

MINUTES OF THE September 12th, 2023 VILLAGE OF COUTTS REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUTTS COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Willett, Councillor's MacCumber, Pain, Smith, Payne, and CAO Rolfe. Also present Jennifer Gullage-Payne, CAO for Ridge Country Housing.

- Meeting: Called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Willett.
- Agenda: Councillor MacCumber moved to accept the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.
- Delegate: Jennifer came to introduce herself as the new CAO for Ridge Country Housing. She gave some updates of projects that are ongoing with our local manor and also for Milk River and Raymond. She answered questions any one had of her, and she left after her presentation at 6:40pm.
- Minutes: Councillor Pain moved to accept the August 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Carried Unanimously.
- Old Business:
- CAO Report: CAO Report is attached. Councillor Payne moved to accept the CAO report as presented. Carried unanimously.
- Yards: Progress is being seen, a second inspection will be done and fines will be issued for those that have not complied with the original letters.
- Tax Sale Mayor Willett moved that the tax sale will be at 5:30 pm on November 28, 2023 in the Civic Centre. Carried unanimously.
- Readon
- Roads: This years sand sealing has been completed.
- Water Project: CAO Rolfe will be attending another meeting with MPE, Town of Raymond, Ridge Water Commission, Village of Warner, County of Warner and the Town of Milk River to discuss the ongoing study being done to determine if receiving water from Raymond is feasible.
- Town Hall
- With Govt Reps: No new information.
- Water Meter
- Replacement: 15 meters have been changed, with approximately 5 left to do.
- Flyer with
- Stirling & others: It seems only the Village of Stirling will be publishing the flyer on their own.
- Financial
- Statement: The July 2023 Financial Statement was presented and reviewed. Councillor MacCumber moved to accept the July, 2023 Financial Statement as presented. Carried unanimously. The August 2023 Financial Statement was presented. Councillor MacCumber moved to accept the August 2023 financial statement as presented.

Accounts

Payable: Councillor Payne moved to pay the accounts payable. Carried unanimously.

New Business

FCSS/Stirling

Letter of

Support:

The original email along with the description will be forwarded to all of council before committing to the support letter.

ATCO

Franchise

Fee:

Councillor Smith moved to leave the ATCO Franchise Fee as it is at 20%. Carried Unanimously.

Recycling

Bin:

Tabled for more information.

Bylaw 592

Assessor

Appointment: Councillor MacCumber moved for first reading of Bylaw 592, the Bylaw appointing the Property Assessor as Ryan Vogt with Benchmark Assessors. Carried Unanimously
Councillor Smith moved for the second reading of Bylaw 592, the Bylaw appointing the Property Assessor as Ryan Vogt with Benchmark Assessors Carried Unanimously.
Councillor Payne moved for permission to read 3rd reading of Bylaw 592.
Mayor Willett moved for third reading of Bylaw 592, the Bylaw appointing the Property Assessor as Ryan Vogt with Benchmark Assessors. Carried unanimously.

Property

Tax Write Off:

Councillor Pain moved to write off \$3302.15 of the Customs property taxes that they did not pay, as they do not pay minimum taxes. Carried unanimously.

Blackfoot Signage

Program:

After discussion it was decided that the Village would not participate at this time.

Benchmark

Assessments:

Councillor Smith moved to renew the contract for assessing properties with Benchmark Assessments. Carried unanimously.

Pump Cart:

An inquiry came in from someone wanting to purchase our old pump cart that is no longer in use. CAO was instructed to get an offer and sell it.

Committee Reports:

Councillor

Payne:

Did not have any meetings to report on.

Councillor

MacCumber: Attended a zoom meeting with RPAP
Attended the Quad Municipality Healthcare Meeting

Councillor

Pain: Attended the Library meeting
Attended the Handibus Meeting
Attended the Watershed tour to Montana

Councillor

Smith: Attended the ORRSC Meeting

Mayor

Willett: Attended the Watershed tour to Montana
Attended the opening of the new exhibition in Lethbridge
Attended a zoom with Rural Health
Attended the SouthGrow Executive Meeting
Attended Mayors and Reeves

Correspondence: None at this time.

Closed Session: Not Requested at this time

Adjourn: Councillor Payne moved to adjourn at 9:15 pm.


MAYOR


CAO

CAO Report – September 12, 2023

1. Public Works: Sidewalk Painting is done. Tennis court resurfacing will be done this week, firemen hosed off Monday night. weather. Gazebo is stained as well. Spray Park leaks fixed. Welding is complete. Rec Areas to be blown out this month before freeze up. Pavement patch has come in and potholes will be filled soon. The flag signs at the welcome site have been replaced.
Fire Safety Services was here and completed the fire extinguisher certifications.
2. Still working on getting the tax sale in order.
3. Tax collection went well. Will be sending out reminders again in November to alert of penalties in January.
4. Remembrance Day planning in the works.