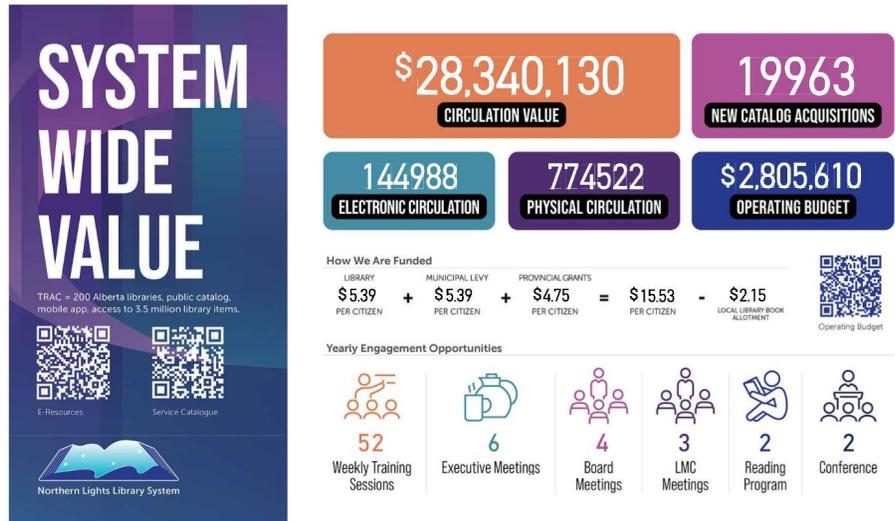
Dave Franchuk, Environment and Park Manager, virtually joined the meeting time, 9:22 a.m.

4. Delegation:

Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) - James MacDonald, Executive Director

Present before Council from 9:23 a.m. to 9:36 a.m. was James MacDonald, Executive Director of Northern Lights Library System (NLLS), to provide a review of 2023 and Overview of 2024, as follows:





Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) - Presentation

406-24: Fenerty

That the presentation provided to Smoky Lake County Council from the March 7, 2024, delegation: James MacDonald, Executive Director of Northern Lights Library System (NLLS), be accepted for information.

Carried.

7. Request for Decision:

7.2. Wildfire Rapid Response Program

407-24: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council agree to establish a Wildfire Rapid Response Program, fully funded by Smoky Lake County for the Smoky Lake Region, in response to the anticipated drought forecast and current drought conditions being experienced throughout Alberta in Year-2024, and stipulate the program to include the following points:

- commencing April 15, 2024, for approximately six weeks, subject to change, depending on snow melt and precipitation,
- involving up to a maximum of four members per day, and with
- firefighters being provided a standby cost in the amount of \$100.00 per day or a day-rate in the amount of \$300.00 per member; and,
- if necessary, with an out-of-region firefighter’s rate in the amount of \$300.00 per day, plus meals and mileage.

Carried.

7.7. Gravel Crushing Tender 2024-2026

408-24: Cere

That Smoky Lake County proceed to tender for the Year-2024 Gravel Crushing of 100,000 tonnes of Gravel Products to stockpile within the White Earth Creek Gravel Pit located on the lands legally described as NW ¼ of Section 2-61-18-W4, with an option of 2 renewals each consisting of a one-year term, at the sole discretion of the County, with estimated gravel volumes allotted for the optional renewal years of Year-2025 and Year-2026 being not less than 85,000 Tonnes per year, and with the Year-2024 quantities being required as follows:

- Designation 4, Class 20 (3/4”) material – 42,000 Tonne
- Designation 4, Class 25 (1”) material – 45,000 Tonne
- Designation 4, Class 40 (1 ½”) material – 13,000 Tonne
- Designation 3, Class 12.5C (½”) material – 5,000 Tonne: Not for Year 2024 – only Year 2025 and 2026
- Sand elimination based on 10,000 to 20,000 tonnes.

Carried.

7.3. Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) 2024 Planning Awards Submission

409-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County provide a letter to O2 Planning + Design, to confirm awareness and support of the O2 Planning + Design Inc., submission to the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) Planning Awards, for the ‘North Saskatchewan (kisiskâiwani-sîpiy) Heritage River Designation Document and Concept Plan’ under the ‘Special Study’, Category Three (3).

Carried.

7.4. Year-2024 Farmers & Ranchers Appreciation Day Event

410-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council approve to schedule and host a Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation BBQ event, for June 14, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at a location to be determined, as organized through the County’s Agricultural Department.

Carried.

7.5. 2024 Northlands Farm Family Awards: Division 4

411-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council nominate Jason and Tina Senetzas’ family from Division 4, to receive the Year-2024 Farm Family Award, in accordance with Policy Statement No. 62-22-06: Northlands Farm Family Award.

Carried.

7.6. Bylaw No. 1457-24: Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw

412-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1457-24: Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw**, to authorize the levying of a special tax on properties in the hamlet of Bellis to recover Bellis’ sewer maintenance costs for Year-2024, be given **FIRST READING**.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Cere that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1457-24: Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw**, to authorize the levying of a special tax on properties in the hamlet of Bellis to recover Bellis’ sewer maintenance costs for Year-2024, be given **SECOND READING**.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Serben that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1457-24: Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw**, to authorize the levying of a special tax on properties in the hamlet of Bellis to recover Bellis’ sewer maintenance costs for Year-2024, be given unanimous consent for **PERMISSION FOR THIRD READING**.

Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Fenerty that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1457-24: Bellis Sewer Tax Bylaw**, to authorize the levying of a special tax on properties in the hamlet of Bellis to recover Bellis’ sewer maintenance costs for Year-2024, be given **THIRD & FINAL READING**, and the Reeve and Interim Chief Administrative Officer be hereby authorized to fix their signatures to all necessary documents and the corporate seal be fastened where it is deemed to be necessary.

Carried.

8. Interim Chief Administrative Officer’s Report:

Nil.

9. Council Committee Reports:

Nil.

10. Correspondence:

10.1. Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) – Event

413-24: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge receipt of the poster received from Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), for their event Titled, Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for Your Farm or Ranch, scheduled for March 13, 2024, to be held at the National Hall in Smoky Lake.

Carried.

10.2. News Release from CMHC Funding \$486,002 to the Town of Smoky Lake

414-24: Fenerty

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the news release provided by CMHC titled: “Helping build more homes, faster in Alberta”, dated February 19, 2024, announcing funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) as part of Canada’s National Housing Strategy (NHS), to the Town of Smoky Lake, quoted as follows:

“Smoky Lake will receive \$486,002 to support its Action Plan which commits to five local initiatives that enable a variety of housing forms and densities to meet the diverse needs of the community. The funding will allow the establishment of small and tiny dwelling neighborhood guidelines, the creation of an affordable housing incentive program and implementing an e-permitting system for building and development applications. Smoky Lake’s Action Plan will also encourage more affordable housing development by streamlining the process by which developers can purchase town-owned land to create affordable housing units.”

Carried.

10.3. RMA Insurance – RiskPro Symposium April 8-10, 2024

415-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council and relevant administration who can attend – attend the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, RMA Insurance – RiskPro Symposium, scheduled for April 8-10, 2024, to be held at the River Cree Resort and Casino, in Enoch Alberta.

Carried.

10.4. Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program - Regional Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure Design Study Project

416-24: Cere

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated February 12, 2024, announcing approval of funding from the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2023-24 grant to **Town of Smoky Lake, as the managing partner**, in partnership with the Smoky Lake County, the Village of Waskatenau and the Village of Vilna, under the Intermunicipal Collaboration Stream, in the amount of **\$200,000.00**, in support of the **Regional Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure Design Study Project**.

Carried.

10.5. Alberta Environment and Parks - Gladden Pit NE-09-58-19-W4

417-24: Fenerty

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Alberta Environment and Parks, dated February 15, 2024, in respect to the Code of Practice for Pits, relating to “Gladden Pit” located on the land legally described as NE-09-58-19-W4, under Provincial Application No. 005-16126; and comply with all requirements of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, associated Regulations, and any other applicable laws, and requirements of the Code of Practice.

Carried.

10.6. Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program – Regional Fire Services Study Project No. 2021-IC-25

418-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated February 22, 2024, relating to the 2020/21 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the Smoky Lake Regional Fire Services Study Project No. 2021-IC-25, announcing a time extension of the project completion date from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2024, has been approved.

Carried.

10.7. Victoria Trail Agricultural Society (VTAS) – Thanking the County for Support

419-24: Fenerty That the letter received by Smoky Lake County from the Victoria Trail Agricultural Society (VTAS), dated February 19, 2024, thanking the County for supporting their efforts, be filed for information.

Carried.

10.8. Minister of Transportation & Economic Corridors – Response Fall 2024 Meeting

420-24: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, dated February 20, 2024, responding to the meeting held between the County and the Minister, during the Fall 2024 Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Convention, confirming the funding application for Bridge # BF08200 is being considered for funding under the typical process.

Carried.

Meeting Request with Transportation & Economic Corridors Chief of Staff – BF08200

421-24: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County Council seek a meeting with Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors' Chief of Staff to express the urgent need for funding to conduct the necessary repairs to re-open the closed bridge identified as Bridge # BF08200, and bring forward (if possible) a letter in support of same from Saddle Lake Cree Nation, as well as supporting documentation from Associated Engineering Ltd, to support, to the said meeting.

Carried.

10.9. FCM Pre-Budget 2024 Campaign on Infrastructure & Municipal Growth

422-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the Email from FCM, dated February 27, 2024 - Unveiling FCM's pre-budget 2024 campaign on infrastructure and a new Municipal Growth Framework & Toolkit.

Carried.

Need to Negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework”

423-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council unanimously agree in response to the Email from FCM, dated February 27, 2024, in respect unveiling FCM's pre-budget 2024 campaign on infrastructure and a new Municipal Growth Framework:

WHEREAS, Canada is experiencing record population growth, having welcomed 1.25 million new Canadians last year alone; and

WHEREAS, According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) we need to build at least 3.5 million additional homes by 2030, and municipalities need to build or expand the infrastructure to accommodate this growth; and

WHEREAS, FCM has estimated that the cost of the municipal infrastructure required support housing development is, on average, in the range of \$107,000 per unit; and

WHEREAS, According to Statistics Canada the cost of upgrade existing municipal infrastructure so that it is in a state of good repair is in the range of \$170 billion; and

WHEREAS, Non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure project without a corresponding growth in revenue; and

WHEREAS, Unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue has not increased in recent years along with inflation, economic growth or population growth; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end, the Canada Community-Building Fund is being renegotiated and the Permanent Public Transit Fund is set to start in 2026;

WHEREAS, The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides more than \$2billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the federal government work with agreement signatories and municipalities to maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the federal government commit, in Budget 2024, to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the federal government convene provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework” to modernize the way that municipalities are funded in order to enable Canada’s long-term growth.

Carried.

11. Information Releases:

Nil.

12. Financial Reports:

Bills and Accounts – Cheque Register

424-24: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County’s Cheque Register as of March 7, 2024, as follows, be filed for information:

County Council Meeting: March 7, 2024

Batch #	Cheque Numbers	Total of Batch
PMCHQ188	53776 TO 53796	\$54,021.71
PMCHQ190	53797 TO 53815	\$23,093.83
PMCHQ192	53816 TO 53844	\$240,755.81
PMCHQ193	53845 TO 53876	\$580,192.84
PMCHQ195	53877 TO 53933	\$296,391.04
PMCHQ197	53934 TO 53954	\$113,917.24
PMCHQ200	53955 TO 53983	\$42,473.32
PMCHQ201	53984 TO 53996 VOIDED	Cheque print failed
PMCHQ203	53997 TO 54008	\$69,077.17
PMCHQ204	54009 TO 54029	\$902,803.54
PMCHQ207	54030 TO 54044	\$193,982.91
PMCHQ208	54045 TO 54069	\$36,596.28
PMCHQ210	54070 TO 54086	\$19,166.85
PMCHQ213	54087 TO 54109	\$400,450.40
PMCHQ215	54110 TO 54145	\$601,417.34
Total Cheques from 53776 to 54145		\$3,574,340.28

Batch #	EFT Numbers	Total of Batch
231116	1111 TO 1121	\$236,908.12
231123	1122 TO 1127	\$53,165.40
231130	1128 TO 1141	\$41,764.44
231207	1142 TO 1155	\$170,388.99
231220	1156 TO 1189	\$230,817.93
240104	1190 TO 1196	\$31,188.58
240111	1197 TO 1208	\$176,653.69
240116	1209 TO 1224	\$376,162.59
240125	1225 TO 1235	\$99,174.95
230130	1236 TO 1240	\$12,647.41
240207	1241 TO 1250	\$64,591.10
240216	1251 TO 1259	\$197,021.92
240222	1260 TO 1274	\$123,495.09
240228	1275 TO 1283	\$22,929.71
Total EFTs from 1111 to 1283		\$1,836,909.92

Direct Debit Register

Batch #	Description	Total of Batch
PMPAY060	My HAS	\$169.55
PMPAY061	My HAS	\$9.95
PMPAY062	ENTERPRISE FLEET MNGT	\$71,844.34
PMPAY063	My HAS	\$1,093.97
PMPAY064	My HAS	\$3,097.80
PMPAY065	My HAS	\$583.02
PMPAY066	My HAS	\$663.00
PMPAY067	My HAS	\$1,034.28
PMPAY068	My HAS	\$514.66
PMPAY069	My HAS	\$1,136.14
PMPAY070	My HAS	\$663.00
PMPAY071	My HAS	\$663.00
PMPAY072	My HAS	\$642.88
PMTRX622	ENTERPRISE FLEET MNGT	\$1,975.10
PMTRX623	AB SCHOOL FOUNDATION	\$463,789.91
Total Direct Debits		\$547,880.60

Grand Total Bills and Accounts	\$5,959,130.80
<i>(Note: From General Account)</i>	

Carried.

13. Next Meeting(s):

Schedule Next Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC) Meeting

425-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council **defer** scheduling the next Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC) Meeting, until after a Chief Administrative Officer has been hired for the County.

Carried.

Next & Scheduled County Council Meetings

426-24: Halisky

That the next Smoky Lake County Council Meetings be re-confirmed and **scheduled** as follows:

Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular),

Friday, April 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (Budget),

Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular),

Wednesday, April 24, 9:00 a.m. (Budget),

Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular),

Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular),

Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (Regular),

to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 **and/or** physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

14. Executive Session:

Personnel Issue: Administration Staff Continuity and Coverage

427-24: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue, in respect to Administration staff continuity and coverage relating to an upcoming retirement, in the presence of all Council, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, and Finance Manager, under FOIP Section 27: Privileged Information, time 10:58 a.m..

Carried.

428-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 11:29 a.m.

Carried.

11:31 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.

Public Question and Answer Period:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

429-24: Cere That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting of March 7, 2024, be adjourned, time 11:32 a.m..

Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER