TOWN OF ECKVILLE-COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday May 8, 2023

Town Office Council Chambers Eckville, AB 6:00 pm (Councillors may attend via electronic means)

1. CALL TO ORDER	1.1	
2. DELEGATIONS/PUBLIC HEARING	2.1	Delegation – Allen Hallgren – Eckville Slo-Pitch Time: 6:00pm
3. AGENDA	3.1	Additional Agenda Items
	3.2	Adoption of Agenda
4. MINUTES	4.1	Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2023, pg1-3
5. ACTION ITEMS	5.1	RFD-Request to Lease or Purchase a portion of Lot 30, Blk 4, Plan 9020549 pg.4-8
	5.2 5.3	RFD-Eckville Library Board Member Appointment pg9-13 2023 Operating & Capital Budget (Separate Agenda Item)
6. BYLAWS, POLICIES	5.4 6.1	Summer Meeting Dates- Discussion Item
7. REPORTS	7.1 7.2	Management Report - May 8, 2023pg14-23 Financial Report - April 26, 2023pg 24
8. COMMITTEE, BOARD REPORTS	8.1	
9. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION	9.1 9.2	Lacombe County Council Highlights pg25 Wolf Creek Public Schools pg26-27
10.SEMINARS, MEETINGS, SPECIAL EVENTS	10.1	
11.CLOSED SESSION	11.1	
12.COMMITTEE OF THE WHOL	E12.1	
13.ADJOURNMENT	13.1	

TOWN OF ECKVILLE – COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday April 24, 2023 Eckville Town Office, 5023 – 51 Avenue, Eckville, Alberta

1. Call to Order

1.1 Mayor Ebden called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ebden

Deputy Mayor Engen Councillor Meyers Councillor Palm-Fraser Councillor See Councillor Thoreson

Absent: None

Staff: CAO Jack Ramsden

Deputy CAO, Darcy Webb

Recording Secretary Heather Allen

Press: None

Gallery: None

2. Delegations/Public Hearings

2.1 Delegation-Melissa Milne MNP: Re Financial Statements Melisa Milne joined the meeting at 6:05 in order to present the unqualified 2022 Town of Eckville Financial Statements and 2022 Town of Eckville Financial Information Return.

5. Action Items

5.1 RFD-Approval of 2022 Financial Statements & 2022 Financial Information Return.

Res.105.2023

Moved by Councillor Palm-Fraser that Town of Eckville Council approve the Town of Eckville Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2022 and the Audited Town of Eckville Financial Information Return for the year ending December 31, 2022 as presented. **Carried Unanimously.**

Melissa Milne left the meeting at 6:50pm

3. Agenda

- 3.1 Additional Agenda Items None
- 3.2 Adoption of Agenda

Res.106.2023

Moved by Councillor See that the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried Unanimously**.

4. Minutes

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2023

Res. 107.2023

Moved by Deputy Mayor Engen that the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held April 11, 2023 be adopted as presented. **Carried Unanimously.**

5. Action Items cont.

5.2 RFD- Councillor Appointments to Eckville Municipal Library Board.

Res. 108.2023

Moved by Councillor Meyers that Resolution # 234.2022 be amended to read Councillor Thoreson and Councillor Engen be appointed to the Eckville Municipal Library Board with a term extending through to October 30, 2023. Carried Unanimously.

6. Bylaws/Policies

6.1 None

7. Reports

7.1 Management Report - April 24, 2023

Res.109.2023

Moved by Mayor Ebden that tokens for the new RV Dump Station be available for purchase at the Town Office, during regular business hours, for \$10.00. **Carried.**

- 7.2 Financial Report AP Report April 20, 2023.
- 7.3 Animal Control Services March 2023

Res. 110.2023

Moved by Deputy Mayor Engen that the Reports be accepted for information. **Carried Unanimously.**

8. Committee & Board Reports

- 8.1 Councillor Meyers reported on Medicine River Crime Watch
- 8.2 Councillor Thoreson reported on MPC
- 8.3 Deputy Mayor Engen reported on the Medicine River Watershed
- 8.4 Mayor Ebden reported on Medicine River Crime Watch, and the Eckville Lions Club 77 charter night

Res. 111.2023

Moved by Councillor Meyers that the Committee and Board Reports be accepted. **Carried Unanimously.**

9. Correspondence, Information Items

- 9:1 Atco Pipelines Replacement
- 9.2 Lacombe Foundation Financial Statements 2022
- 9.3 Lacombe County Highlights of Council Meeting April 13, 2023
- 9.4 AB Municipal Affairs-Rebecca Shulz
- 9.5 Alberta Recreation & Parks Association(ARPA) awards
- 9.6 Alberta Culture Office of the Minister

Res. 112.2023

Moved by Councillor See that the Correspondence and Information Items be accepted as information. **Carried Unanimously.**

10. Seminars, Meetings, Special Events

10.1 Village of Clive Parade Invite

Res. 113.2023

Moved by Councillor ?? That the Seminars, Meetings Special Events

Council Meeting April 24, 2023

be accepted for information. Carried Unanimously.

11. Closed Session

11.1 None

12. Committee of the

12.1 None

Whole

13. Adjournment

13.1

Res. 114.2023

Mayor Ebden adjourned the meeting. Time 7:50 p.m

CAO

Carried Unanimously.

Mayor



TOWN OF ECKVILLE Request to Council for Decision

Meeting:

Town Council

Meeting Date:

May 8, 2023

Originated By:

Jack Ramsden, CAO

Title:

Request to Lease or Purchase a portion of

Lot 30MR - Block 4 - Plan 9020549.

BACKGROUND: The Lindstrom's purchased this property (5612 – 52 Street Close) a few years ago and found that most of the spruce trees in the back of their yard are actually over several older Cenovus pipelines and a newer fiber line owned by Missing Link.

The Lindstrom's are asking for permission to build a fence, which would close in the section of Lot 30MR or to purchase the portion of Lot 30MR behind their property.

Please find attached a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Rod Lindstrom.

<u>DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES</u>: The previous owners had permission to plant spruce trees when they built their home, and the Town provided them with a variance to build without meeting the rear setback as set out in the then Land Use Bylaw. Interestingly the Cenovus pipelines are lying in a Town owned municipal reserve lot (30MR).

It is worth noting that many of the other owners of other properties to the east and west of the Lindstrom's lot also use part of the Town's 30MR lot. Please see also an aerial photo showing the properties and a copy of a portion of plan No 9020549.

Administration would propose three options:

- 1. Lease the portion of Lot 30MR to Lindstrom's with conditions.
- 2. Contact the other adjoining Property Owners to Lot 30MR and offer to sell each Property Owner the portion of Lot 30MR that is behind or beside their property. You could charge a nominal fee for the land (or not) and have the Property Owners share the cost of the subdivision and legal survey costs. Or
- 3. Take no action at all.

IMPACT ON BUDGET: Should not be a cost to the Town.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the following motion be presented for consideration:

"That the Town of Eckville lease a portion of Lot 30MR - Block 4 - Plan 9020549 to the Owners of Lot 20 - Block - Plan 9020549 with conditions allowing the construction of a chain ling fence and conditions on removal if required by the Town of a Utility Company." Or

"That the Town of Eckville Contact the other adjoining Property Owners to Lot 30MR and offer to sell each Property Owner the portion of Lot 30MR that is behind or beside their property at a nominal fee for the land (or not) and have the Property Owners share the cost of the subdivision and legal survey costs." Or

"That the Town of Eckville take no action at this time on the request to leaser or purchase a portion of Lot 30MR - Block 4 - Plan 9020549."

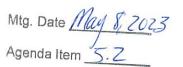
ed By:
٥

ypn/25/23 To: Jour Council; Hello, we own LoT 20, Block 4, Plan 9020549(56125252105e). We are subject to a written act agreed upon





PART OF LOT 1 BLOCK 1	907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01 907.01	LOT 37 AREA = 4.05 ha BLOCK 4	
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10 PLAN NO.	S T R E		/ENUE
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TOWN OF ECKVILLE Request to Council for Decision

Meeting:

Town Council

Meeting Date:

May 8, 2023

Originated By:

Jack Ramsden, CAO

Title:

Possible Eckville Municipal Library Board Member Appointment

BACKGROUND: Please find attached emails from Reidun Staudinger who expressed an interest in serving on the Eckville Municipal library Board.

<u>DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES</u>: I have not met this lady, but she does seem very interested in serving on the Eckville Library Board. I have attached a series of emails that I received and sent to her. Apparently Reidun lives at 38333 Rand Road 23 which is east of Benalto.

This you approve this appointment it would bring our current Library Board to a total of 6 appointed members (4 from at large and 2 from Town Council).

IMPACT ON THE BUDGET: None.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the following motion be presented for consideration:

"That Reidun Staudinger be appointed to the Eckville Municipal Library Board for a three-year time commencing on May 9th, 2023, and expiring on May 9th, 2026."

Or

Prepared By:

"That Reidun Staudinger request to be appointed to the Eckville Municipal Library Board be respectfully declined."

Approved By

9

Jack Ramsden

From: Sent: To:	Mono	n <2reidun@protonmail.com> ay, May 1, 2023 11:13 AM tamsden	
Subject:	: RE: Jo	ining Library Board	
Hello, Ja	ack,		
I do live	in Red Deer County. <mark>My legal</mark>	land description is SW22-38-2-W5. Our blue sign is 38333 Range Road 23.	
Thanks, Reidun	,		
Sent with	th <u>Proton Mail</u> secure email.		
	riginal Message nday, May 1st, 2023 at 3:07 AM,	Jack Ramsden < jackramsden@eckville.com> wrote:	
ŀ	Hi again Reidun		
, J	Just to confirm, you live I Red D	eer County. Correct?	
Can you please provide us with your legal land location.			
j	Thanks		
	Jack		
,	From: Reidun <2reidun@proto Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 2 To: Jack Ramsden <jackramsde Subject: RE: Joining Library Boa</jackramsde 	::34 PM n@eckville.com>	
	Hello again Mr. Ramsden,		

Thank you for your prompt response. I have reviewed the packet you sent and would like to go forward with joining the board.

A little bit about myself:

I have always loved to read, and libraries have always been a huge part of my life. I am now a stay-at-home mother of seven children, all of whom I am educating at home, and I want reading to be important to them also. My husband and I, and our children, live on a small farm just east of Benalto, where we have a few cows and chickens. As for my education, I actually have a Applied Sciences degree in Automotive Technology. I worked mainly in auto parts, so I have an understanding of inventory systems and databases, which the library also has. Before that I worked in graphic design. I also previously served as treasurer on my church board. I've been patronizing Parkland Regional Libraries for over 16 years now, and have really appreciated the value I have recieved from them. I would like to contribute back to the library system in some way.

Thank you,

Reidun Staudinger

403-755-6368

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

----- Original Message -----On Saturday, April 29th, 2023 at 3:35 AM, Jack Ramsden <<u>jackramsden@eckville.com</u>> wrote:

Thanks for your interest in the possibility of serving on the Eckville Municipal Library Board. The Eckville Town Council is responsible for making appointments to the Library Board as the Eckville Municipal Library was created through a duly passed town Bylaw as per the Library Act. Library Board Members serve on a volunteer basis and generally Board appointments are for a three year term.

I have attached a PDF containing a selection of pages from the Library Board Manual dealing with the role of a Library Board Member and the workings of the municipal

library. This package was compiled for us by the former Eckville Library Board Manager and is presented for your information and perusal.

It would be appreciated it if you could provide us with some information about yourself and provide details of your education, experience and tell us why you are interested in serving on the Library Board.

I want to assure you that this is not a job resume or application, but rather an opportunity to provide Town Council with a bit of background information about yourself.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or concerns.

Thanks again for your interest in the Eckville Municipal Library.

Jack Ramsden

CAO

From: Reidun < 2reidun@protonmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:10 PM

To: Jack Ramsden < jackramsden@eckville.com>

Subject: Joining Library Board

Hello, Mr. Ramsden,

My name is Reidun Staudinger and I would like to join the library board. I attended a meeting earlier this week, and think it would be a good fit for me. I've been a longtime library patron, so it would be nice to be able to be involved with the internal workings of the library.

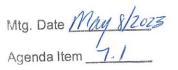
Let me know what you need from me.

Thank you,

Reidun Staudinger

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO ECKVILLE TOWN COUNCIL May 8, 2023



Current Activities:

- Water Plant Upgrade Project Number Two: Nothing new to report at this time, however we are wondering if you would like to tour the plant at an upcoming meeting? We can chat about this at the May 8th meeting.
- Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Options Study: As you are aware we cancelled the May 4th workshop and after talking with the MNP Team, we are hoping that everyone can make a meeting on Thursday May 18th.
- <u>Town Entrance Sign</u>: Nothing new to report at this time. As mentioned previously, we intend to meet with an additional provider and come back to Council with our findings.
- <u>Street Sweeping</u>: Our Public Works Team has completed the majority of our spring street sweeping work and will be moving on to Clive and Alix in a few weeks.

As previously noted, we continue to have problems with Residents who fail to move their vehicle when we place signs out the day before. Perhaps it is time to start fining or towing vehicles around the corner at the owner's expense?

- <u>Cemetery Maintenance</u>: We still expect that the maintenance will start work in early May.
- <u>Paper Shredding Service</u>: We are wondering if Council wants to try to schedule another paper shredding event this fall or wait unit next spring?
- Eckville Forhan & Andrews Ball Diamonds: We received complaints and requests for assistance with spring maintenance at both Ball Diamonds that are contacted to the Eckville Minor Ball Association. The Andrews outfield is badly infested by gophers and the holes that they dig. We were able to contact a pest control contractor from Red Deer to start an aggressive pest control project. It may take a few weeks until he has everything in control, but at least he is started. The Forhan Diamond is in better shape, but the dew worms have left the outfield in a bit of a rough condition. Our Public Works Foreman has plans to rent a ride on packer which will arrive on Monday. We are hoping that this will help level things out a bit.

We do think that it is time to review our Agreement with Eckville Minor Ball as the current agreement was singed in 2008 and many of the player have changed. Please see a copy of the attached agreement. Hopefully we will have time to review the agreement or at least have a quick look at it at the May 9th council meeting.

Future / Planned Activities:

Highway 11 Twinning Project Intersection Concern: We have placed this on the May 8th council agenda for discussion as requested. We will be able to bring up a copy of the plans that I received showing the proposed layout for the junction of SH 766 and Highway 11 on the monitor during the council meeting.

Management Report - May 8, 2023

Repairs to the Lane behind the Town Office: If you will recall the owner of "TimberGate" constructed a new building just east of the Health Food Store last year which contains a show room and warehouse. The owner is now wanting to construct a chain link fence around the sides and rear of his property. This new fence is bringing to light a long-standing issue with the lane on the south side of all the properties that border the north side of the lane. (See attached plan and photos).

For some reason, unbeknown to us, the lane is actually constructed on the south side of these above noted properties. The TimberGate people are planning to set back the east end of the fence by about 15' and then run due west in a straight line to their actual southwest property corner. This will help some, but we may still likely have to plan to move the laneway back to where it belongs.

We would propose to look at three options: the first option would be to try to move the power pole at the junction of the two lanes; the second option would be to negotiate with the Owner of the old Fire Hall property to purchase some of his lot where traffic is also driving; the last option would be to move the lane back to where it belongs.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you on May 8th.

- Replotting of Westview Lots: We have sent out the mandatory notice letters to our various utility companies and agencies. When the 21-day appeal period is done, we will submit the new plans to Land Titles. We are still working on proposed pricing for the two newly created lots which we will bring forward later.
- New RV Dump Station: Our new Sani Star RV Dump Station is now fully operational and was opened for business on May 1st. We have received some comments on our Facebook Page but so far, we have not had any complaints about the new sewer dump station. The old dump pipe has been secured, so there is no other option than using the new set up. We will keep you posted.
- <u>Medical Committee Meeting:</u> We have a Medical Committee meeting booked for May 10th at the Town Office and will bring a report to the May 23rd council meeting.
- Communication Strategy Municipal App: The agreement has been signed by both parties. We are now awaiting a transition schedule from 'Loop' which will include training dates along with a migration plan. The process should be completed in the next 60 days.
- Eckville Spray Park: Pictures of the damaged areas of the new non-slip surface on the Eckville Spray Park were sent to our Contact at GLVT in Edmonton a few weeks ago. They will be coming down on May 9th to make the necessary repairs. When this is completed, we should be ready for the upcoming summer spray season.

Information Items:

- <u>Year End Audit</u>: The audit documents were successfully uploaded to the Municipal Affair site before the April 30th deadline.

Management Report - May 8, 2023

-	New Census Regulations: As noted at the	April 24 th	council	meeting,	we	will	review	the
	option of a new municipal census later this	year.						
				Vall)	1			
Jack	Ramsden, CAO	Darcy Web	b, Depu	ty CAO				

FACILITY USE LEASE

ECKVILLE BALL DIAMONDS 5311-54 Ave. and Lot C, Plan 0021525

THIS AGREEMENT made in duplicate this 5 day of December, A.D. 2008,

BETWEEN

The Town of Eckville
Box 578
Eckville, Alberta
TOM OX0
(hereinafter referred to as the "Town")

OF THE FIRST PART

-and-

Eckville Minor Ball
Box 454
Eckville, Alberta
TOM OXO
(hereinafter referred to as the "Organization")

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS, the Town and Organization are mutually interested in the operation and maintenance of the Eckville Ball Diamonds; and

WHEREAS the Town deems it expedient and beneficial that the Ball Diamonds be used for the said purposes; and

NOW THEREFORE this Agreement states:

THAT in consideration of the observance and performance of the stipulations, covenants and conditions hereinafter reserved and contained on the part of the Organization to be paid, observed and performed, the Town hereby grants unto the Organization all the rights only to the said Eckville Ball Diamonds for the said purposes only.

THIS AGREEEMENT shall continue in effect from year to year, as amended from time to time upon mutual consent of the parties, unless otherwise terminated by the parties at the yearly rental of ONE DOLLAR(\$1.00) receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

THE ORGANIZATION COVENANTS WITH THE TOWN that during said term:

- 1. It will use the said facility solely for the purposes herein before mentioned, and will not do or permit to be done at the said facility anything which may be deemed a nuisance or which may be contrary to any Federal or Provincial laws or to any of the bylaws of the Town of Eckville.
- 2. It will not assign or sublease the said facility or any part thereof without prior written approval of the Town;
- 3. It will permit the Town, its employees and agents to enter upon the said land at all reasonable times for the purposes of ascertaining that the provisions of this Lease are being faithfully observed;
- 4. It will keep and maintain the said facilities thereon in a good and substantial state of repair and will at the expiration or other soon determination of this Lease yield up to the Town quiet and peaceable possession of the said land, in a good and substantial state of repair, ordinary wear and tear, damage by fire, lightning, tempest or other unavoidable casualty expected; and it will remove any improvements to be deemed to be and to remain the property of the Organization during the term of the lease;
- 5. It shall maintain and keep in force insurance for its own contents and public liability insurance with an insurer licensed in the Province of Alberta against claims arising from any accident or occurrence upon, in or about the said demised premises.
- 6. It will indemnify the Town against all liabilities, costs, fines, suits, claims, demands, and actions and causes of action of any kind for which the Town may become liable by reason of any breach, violation, or non-performance by the Organization of any covenant, term or provision of this Lease, or any injury, death, or damage to property, occasioned to or suffered by any person or any property by reason of any act, neglect or default by the Organization or its servants, employees, agents, sub-Organizations, or licensees or invitees on the premises.

IT IS EXPRESSLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO AS FOLLOWS:

- 7. That the facility herein described is to be used for public events and for community purposes.
- 8. That in case of the breach, non-observance or non-performance of the covenants and agreements herein contained or implied on the part of Organization, then and in either case it shall be lawful for the Town at any time thereafter to re-enter into and upon the said facility or any part thereof in the name of the whole, and the same to have again, repossess and enjoy as of its former estate, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding;
- 9. That the Town covenants with the Organization that, upon the Organization performing and observing all the covenants, conditions, and agreements herein contained on the Town's part

to be performed and observed, the Organization may hold and enjoy the said facility during said term without any interruption by the Town or any person lawfully claiming it.

- 10. This agreement shall commence on the date of signing and will continue until terminated pursuant to Section <u>11</u> of this Agreement.
- 11. This agreement may be terminated:
 - a) upon mutual agreement of both parties, or,
 - b) on December 31st of any year provided that one (1) years' written notice to that effect has been given by one Party to the other Party.
- 12. This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of both parties.
- 13. Should the terms and conditions of any amendment to this agreement conflict in part or in total with the terms hereof, then the terms and conditions of the amendment shall control in relation to the specific properties and/or activities identified in the scope of such amendment. In addition, if the terms and conditions of this Agreement or an Amendment to this Agreement conflict in part or in total with provincial laws or other governing statutes, then the provincial law or other governing statutes shall control.
- 14. If any dispute arises between the Parties with respect to any of the provisions of this Agreement which cannot be resolved by mutual agreement between two (2) elected officials of the Town and two (2) members from the Board of the Organization within fourteen (14) days of receipt of notice of the matter in dispute then such dispute shall be determined by arbitration. Notwithstanding the above, prior to referring a dispute to an Arbitrator, upon mutual consent of the Parties, a Mediator may be used to assist in resolving the dispute. The cost of the Mediator shall be shared equally by the Parties.
- 15. If any of the terms and conditions as contained in this Agreement are at any time during the continuance of this Agreement held by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable in the manner contemplated herein, then such terms and conditions shall be severed from the rest of the said terms and conditions, and such severance shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining terms and conditions in accordance with the intent of these presents.
- 16. Any notice required under this Agreement will be in writing, addressed to the appropriate party at the address which appears below (as modified in writing from time to time by such party), and given personally, by regular mail, or by facsimile. All notices shall be effective upon the date of receipt.

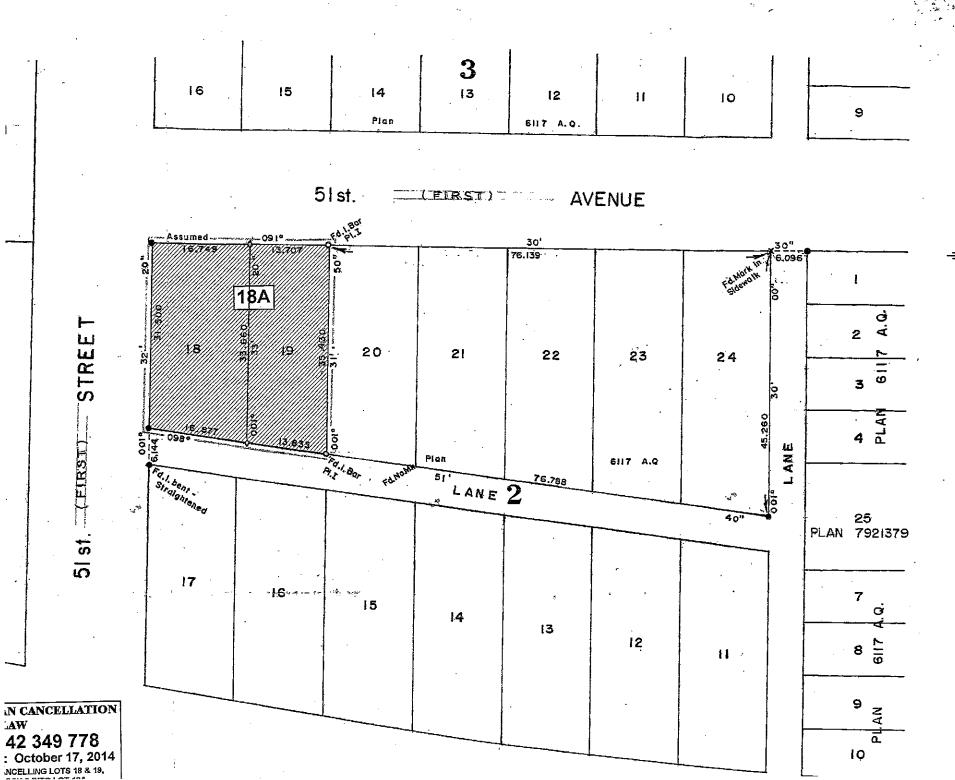
To the Town at: Town of Eckville Box 578 Eckville, Alberta TOM OXO To the Organization at:
Eckville Minor Ball
Box
Eckville, Alberta
TOM OXO

- 17. This Agreement, including amendments contains the entire Agreement between the parties hereto and no other agreements, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this agreement, shall be deemed to exist or bind any of the parties hereto. Either party may request changes in the agreement. Proposed changes which are mutually agreed upon shall be incorporated by written amendment to this agreement.
- 18. That the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement shall extend to and be binding upon the respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the Town and the Organization.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have affixed their corporate seals duly attested by the proper officers in that behalf, the day and year first above written.

Per:	Mayor Joseph
Per:	Administrator
4	Administrator
ECKVI	LLE MINOR BALL
Per:	Rosen hear
í	Chairperson
Per:	(Mapler

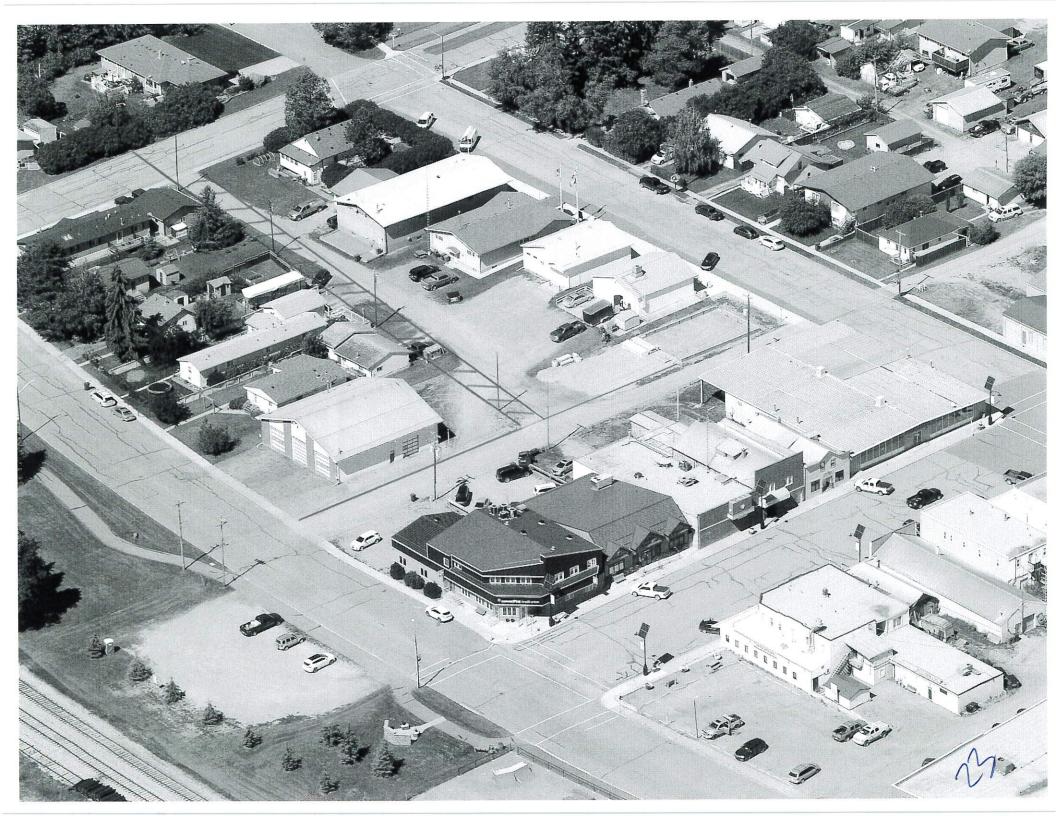
TOWN OF ECKVILLE



51 st. (FIRST)

AW





System: 2023-04-26 1:41:20 PM

User Date: 2023-04-26

Town Of Eckville CHEQUEBOOK POSTING JOURNAL Payables Management

Mtg. Date May 8, 2023

Page Genda Item 7.7
User ID: kristina

Audit Trail Code: PMCHQ00000813

* Voided transactions

Chequebook ID	Туре	Number	Date	Amount
Paid To/Rcvd	From	Description		
ATB - GEN Diana Hendrie	Cheque	EFT00000000034	2023-04-26	\$240.00
ATB - GEN HHID Consulti	Cheque ng Ltd.	EFT00000000035	2023-04-26	\$787.50
ATB - GEN Penny Seiling	Cheque	EFT00000000036	2023-04-26	\$500.00
Total Transactions:	3			

Mtg. Date May 8/7023
Agenda Item 9/



Education taxes represent 45% of the 2023 tax bill for residential property owners in Lacombe County, and 38% of the 2023 tax bill for non-residential property owners. The official 2023 Alberta School Fund Requisition was released in early 2023 and identified a \$0.09/\$1,000 decrease for residential and farmland and a \$0.14/\$1,000 decrease for non-residential Provincial school tax rates.

Operating Budget Details

The 2023 operating budget of \$65,149,770 includes \$12,470,190 in requisitions for the Lacombe Foundation, Designated Industrial Properties (DIP) assessment preparation, and Alberta Education, as well as \$1,206,980 for Policing.

In addition to including the final requisition estimates, several other changes have been made to the operating budget as part of this final approval. These changes include:

- Reduction of funding from tax rate stabilization reserve \$48,690
- Cameras for the office parking lot as part of a waiting area for the Safe Exchange Program \$13,250
- Contribution to the new Lacombe Fire Hall \$250,000
- Contribution to the Protective Services Reserve for future contributions to Lacombe Fire Hall \$1,031,440
- Increase cost for upgraded Air Photos \$73,300
- One-time increase to Municipal Sustainability Initiative Operating Grant from the Province \$149,490

Capital Budget Details

Council also approved amendments to the \$20,327,210 capital budget. These changes include:

- Land acquisition and additional culvert costs for road construction projects
- Purchase of a server for video storage \$7,000
- A decrease in contract services for the Sandy Point Trail (\$410,000)

The capital budget also includes the following:

- \$11.02 million in road construction
- \$2.75 million in bridge replacement projects
- Equipment and vehicle replacements of \$5.85 million, decreasing by \$2.82 million from 2022

Maximizing Value for Residents

Lacombe County Council directed that municipal tax rate increases be as low as possible while continuing to provide sustainable funding for operating and capital expenses in the year ahead and ensuring that Lacombe County infrastructure, assets and services are maintained at appropriate levels.

"Recognizing the struggles our residents have had with day-to-day inflation on food, gas, etc., the 2023 operating budget, capital budget, and municipal tax rates were established to provide for the continued delivery of a high level of services and programs for our citizens in the most cost-effective manner possible," said County Manager Tim Timmons.

For more, please information contact:

Tim Timmons County Manager Lacombe County (403) 782-6601 Barb Shepherd

Reeve Lacombe County

(403) 340-9724

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Sent Via Email



Wolf Creek Public Schools

April 20, 2023

Honourable Adriana LaGrange Minister of Education 228 Legislature Building 10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Luci Henry Board Chair, Ward A

Kelly Lowry Vice Chair, Ward D

Lana Thompson Ward B

Trudy Bratland Ward C

Brent Buchanan Ward D

Darryl Stendie Ward E

Tim De Ruyck Superintendent of Schools

6000 Highway 2A Ponoka, Alberta T4J 1P6

Phone: (403) 783-3473 Fax: (403) 783-3483 RE: Implementation of New Transportation Requirements Effective Fall of 2024

Dear Minister LaGrange:

When the provincial funding announcement was made on February 28, 2023 it was noted that student transportation requirements would change, such that K-6 students who live greater than one kilometre, and 7-12 students living greater than two kilometres, will be eligible for school bus transportation effective in September of 2024. We feel it is important to communicate what this is going to mean for Wolf Creek Public Schools.

Within Wolf Creek Public Schools this change will mean an additional 1700-1800 students will be eligible for transportation, which will require an additional 36 bus routes. This will require the purchase of 42 additional school buses (including spares), at a cost of approximately 6.5 million dollars. We would need the funding by the summer of 2023 in order to hope the buses arrive in time for the fall of 2024. As an aside, we are still waiting for buses which were ordered in February 2022.

In addition, substantial work will be required to our existing transportation facilities to accommodate this substantial growth to our bus fleet. We also know we already struggle to maintain enough drivers, even with ongoing recruitment efforts. We also know these additional buses could create bus lane congestion issues, particularly in our larger communities of Ponoka, Lacombe, and Blackfalds. Finally, the distinction between K-6 and 7-12 students will create difficulties for families who have children within the same household who may not all be eligible for transportation.

PAGE TWO...Adriana LaGrange

To our knowledge there was no prior consultation with the field to determine the operational viability of such a substantial announcement. We sincerely hope this will be a consideration going forward, and we look forward to any updates which can be provided to assist school divisions in implementing the new transportation requirements for the fall of 2024.

Sincerely,

Luci Henry Board Chair

cc: ASBA

Sarah Hoffman, Education Critic for the Opposition

All Alberta School Divisions

All Municipalities within Wolf Creek Public Schools

