



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF PICTURE BUTTE TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Monday, 22nd April, 2024 at 6:30 pm

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – 8th of April, 2024

4.0 PUBLIC HEARING

5.0 DELEGATION

5.1 MWG – Hayden Wilde

6.0 REQUESTS FOR DECISION

6.1 2023 Audited Financial Statements

6.2 948-24 Tax Rate Bylaw 2024

6.3 949-24 Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw

6.4

7.0 MAYOR'S REPORT

8.0 COUNCIL'S REPORT

9.0 ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

9.1 CAO Report

9.1.1 Emergency Services Report

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Canadian Animal Task Force

10.2 Rachel Thomas – Community Builders Award

10.3 Picture Butte High School Academic Award request

10.4 Resident Communication – Mike Davies – Recreation Governance

10.5 Picture Butte Minor Hockey Association – Early Ice request

11.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 11.1 Oldman River Regional Services Commission – Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – March, 2024
- 11.2 Green Acres Foundation – Report to Community 2023
- 11.3 Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS – Board Meeting Minutes – March, 2024
- 11.4 Oldman River Regional Services Commission – Spring Periodical, 2024

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

- 12.1 FOIP Act Division 2 Section 16(1) – Pool Shade sponsorship costs

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
OF THE
PICTURE BUTTE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Monday, April 8th, 2024 AT 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor C. Moore Deputy Mayor C. Papworth Councillor T. Feist
Councillor H. de Kok Councillor C. Neels

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer – K. Davis
Director of Corporate Services – M. Overbeeke
Director of Operations – A. Benson
Administrative Assistant – C. Johnson

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

110 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Neels that the agenda be approved as amended:
ADD: 6.3 Seniors Week
6.4 Pool Umbrellas
CARRIED

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Regular Council Meeting – March 25th, 2024

111 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Papworth that the Regular Council Meeting
minutes of March 25th, 2024 be approved as presented.
CARRIED

4.0 PUBLIC HEARING – None for this meeting

5.0 DELEGATION – None for this meeting

6.0 REQUESTS FOR DECISION

6.1 Bylaw No. 947-24 Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Land Redesignation

112 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok to approve the first reading of Bylaw No. 947-
24 Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Land Use Redesignation.
CARRIED

6.2 Arena Sound System Upgrade

113 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Papworth to approve a payment of \$10,802.85
from Arena Reserves to contribute to a new audio system in the Arena.

6.3 Seniors Week

Council Discussed Seniors Week coming up June 3-9. Council normally
treats the Seniors to dinner. Councillor Feist suggested possibly a Talent
Night with dinner. She also suggested that the Seniors at Piyami Lodge and
Manor be invited to attend as well. Council requested that the advertisement
be put on the back of the utility bill. This will be brought back for discussion
at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

6.4 Pool Umbrellas

Councillor de Kok researched making custom sunshades by using local
contractors after resident feedback about the price of the pool umbrellas. He
presented an idea of 15x15 ft. shade structures that would utilise pools and

canvas. Council will consider the alternate approach and discuss the design, size and where the shades would be situated.

7.0 MAYOR'S REPORT

7.1 Mayor's Report

March 27 Attended a Community Futures meeting
April 2 Attended a Doctor Retention and Attraction meeting
April 5 Attended a Mayors and Reeves meeting
April 8 Attended a Municipal Planning Commission meeting

114 2404 08 MOVED by Mayor Moore that the Mayor's Report be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

8.0 COUNCIL'S REPORT

8.1 Council's Report

Councillor Feist advised Council of her recent activities:

April 2 Attended a Doctor Retention and Attraction meeting
April 3 Attended a Family and Community Support Services meeting
April 8 Attended a Municipal Planning Commission meeting

Councillor de Kok advised Council of his recent activities:

April 8 Attended a Municipal Planning Commission meeting

Deputy Mayor Papworth advised Council of her recent activities:

March 18 Attended a Committee of the Whole meeting
March 20 Attended Green Acres Executive Board meeting

Councillor Neels advised Council of her recent activities:

March 27 Attended a Green Acres Board meeting
April 2 Attended a Doctor Retention and Attraction meeting
April 4 Attended a Green Acres Executive meeting
April 6 Attended the Green Acres Spring Fling Event

115 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok that the Council Reports be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

116 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Papworth to allow Mayor Moore to attend the Picture Butte High School Graduation Ceremony on May 25, 2024.
CARRIED

117 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok to allow the Mayor to attend the Picture Butte High School Graduation Ceremony every year.
CARRIED

9.0 ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

9.1 CAO Report

118 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Feist to accept the CAO Report as presented.
CARRIED

9.1.1 Director of Operations Report

119 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Feist to accept the Director of Operations Report.
CARRIED

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 AB Municipalities President – Political Parties in Local Government Elections

120 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Neels to receive and file 10.1 AB Municipalities President- Political Parties in Local Government Elections.
CARRIED

10.2 Picture Butte and District Agricultural Society – Farmers Day BBQ Requests

121 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok to allow the Picture Butte and District Agricultural Society use of the Community Centre and parking lot on June 14, 2024 for a Farmer's Day BBQ and to waive the fee.
CARRIED

10.3 Picture Butte and District Agricultural Society – LED sign

122 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok to contact the Picture Butte and District Agricultural Society and work with them to apply for the Community Facility Enhancement Program Grant for the 2025 financial year.
CARRIED

123 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor de Kok to invite MLA Joseph Schow to meet with Council one hour before his Townhall meeting on April 29, 2024.
CARRIED

10.4 Walk on the Wildside – Community Facility Enhancement Program notification

124 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok to direct the CAO to resubmit the Community Facility Enhancement Program grant with Walk on the Wildside Society.
CARRIED

10.5 Lethbridge County – Discretionary Use Development Application

125 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Papworth to direct Administration to send a letter to Lethbridge County on Development Application 2024-053 stating that the Town of Picture Butte has no concerns.
CARRIED

11.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11.1 Health Professional Attraction and Retention Committee meeting minutes – March, 2024

11.2 Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – Water Licence negotiations

126 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Neels to receive and file Informational Items 11.1 – 11.2.
CARRIED

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

12.1 FOIP Act Division 2 Section 16(1) – 2023 Tax Arrears Properties – Sale Process

12.2 FOIP Act Division 2 Section 16(1) – Doctor Recruitment drafted agreement

12.3 FOIP Act Division 2 Section 16(1) – Contemplated Change Order – Arena Facility Report

12.4 FOIP Act Division 2 Section 24(1) – Director of Parks and Recreation

127 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Feist to close the meeting to the public in accordance with Division 2 Section 16(1) and 24(1) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to discuss 2023 Tax Arrear Properties – Sale Process, Doctor Recruitment drafted agreement, Contemplated Change

order – Arena Facility report, and Director of Parks and Recreation at 7:28 p.m.

CARRIED

M. Overbeeke, A. Benson and C. Johnson left at 8:00 p.m.

128 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Neels to open the meeting to the public at 8:36 p.m.
CARRIED

129 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Papworth to set the tax arrears auction date for Friday, September 13th, 2024 and set the terms and conditions for the sale as presented.

CARRIED

130 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Feist to direct Administration to present the Physician Recruitment and Retention Agreement to Dr. Edegbe as presented.

CARRIED

131 2404 08 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Papworth to pay the invoice from Dr. Mohamed for the Doctor's office equipment.

CARRIED

132 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor de Kok to authorize Administration to approve the Contract Change Order for the third schematic option to the completed by Senaltek.

CARRIED

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for April 22nd, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

133 2404 08 MOVED by Councillor Neels that the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

CARRIED

Cathy Moore
Mayor

Keith Davis
Chief Administrative Officer

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Drafts for discussion purposes only

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

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MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Town of Picture Butte (The Town).

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared from information provided by management. These statements include certain amounts based on management's estimates and judgments. Management has determined such amounts based on a reasonable basis in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects.

The Town maintains systems of internal accounting and administrative controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and that the Town's assets are properly accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The elected Council of the Town is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibility for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. Council carries out this responsibility principally through its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is appointed by the Council and meets periodically with management and the external auditors to review significant accounting, reporting and internal control matters. Following its review of the financial statements and discussions with the auditors, the Audit Committee reports to the elected Council prior to its approval of the financial statements. The Committee also considers, subject to Council approval, the appointment of the external auditors. Council reviews the monthly financial reports.

The consolidated financial statements have been audited by Shawn Cook Professional Corporation, Chartered Professional Accountants, the external auditor, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the Council, residents and ratepayers of the Town. Shawn Cook Professional Corporation has full and free access to the Council.

Mr. Keith Davis, CAO

Picture Butte, Alberta
April 22, 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Town of Picture Butte

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Town of Picture Butte (the town), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the town as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAS)

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the town in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PSAS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the town's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the town or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the town's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Town of Picture Butte *(continued)*

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the town's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the town's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the town to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Lethbridge, Alberta
April 22, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 2)	\$ 4,428,633	\$ 6,154,153
Taxes and grants in lieu receivables (Note 3)	81,279	68,205
Trade and other receivables	490,390	445,853
Land held for resale	904,987	602,017
	5,905,289	7,270,228
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	400,391	473,511
Employee Benefit	80,127	84,394
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	306,063	456,721
Asset retirement obligation (Note 13)	1,455,291	
Long-term debt (Note 7)	1,850,935	2,088,344
	4,092,807	3,102,970
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	1,812,482	4,167,258
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Schedule 2)	29,657,439	26,751,284
Inventory for consumption	16,930	21,954
Prepaid expenses and deposits	12,380	21,690
	29,686,749	26,794,928
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Schedule 1, Note 11)	\$ 31,499,231	\$ 30,962,186
Accumulated Surplus is comprised of:		
Accumulated operating surplus (Schedule 1, Note 11)	31,499,231	30,962,186
Accumulated remeasurement gains (losses)	0	0

Commitments and contingencies - See Notes 17 and 19

Approved on behalf of Council:

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Budget (Unaudited)	2023	2022
REVENUES			
Net municipal property taxes (Schedule 3)	\$ 1,685,880	\$ 1,689,552	\$ 1,524,051
User fees and sales of goods	2,045,125	2,779,095	2,289,214
Government transfers (Schedule 4)	547,750	555,554	501,191
Investment income	140,000	305,910	165,526
Penalties and costs on taxes	30,500	45,311	39,816
Franchise and concession contracts (Note 14)	252,000	257,037	260,969
Licenses, permits and fines	27,960	27,629	41,835
Other revenues	4,000	170,573	3,718
TOTAL REVENUES	4,733,215	5,830,661	4,826,320
EXPENSES (Schedule 5)			
Legislative	89,300	66,213	64,161
Administrative	514,595	746,045	516,997
Police, fire, ambulance and bylaw enforcement	1,043,785	1,275,102	982,964
Roads, streets, walks, lighting	650,925	832,480	839,410
Water, wastewater and waste management	1,027,910	1,434,829	1,323,450
Land use planning, zoning and development	156,285	208,752	174,318
Parks and recreation	754,335	981,691	953,310
Community services	48,935	192,110	188,878
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,286,070	5,737,222	5,043,488
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - BEFORE OTHER	447,145	93,439	(217,168)
OTHER			
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 4)	560,825	443,606	806,769
	560,825	443,606	806,769
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	1,007,970	537,045	589,601
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	30,962,186	30,962,186	30,372,585
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	\$ 31,970,156	\$ 31,499,231	\$ 30,962,186

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REMEASUREMENT GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Accumulated remeasurement gains (losses) at the beginning of the year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Unrealized gains (losses) attributed to Equity Investments	-	-
Amounts reclassified to statements of operations Equity investments realized gains	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net remeasurement gains (losses) for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Accumulated remeasurement gains (losses) at end of year	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$</u>

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS (DEBT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Budget (Unaudited)	2023	2022
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 1,007,970	\$ 537,045	\$ 589,601
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(2,640,220)	(2,751,368)	(1,941,053)
Asset Retirement Obligation		(1,412,904)	
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,081,107	1,258,119	1,068,831
	(1,559,113)	(2,906,153)	(872,222)
Use (acquisition) of prepaid assets	-	9,309	(11,606)
Use (acquisition) of supplies inventory	-	5,023	(5,297)
	-	14,332	(16,903)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	(551,143)	(2,354,776)	(299,524)
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,167,258	4,167,258	4,466,782
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 3,616,115	\$ 1,812,482	\$ 4,167,258

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH RELATED TO:		
OPERATING		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 537,045	\$ 589,601
Non-cash items included in excess of revenues over expenses:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,258,119	1,068,831
Accretion ARO - Building	42,387	
Non-cash charges to operations (net change):		
Decrease (increase) in taxes and grants in place of taxes	(13,075)	2,922
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	(44,538)	(181,371)
Decrease (increase) in land held for resale	(302,970)	80,052
Decrease (increase) in inventory for consumption	5,024	(5,297)
Increase (decrease) in prepaid expenses and deposits	9,310	(11,606)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(73,120)	177,448
Increase (decrease) Employee Benefit Obligation	(4,267)	5,842
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(150,658)	49,173
	1,263,257	1,775,595
CAPITAL		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(2,751,368)	(1,941,053)
	(2,751,368)	(1,941,053)
Cash applied to capital transactions	(2,751,368)	(1,941,053)
	(2,751,368)	(1,941,053)
FINANCING		
Long-term debt issued	-	1,400,000
Long-term debt repaid	(237,409)	(196,704)
	(237,409)	1,203,296
Cash provided by (applied to) financing transactions	(237,409)	1,203,296
	(237,409)	1,203,296
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS DURING YEAR	(1,725,520)	1,037,838
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,154,153	5,116,315
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 4,428,633	\$ 6,154,153

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 SCHEDULE 1

	Unrestricted Surplus	Restricted Surplus	Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	2023	2022
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 2,351,802	\$ 3,947,444	\$ 24,662,940	\$ 30,962,186	\$ 30,372,585
Excess of revenues over expenses	537,045	-	-	537,045	589,601
Funds designated for future use	(378,790)	378,790	-	-	-
Restricted funds - Used for Operations	(223,195)	223,195	-	-	-
Restricted funds - Used for TCA		(1,560,438)	1,560,438	-	-
Current year funds used for tangible capital assets	(1,190,930)		1,190,930	-	-
Annual amortization expense	1,258,120	-	(1,258,120)	-	-
Long term debt repaid (capital)	(237,409)	-	237,409	-	-
Other Adjustments	42,387		(42,387)	-	-
Change in accumulated surplus	(192,772)	(958,453)	1,688,270	537,045	589,601
Balance, End of Year	\$ 2,159,030	\$ 2,988,991	\$ 26,351,210	\$ 31,499,231	\$ 30,962,186

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 SCHEDULE 2

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Engineered Structures	Machinery & Equipment	Vehicles	2023	2022
COST:								
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 562,559	\$ 987,497	\$17,734,308	\$ 26,049,270	\$ 1,224,397	\$ 1,259,303	\$ 47,817,334	\$ 45,958,722
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	-	9,350	1,151,200	1,247,797	337,941	-	2,746,288	880,281
Asset Retirement Obligation			1,412,904					
Disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	-	(37,664)	-	-	(37,664)	(82,443)
Construction in progress	-	-	-	-	5,080	-	5,080	1,060,773
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	562,559	996,847	20,298,412	27,259,403	1,567,418	1,259,303	51,943,942	47,817,333
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION:								
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	395,035	6,918,234	12,411,233	733,546	608,000	21,066,048	20,079,661
Annual amortization	-	40,720	593,388	466,794	90,181	67,036	1,258,119	1,068,831
Accumulated amortization on disposals	-	-	-	(37,664)	-	-	(37,664)	(82,443)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	435,755	7,511,622	12,840,363	823,727	675,036	22,286,503	21,066,049
2023 NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 562,559	\$ 561,092	\$12,786,790	\$ 14,419,040	\$ 743,691	\$ 584,267	\$ 29,657,439	\$ 26,751,285
2022 NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 562,559	\$ 592,461	\$10,816,074	\$ 13,638,037	\$ 490,851	\$ 651,303	\$ 26,751,285	

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY AND OTHER TAXES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 SCHEDULE 3

	Budget (Unaudited)	2023	2022
TAXATION			
Real property taxes	2,289,328	2,292,822	2,109,650
	<u>2,289,328</u>	<u>2,292,822</u>	<u>2,109,650</u>
REQUISITIONS			
Alberta School Foundation Fund	480,383	480,384	472,857
Separate school	76,660	76,659	69,199
Seniors foundation	30,790	30,787	29,353
Designated Industrial Property	175	0	0
FCSS	15,440	15,440	14,190
	<u>603,448</u>	<u>603,270</u>	<u>585,599</u>
NET MUNICIPAL TAXES	<u>\$ 1,685,880</u>	<u>\$ 1,689,552</u>	<u>\$ 1,524,051</u>

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

SCHEDULE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 SCHEDULE 4

	Budget (Unaudited)	2023	2022
TRANSFERS FOR OPERATING:			
Provincial Government	\$ 151,550	\$ 161,043	\$ 68,275
Federal Government	4,200	-	4,200
Other Local Government	392,000	394,511	428,716
Total operating transfers	547,750	555,554	501,191
TRANSFERS FOR CAPITAL:			
Other Local Government	40,825	30,887	87,448
Federal Government	160,000	147,639	160,000
Provincial Government	360,000	265,080	559,321
Total capital transfers	560,825	443,606	806,769
TOTAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$ 1,108,575	\$ 999,160	\$ 1,307,960

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES BY OBJECT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 SCHEDULE 5

	Budget (Unaudited)	2023	2022
EXPENSES			
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 1,880,785	\$ 1,923,738	\$ 1,552,513
Contracted and general services	1,192,135	1,163,901	1,183,427
Materials, goods and utilities	1,065,625	1,192,836	1,111,585
Transfers to local boards and agencies	35,200	52,062	48,104
Bank charges and short term interest	5,300	3,508	3,870
Interest on long term debt	107,025	100,671	75,158
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	1,258,119	1,068,831
Other	-	42,387	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,286,070	\$ 5,737,222	\$ 5,043,488

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

SCHEDULE OF SEGMENTED DISCLOSURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 SCHEDULE 6

	General Government	Protective Services	Transportation Services	Planning & Development	Recreation & Culture	Environmental Services	Total
REVENUES							
Net Municipal Taxes	\$ 1,689,552	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,689,552
Government transfer	241,928	494,541	92,261	-	170,430	-	999,160
User fees and sales of goods	7,320	897,714	-	327,883	340,523	1,205,655	2,779,095
Investment income	305,910	-	-	-	-	-	305,910
Franchise fees	257,037	-	-	-	-	-	257,037
Other revenue	66,038	168,772	-	8,703	-	-	243,513
	<u>2,567,785</u>	<u>1,561,027</u>	<u>92,261</u>	<u>336,586</u>	<u>510,953</u>	<u>1,205,655</u>	<u>6,274,267</u>
EXPENSES							
Contracted and general services	77,137	165,110	113,400	28,703	196,531	583,020	1,163,901
Salaries, wages and benefits	318,144	690,365	274,035	35,515	361,355	244,324	1,923,738
Materials, goods and utilities	156,870	226,231	143,819	144,534	311,127	210,255	1,192,836
Transfers to local boards and agencies	15,440	-	-	-	36,622	-	52,062
Interest on long-term debt	-	70,712	-	-	16,409	13,550	100,671
Other expenses	3,508	-	-	-	42,387	-	45,895
	<u>571,099</u>	<u>1,152,418</u>	<u>531,254</u>	<u>208,752</u>	<u>964,431</u>	<u>1,051,149</u>	<u>4,479,103</u>
NET REVENUE BEFORE AMORTIZATION	1,996,686	408,609	(438,993)	127,834	(453,478)	154,506	1,795,164
Amortization expense	198,772	122,684	301,226	-	251,757	383,680	1,258,119
NET REVENUE	\$ 1,797,914	\$ 531,293	\$ (137,767)	\$ 127,834	\$ (201,721)	\$ 538,186	\$ 537,045

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The consolidated financial statements of the Town of Picture Butte are the representations of management prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Chartered Professional Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Town of Picture Butte are as follows:

a) Reporting Entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, changes in fund balances and change in financial position of the reporting entity. The entity is comprised of the municipal operations as well as the organizations that are owned or controlled by the Town and are, therefore, accountable to Town Council for the administration of their financial affairs and resources.

The schedule of taxes levied also includes requisitions for education, health, social and other external organizations that are not part of the Town reporting entity.

The statements exclude trust assets that are administered for the benefit of external parties. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances have been eliminated.

b) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting records revenue as it is earned and measurable. Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable based upon receipt of goods or services and/or the legal obligation to pay.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers, contributions and other amounts are received from third parties pursuant to legislation, regulation or agreement and may only be used for certain programs, in the completion of specific work, or for the purpose of tangible capital assets. In addition, certain user charges and fees are collected for which the related services have yet to be performed. Revenue is recognized in the period when the related expenses are incurred, services performed or the tangible capital assets are acquired.

c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditure during the period. Where measurement uncertainty exists, the financial statements have been prepared within reasonable limits of materiality. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

d) Investments

Investments are recorded at amortized costs. Investment premiums and discounts are amortized on the net present value basis over the term of the respective investments. When there has been a loss in value that is other than a temporary decline, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss.

e) Tax Revenue

Tax revenues are recognized when the tax has been authorized by bylaw and the taxable event has occurred.

Requisitions operate as a flow through and are excluded from municipal revenue.

f) Requisition over-levy and under-levy

Over-levies and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual property tax levy made to cover each requisition and the actual amount requisitioned.

If the actual levy exceeds the requisition, the over-levy is accrued as a liability and property tax revenue is reduced. Where the actual levy is less than the requisition amount, the under-levy is accrued as a receivable as property tax revenue.

Requisition tax rates in the subsequent year are adjusted for any over-levies or under-levies of the prior year.

g) Prepaid Local Improvement Charges

Construction and borrowing costs associated with local improvement projects are recovered through annual special assessments during the period of the related borrowings. These levies are collectible for property owners for work performed by the municipality.

Where a taxpayer has elected to prepay the outstanding local improvement charges, such amounts are recorded as deferred revenue. Deferred revenue is amortized to revenue on a straight line basis over the remaining term of the related borrowings.

In the event that the prepaid amounts are applied against the related borrowing, the deferred revenue is amortized to revenue by an amount equal to the debt repayment.

h) Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Town's policy is to disclose bank balances under cash, including investments with maturity dates less than three months.

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

i) Government Transfers

Government transfers are the transfer of assets from senior levels of government that are not the result of an exchange transaction, are not expected to be repaid in the future, or the result of a direct financial return.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria has been met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be determined.

j) Inventories for Resale

Land held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost includes cost of the land acquisition and improvements required to prepare the land for servicing such as clearing, stripping and levelling charges. Related development costs incurred to provide infrastructure such as water and wastewater services, roads, sidewalks and street lighting are recorded as physical assets under the respective function.

k) Asset Retirement

A liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized at the best estimate of the amount required to retire a tangible capital asset at the financial statement date when there is a legal obligation for the town to incur retirement costs, the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred, it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made. The best estimate of the liability includes all costs directly attributable to asset retirement activities, based on information available at year-end. The best estimate of an asset retirement obligation incorporates a present value technique, when the cash flows required to settle or otherwise extinguish an asset retirement obligation are expected to occur over extended future periods.

When a liability for an asset retirement obligation is initially recognized, a corresponding asset retirement cost is capitalized to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital asset. The asset retirement cost is amortized over the useful life of the related asset. Asset retirement obligations which are incurred incrementally with use of the asset are recognized in the period incurred with a corresponding asset retirement cost expensed in the period.

At each financial reporting date, the town reviews the carrying amount of the liability. The town recognizes period-to-period changes to the liability due to the passage of time as accretion expense. Changes to the liability arising from revision to either the timing, the amount of the original estimate of undiscounted cash flows or the discount rate are recognized as an increase or decrease to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital asset. The town continues to recognize the liability until it is settled or otherwise extinguished. Disbursements made to settle the liability are deducted from the reported liability when they are made.

l) Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the Change in Net Financial Assets for the year.

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

m) Contaminated Sites Liability

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of a contaminated site is recognized when the town is either directly responsible or accepts responsibility and is management's estimate of the cost of post-remediation including operation, maintenance, and monitoring.

n) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost, which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value of the tangible capital assets, is amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life as follows:

	YEARS
Land Improvements	7-25
Buildings	10-50
Engineered Structures	15-75
Machinery and Equipment	5-20
Vehicles	5-25

Amortization is charged based on the month that it is purchased in the year of acquisition. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use. Amortization is stopped in the month that the asset is taken out of use.

1) Contribution of tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

2) Leases

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

3) Inventories

Inventories held for consumption are recorded at the lower of cost or replacement cost.

4) Cultural and historical tangible capital assets

Work of art for display are not recorded as tangible capital assets but are disclosed.

2. CASH AND TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 781,843	\$ 2,694,946
Temporary Investments	3,646,790	3,459,207
	\$ 4,428,633	\$ 6,154,153

Temporary investments are high-interest savings accounts and notices on demand interest ranging from 0.65% to 5.35% (2022 - 0.65% to 5.35%).

Included in cash and temporary investments is a restricted amount of \$263,174 (2022 - \$384,015) received from various grant program which are held exclusively for approved projects (Note 4).

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

3. TAXES IN LIEU AND GRANTS RECEIVABLES

	2023	2022
Current taxes and grants in lieu	\$ 56,725	\$ 53,119
Arrears taxes	24,554	15,086
	\$ 81,279	\$ 68,205

4. TEMPORARY BANK INDEBTEDNESS

This temporary loan has been authorized by ATB Financial to a maximum of \$400,000 which bears interest at prime plus 1.0% per annum. Security pledged consists of a general security agreement. The balance outstanding at December 31, 2023 was nil (2022 - nil)

5. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2023	2022
Prepayment of arena sponsorships & rentals	\$ 10,869	\$ 1,500
Prepaid Taxes	28,492	29,667
Safety Training Grant	-	2,000
Dog Fountain	3,528	4,151
County Funds - Fire Equipment	-	30,887
Fire Equipment - Deferred Revenue	-	4,500
Emergency Mgmt Grant - ACP	133,851	
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Capital grant	129,323	344,403
Federal Gas Tax Grant	-	39,613
	\$ 306,063	\$ 456,721

6. MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Funding in the amount of \$476,556 was allocated in the current year from the Municipal Sustainability Initiative. Of the \$476,556 allocated, \$340,006 is from the capital component of the program and is restricted to eligible capital projects, as approved under the funding agreement, which were scheduled for completion in 2023. The remaining \$136,550 is from the operating component of the program and is restricted to eligible operating projects, as approved under the funding agreement, which were also scheduled for completion in 2023. Unexpended funds related to the advance are supported by temporary investments of nil held exclusively for these projects. Temporary investments are high-interest savings accounts and notices on demand

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

7. LONG-TERM DEBT

	2023	2022
Tax supported debentures & loans	<u>\$ 1,850,935</u>	<u>\$ 2,088,344</u>

The current portion of long-term debt amounts to \$221,308 (2022 - \$211,431).

	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 221,308	\$ 91,261	\$ 312,569
2025	121,991	81,854	203,845
2026	127,365	75,303	202,668
2027	106,352	68,645	174,997
2028	26,986	64,742	91,728
Thereafter	<u>1,246,933</u>	<u>908,954</u>	<u>2,155,887</u>
	<u>\$ 1,850,935</u>	<u>\$ 1,290,759</u>	<u>\$ 3,141,694</u>

Debenture debt is repayable to Alberta Capital Finance Authority and bears interest at rates ranging from 3.973% to 6.125% per annum and matures in periods 2025 to 2052

Debenture debt is issued on the credit and security of the Town of Picture Butte at large.

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$100,671 (2022 - \$75,158).

The Town's total cash payments for interest in 2023 were \$101,630 (2022 - \$72,941).

8. CONTAMINATED SITES LIABILITY

The town did not identify any financial liabilities in 2023 (2022 - nil) as a result of contaminated sites

9. EQUITY IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	2023	2022
Tangible capital asset cost (Schedule 2)	\$ 51,943,942	\$ 47,817,334
Accumulated amortization (Schedule 2)	(22,286,503)	(21,066,049)
Asset Retirement Obligation (Note 13)	(1,455,291)	
Long-term debt (Note 7)	<u>(1,850,935)</u>	<u>(2,088,344)</u>
	<u>\$ 26,351,213</u>	<u>\$ 24,662,941</u>

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

10. DEBT LIMITS

Section 217 of the Municipal Government Act requires that debt and debt limits as defined by Alberta Regulation 276 (2) for the Town be disclosed as follows:

	2023	2022
Total debt limit	\$ 8,734,430	\$ 7,239,480
Total debt	1,850,935	2,088,344
Total Unused Debt Limit	\$ 6,883,495	\$ 5,151,136
Service on debt limit	\$ 1,455,738	\$ 1,206,580
Service on debt	312,569	314,039
Total Under Service on Debt Limit	\$ 1,143,169	\$ 892,541

The debt limit is calculated at 1.5 times revenue of the municipality (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt service limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limitations requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities that could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the municipality. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

11. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	2023	2022
Unrestricted surplus	\$ 2,159,030	\$ 2,242,231
Restricted surplus (Note 20)	2,988,991	3,951,942
Equity in tangible capital assets (Note 9)	26,351,210	24,662,940
	\$ 31,499,231	\$ 30,857,113

12. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

The Town of Picture Butte provides a range of services to its ratepayers. For each reported segment, revenues and expenses represent both amounts that are directly attributable to the segment and amounts that are allocated on a reasonable basis. The accounting policies used in these segments are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the financial statements as disclosed in Note 1.

Refer to the Schedule of Segmented Disclosure (Schedule 6).

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

13. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

Asbestos abatement

The town owns building which contain asbestos and, therefore, the town is legally required to perform abatement activities upon renovation or demolition of these buildings. Abatement activities include handling and disposing of the asbestos in a prescribed manner when it is disturbed. Undiscounted future cash flows expected are an abatement costs in year 2030 of \$1,777,674. The estimated total liability of \$1,455,291 (2024 - 1,498,950) is based on the sum of discounted future cash flows for abatement activities using a discount rate of 3% and assuming annual inflation of 2%. The town has not designated assets for settling the abatement activities.

	2023	2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$	\$
Liabilities incurred	1,412,904	
Liabilities settled		
Change in estimated cash flows		
Accretion Expenses	42,387	
	1,455,291	
Estimated total Liability	\$ 1,455,291	\$

14. FRANCHISE CONTRACTS

Disclosure of franchise fees under each utility franchise agreement entered into by the Town as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

	Budget (Unaudited)	2023	2022
ATCO natural gas	\$ 102,000	\$ 94,564	\$ 104,443
Fortis electricity	150,000	162,473	156,526
	\$ 252,000	\$ 257,037	\$ 260,969
	\$ 252,000	\$ 257,037	\$ 260,969

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

15. SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for elected Town officials, the Chief Administrative Officer and Designated Officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

			2023	2022
	Salary (1)	Benefits & Allowances (2) & (3)	Total	Total
Mayor - C. Moore	\$ 15,850	\$ 735	\$ 16,585	\$ 16,395
Councillors:				
H. Dekok	9,600	363	9,963	10,370
T. Feist	8,650	306	8,956	9,577
C. Papworth	11,800	494	12,294	10,423
S. Thomson	6,950	275	7,225	9,260
C. Neels	1,550	58	1,608	-
CAO	119,753	25,198	137,196	137,196
Bylaw Officer, Assessor	80,476	12,640	93,116	94,401

- (1) Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, overtime, lump sum payments, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration.
- (2) Employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including retirement pension, Canada Pension Plan (CPP), employment insurance (EI), health care, dental coverage, vision coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, long and short term disability plans, professional memberships, and tuition.
- (3) Benefits and allowances figures also include the employer's share of the costs of additional taxable benefits including special leave with pay, financial planning services, retirement planning services, concessionary loans, travel allowances, car allowances and club memberships.

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

16. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PENSION PLAN

Employees of the Town of Picture Butte participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is covered by the Alberta Public Sector Pension Plans Act. The Plan serves about 291,259 people and 437 employers in 2022. The LAPP is financed by employer and employee contributions and by investment earnings of the LAPP Fund.

Contribution for current service are recorded as expenses in the year in which they become due.

The Town is required to make current service contributions to the Plan of 8.45% of pensionable earnings up to the Canada Pension Plan year's maximum pensionable earnings and 12.23% on pensionable earnings above this amount. Employees of the Town are required to make current service contributions of 7.45% of pensionable salary up to the year's maximum pensionable salary up to the year's maximum pensionable salary and 11.23% on pensionable salary above this amount.

Total current service contributions by the Town to the LAPP in 2023 were \$93,301 (2022 - 81,690). Total current year service contributions by the employees of the Town to the LAPP were \$82,751 (2022 - \$73,448).

At December 31, 2022, the Plan disclosed an actuarial surplus of \$12.7 billion (2021 - surplus of \$11.9 billion).

17. CONTINGENCIES

The Town is a member of the Alberta Municipal Insurance Exchange (MUNIX). Under the terms of the membership, the Town of Picture Butte could become liable for its proportionate share of any claim losses in excess of the funds held by the exchange. Any liability incurred would be accounted for as a current transaction in the year the losses are determined.

18. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Town's financial instruments consist of cash and temporary investments, accounts receivable, bank indebtedness, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and long-term debt. It is management's opinion that the Town is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

The Town is subject to credit risk with respect to taxes and grants in place of taxes receivables and trade and other receivables. Credit risk arises from the possibility that taxpayers and entities to which the Town provides services may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfill their obligations. The large number and diversity of taxpayers and customers minimizes the credit risk.

Unless otherwise noted, the carrying value of the financial instrument approximates fair value.

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

19. COMMITMENTS

The Town of Picture Butte has entered into operating leases for equipment and a photocopier. They also have contract commitments for managing the recreation complex and technical support with several parties. The Town of Picture Butte's obligations under these leases and contract are as follows:

		\$	
2024			4,532
2025			4,532
			9,064

20. RESERVES

Council for the Town of Picture Butte has set up reserves for various purposes. These reserves are either required by legislation or set up at the discretion of Council to provide funding for future expenses.

	2023	2022
Operating Reserves:		
Senior's Transportation	\$ 7,498	\$ 7,498
Admin Technology	58,660	41,130
Disaster Services	10,170	10,170
Ambulance Op Reserve	18,945	20,000
Common Services	88,667	88,667
Snow Removal/Storm	65,500	53,000
Water Meters	1,615	3,900
Economic Development Committee	46,232	46,232
General Operating Reserve	432,100	240,200
Policing Smoothing	42,392	48,072
Community/Senior Centre	9,952	9,952
Walk on the Wild Side Society	850	850
	782,581	569,671
Capital Reserves:		
General Capital Reserve	208,908	260,170
Administration - Building/Equipment	111,946	175,256
Emergency Services	750,285	903,981
Public Works	31,400	23,400
Streets/Sidewalk/Strom	186,595	168,210
Water	126,320	119,040
Sewer	342,202	316,551
Garbage - Equipment	25,321	19,650
Land Development	48,090	1,201,370
Swimming Pool	41,800	39,800
Parks - Equipment	187,378	64,278
Recreation complex	90,665	71,665
Community Centre/Library	55,500	18,900
	2,206,410	3,382,271
Total Reserves:	2,988,991	3,951,942

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

21. BUDGET AMOUNTS

The 2023 budget for the Town of Picture Butte was approved by Council on February 27, 2023 and has been reported in the consolidated financial statements for information purposes only. These budget amounts have not been audited, reviewed or otherwise verified.

The approved budget contains reserve transfers, capital additions and principal payments on debt as expenses. Since these items are not included in the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements, they have been excluded from budget amounts presented in these statements.

In addition, the approved budget did not contain an amount for all the amortization expenses. In order to enhance comparability, the actual amortization expenses have been included as a budget amount.

	<u>\$</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 1,007,970
Less: Capital expenditures	(2,640,220)
Less: Long-term debt repayments	(211,430)
Transfer to reserves	(405,715)
Add: Amortization - not included in budget	-
Funds from unrestricted reserve	-
Transfer to operating	170,000
Borrowed funds	497,250
Transfer to capital	<u>1,582,145</u>
Equals: approved budget	<u>\$ -</u>

22. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.

23. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council and Management have approved these financial statements.



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Our Vision: *Picture Butte is the Community of Choice to work, live and play in Lethbridge County*

Our Mission: *Picture Butte is a thriving community dedicated to serving our people through fiscal responsibility and transparency*

Date: 22 March, 2024

To: Mayor, Council

From: Director of Corporate Services

Re: 2024 Mill Rate

Background:

At the March 11, 2024 Council passed the budget based on a 4% increase to revenues. With a 11.02% increase in assessment the 4% revenue increase allowed the Town to reduce our mill rate from 7.04010 residential in 2023 to 6.47393 in 2024. The non-residential remained the same at 8.63000

The total **2024 tax rate** is as follows:

2023 tax rate information:

Mill Rate

Residential	\$6.47393
Education	\$2.38495
Seniors	\$0.13958
Policing	\$0.36824
FCSS	\$0.063633

Total **\$9.43033**

Average Tax Notice Increase

Municipal Portion	\$37.12
Education	\$70.67
Seniors	\$ 3.64
Policing	\$20.03
FCSS	\$ 0.07

Avg Tax Increase **\$131.53**

Mill Rate

Residential	\$7.04010
Education	\$2.36347
Seniors	\$0.14033
Policing	\$0.32812
FCSS	\$0.070372

Total **\$9.94240**

Average Tax Notice Increase

Municipal	\$134.77
Education	\$ 1.94
Seniors	\$ (0.68)
Policing	\$ 3.28
FCSS	\$ 0.31

Avg Tax Increase **\$139.61**

The average is slightly higher due to 2 properties within our sample have large assessment changes due improvements made to these properties. If you take out these two properties the average increase would be \$89.50 rather than the \$131.53 reported above.

Several years ago, Council decided to slowly work towards the tax payers paying the full amount of policing that we are being charged by the province. At that time, we put fund into reserve to smooth out the policing being added to our tax base. The plan was to spread this reserve out over 5 years. Unfortunately, due to the larger than expected increase to the policing in 2023 and 2024 the reserve amount is just about depleted so in 2025 the tax rate for policing will climb even higher than it did in 2024.

If Council wishes I can pull in the more dollars form reserve in 2024 to reduce the increase. Right now, I have approx. \$32,000 coming in from reserve for 2024 and 2025. This leaves approximately \$10,000 left in the reserve account for 2026. This would mean that the tax payers will be paying more in 2025. By adding the \$100.00 it would reduce the average to \$120.27.

Recommendation Options:

THAT Council approve 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw.

Submitted by:

Michelle Overbeeke, CPA CMA
Director of Corporate Services

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

BYLAW # 948-24

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE TO AUTHORIZE THE RATES OF TAXATION TO BE LEVIED AGAINST ASSESSABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE, FOR THE 2024 TAXATION YEAR

WHEREAS, the Town of Picture Butte has prepared and adopted detailed estimates of the municipal revenues and expenditures required, at the Regular Council Meeting held on April 22, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the estimated municipal expenditures and transfers set out in the budget for the Town of Picture Butte for 2024 total **\$5,989,942.00**; and

WHEREAS, the estimated municipal revenues and transfers from all other sources other than taxation is estimated at **\$4,314,627.00**, and the balance of **\$1,675,315.00** is to be raised by general municipal taxation; and

WHEREAS, the requisitions are:

Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF):		
Residential / Farmland	\$ 419,475.00	
Non-Residential	<u>\$ 119,505.00</u>	\$ 538,980.00
Opted Out School Boards:		
Residential / Farmland	\$ 52,670.00	
Non-Residential	<u>\$ 31,745.00</u>	<u>\$ 84,415.00</u>
Total School Requisitions		\$ 623,395.00
Green Acres Foundation (Seniors Requisition)		\$ 34,000.00
FCSS		\$ 15,500.00
Provincial Policing		\$ 90,000.00
Designated Industrial Property (DIP Requisition)		<u>\$ 197.00</u>
Total Requisitions for 2024		\$ 763,092.00

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Picture Butte is required each year to levy on the assessed value of all taxable property, tax rates sufficient to meet the estimated expenditures and the requisitions; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Picture Butte is authorized to classify assessed property, and to establish different rates of taxation in respect to each class of property, subject to the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the assessed value of all property in the Town of Picture Butte as shown on the assessment roll is:

	Assessment
Residential / Farm Land – Public	\$ 176,617,900.00
Residential / Farm Land – Separate	\$ 21,350,880.00
Non-Residential / Linear – Public	\$ 34,631,960.00
Non-Residential / Linear – Separate	\$ 9,175,530.00
Machinery and Equipment – Public	\$ 1,809,920.00
Machinery and Equipment – Separate	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Assessment for 2024	\$ 243,586,190.00

NOW THEREFORE under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Picture Butte, in the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to levy the following rates of taxation on the assessed value of all property as shown on the assessment roll of the Town of Picture Butte:

	TAX LEVY	ASSESSMENT	TAX RATE
General Municipal			
Residential / Farmland	\$ 1,281,640.00	\$197,968,780.00	6.47393
Non-Residential and M&E	\$ 393,675.00	\$ 45,617,410.00	8.63000
Alberta School Foundation Fund			
Residential / Farmland	\$ 419,475.00	\$175,884,190.00	2.38495
Non-Residential	\$ 119,505.00	\$ 34,612,945.00	3.45261
Opted Out School Boards			
Residential / Farmland	\$ 52,670.00	\$ 22,084,590.00	2.38495
Non-Residential	\$ 31,745.00	\$ 9,194,545.00	3.45261
Seniors Requisition			
Green Acres Foundation	\$ 34,000.00	\$243,586,190.00	0.13958
FCSS	\$ 15,500.00	\$243,586,190.00	0.063633
Provincial Policing			
Residential / Farmland	\$ 72,900.00	\$197,968,780.00	0.36824
Non-Residential	\$ 17,100.00	\$ 45,617,410.00	0.37486
Designated Industrial Property Requisition			
DIP Requisition	\$ 197.00	\$ 2,579,850.00	0.076361
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 2,438,407.00		

2. That this Bylaw shall take effect upon the date of the third and final reading.

Read a first time in Council assembled this 22nd day of April, 2024

Read a second time in Council assembled this 22nd day of May, 2024

Council unanimously resolved to proceed to third reading this 22nd day of May, 2024

Read a third time in Council assembled this 22nd day of May, 2024

Mayor Cathy Moore

CAO Keith Davis



REQUEST FOR DECISION

- Our Vision:** *Picture Butte is the Community of Choice to work, live and play in Lethbridge County.*
- Our Mission:** *Picture Butte is a thriving community dedicated to serving our people through fiscal responsibility and transparency.*

Date: April 22, 2024
To: Mayor, Council
From: Director of Emergency Services

RE: Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw

Background:

Council has previously directed Administration to prepare a bylaw to regulate the use of the Regional Park campground. The drafted bylaw is encompassing of all parks, trails, and campground in the Town of Picture Butte and will give Parks staff, the municipal enforcement officer, and the RCMP the direction required to operate these public spaces according to Council desired service level.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this decision. The intent of this bylaw is to regulate the use of existing spaces and provide direction for operations and enforcement.

Recommendation:

THAT Council perform all three readings of bylaw 949-24 Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw.

Alternate Options:

THAT Council perform first reading of bylaw 949-24 Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw and provide Administration with direction for amendments or additional consultation.

Attachments:

949-24 Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw

Submitted by:

Frank West
Director of Emergency Services

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE
BYLAW NO. 949-24

A BYLAW OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL AND OPERATION OF PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS, AND PUBLIC LANDS.

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, and amendments thereto, provides that a Council may pass bylaws relating to the people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act also provides that a Council may pass bylaws relating to the services provided by or on behalf of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Picture Butte wishes to establish rules and regulations for the control and operation of its municipal lands and reserves, parks, open spaces, and campgrounds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Town of Picture Butte, hereby enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

1.1. This bylaw may be cited as the "Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw".

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. In this bylaw:

1. "CAO" means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Picture Butte, or designate;
2. "Council" means the Town of Picture Butte Council;
3. "Town" means the Town of Picture Butte, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof;
4. "Municipal Tag" means a document alleging an offence issued pursuant to the authority of a Bylaw of the Town;
5. "Enforcement Officer" means
 - a. A member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

- b. A Community Peace Officer as appointed by the Solicitor General of Alberta;
 - c. A Bylaw Enforcement Officer as appointed by the Town to enforce bylaws of the Town;
- 6. "Violation Tag" means a notice or tag in the form as approved by the CAO, issued by the Town, allowing a voluntary payment option of a fine established under this Bylaw;
- 7. "Violation Ticket" means a ticket issued pursuant to Part 2 of the Provincial Offences Procedures Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter P-34 and any amendments or regulations thereto;
- 8. "Park" means land owned or controlled by the Town that is now or hereafter established, dedicated, set apart or designated, specified or made available for use by the public as a park, recreation area, campsite or picnic site, and includes any and all improvements situated thereon or therein;
- 9. "Campground" means a park designated as a site on which daytime or overnight camping is permitted;
- 10. "Public Lands" means those lands designated with a public land use in the Town's Land Use Bylaw and deemed by Council as a space that is open to the public including trails;
- 11. "Highway, Vehicle, Motor Vehicle, and Motorcycle" shall respectively have the same meaning as are ascribed to them in the *Traffic Safety Act*;
- 12. "Camping Unit" shall mean:
 - a. a tent
 - b. a trailer
 - c. a tent trailer
 - d. a motor home
 - e. a van or
 - f. a truck camperused by a person as shelter equipment while camping;
- 13. "Park Attendant" means an employee of the Town of Picture Butte or an individual appointed by Council to monitor activities within a park or campground

3. PARK DESIGNATIONS

- 3.1. Council hereby designates the land involved in parcels PARCEL L;5747FV, PARCEL M;5747FV, and 13;5655HM as the "Regional Park" inclusive of the following facilities:
 - 3.1.1. Picture Butte Campground
 - 3.1.2. Harry Watson Memorial Ballpark
 - 3.1.3. Picture Butte Off-Leash Dog Area

3.2. Council hereby designates the land involved with parcel R1;2;7811382 as the “Lions Memorial Park” inclusive of the following facilities:

- 3.2.1. Lions Park Building
- 3.2.2. Picture Butte Outdoor Arena
- 3.2.3. Lions Park Picnic Shelter

4. PROHIBITIONS

4.1. No person shall, while in a Park, Campground, or on Public Lands:

- 4.1.1. Injure, damage or deface in any way or tamper with anything in such Park, Campground or Lands including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, trees, shrubs, hedges, flowers, lawn, buildings, plumbing, heat or light fixtures, walls, fences, gates, signs, benches, playground equipment, exhibits, animals and included all improvements situated thereon or therein;
- 4.1.2. Enter any area posted as a prohibited area for either motor vehicles, campers or pedestrians;
- 4.1.3. Start a fire, except in fireplaces provided for such purposes and except in a barbecue or other portable fire appliance in an area of such Park and Campground specifically designated for such purpose;
- 4.1.4. Cause, permit or allow any owned livestock or domestic animal under their control to be in such park or campground, other than a dog or cat. Such dog or cat shall be on a leash at all times, and the owner shall be responsible for picking up the animal’s feces.

4.2. No person shall cause, permit or allow any other person under their control to do anything prohibited by this Bylaw.

4.3. No person shall litter as specifically stated in the *Litter Act, Provincial Status*.

4.4. No person shall:

- 4.4.1. Use or operate any radio, television, record player or other music reproduction system in such a manner as to interfere with or lessen the use of enjoyment of the Park and Campground by any other person.
- 4.4.2. Discharge any fireworks or related similar apparatus.

4.5. No person shall act in a way that in the opinion of the Enforcement Officer is disorderly, dangerous, or offensive, including but not limited to: excessive and loud use of offensive language, drunkenness, nudity, and violent behavior.

4.6. No person shall defecate or urinate in a Park except in designated facilities.

4.7. Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent any employee or agent of the Town from performing his lawful duties.

5. CAMPING

- 5.1. No person shall camp overnight in a park or recreation area except in an area designated for that purpose, unless a person is otherwise authorized by the Town.
- 5.2. All campers are required to register and provide payment using the self-registration system provided within 2 hours of occupying campsite.
- 5.3. Only one camping unit is allowed per site, unless a person is otherwise authorized by a Park Attendant.
- 5.4. Quiet hours are in effect from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am every day of the week.
- 5.5. No alcohol or cannabis use is permitted off the campsite.
- 5.6. Speed limit within the park is 20 km/hour. All signs must be obeyed.
- 5.7. No person shall stay in the campsite longer than 14 consecutive nights without seeking permission from the Town.
- 5.8. The Park Attendant or Enforcement Officer may use his/her discretion to refuse admittance to any patron or may request patrons to leave the park, when an infraction of the Bylaw occurs.
- 5.9. All campers are required to abide by the current fee structure that exists for campsites, serviced, unserviced and overflow.
- 5.10. Overflow camping is designated by the Park Attendant and all camping units are required to pay the same fee structure that exists for the campground.
- 5.11. On expiry or cancellation of paid camping term, the occupant shall vacate the campsite and remove all shelter, equipment and other property and ensure the site is left in a clean and orderly manner.

6. ANIMALS

- 6.1. A person may bring a dog:
 - 6.1.1. Into a Park, Campground, or Public Lands so long as the dog remains on a leash at all times.
 - 6.1.2. Into an area so designated by signage permitting dogs on a leash.
 - 6.1.3. Off-leash in designated off-leash area of a Park, Campground, or Public Lands.
- 6.2. The person in control of the dog shall immediately clean up fecal waste and dispose of it sanitarily in an accepted dog waste receptacle.
- 6.3. Regulations for the use of off-leash dog areas include:
 - 6.3.1. No animals other than dogs may be brought into the fenced area.
 - 6.3.2. All dogs must be leashed until safely inside the dog park and returned to a leash prior to exiting.
 - 6.3.3. Dog owners must remain in the fenced area while their dogs are using the dog park. Owners must be in view of their dogs and have voice control at all times.

- 6.3.4. Choke, spike, chain or pinch collars are not allowed in the off-leash area.
- 6.3.5. Professional dog trainers are not permitted to use the dog park to conduct their business.
- 6.3.6. Children accompanying dog owners must be strictly supervised and spectators should remain outside the fenced area.
- 6.3.7. Aggressive dogs, female dogs in heat and sick dogs are not allowed in the off-leash area. Owners must immediately leash and remove dogs from the off-leash area at the first sign of aggressive behavior.
- 6.3.8. Dogs must have a current Town of Picture Butte license and have all vaccinations up to date. Current license and rabies tags must be worn on the dog's collar at all times.

7. POWERS OF THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

- 7.1. For the purposes of administering this Bylaw, the Enforcement Officer may:
 - 7.1.1. Enter on and inspect any land, road, highway, structure or work in a Park, Campground or Public Lands.
 - 7.1.2. Order any person in a Park, Campground or Public Lands to cease or refrain from any action, omission, or conduct that in the opinion of the Enforcement Officer is dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the use and enjoyment of the area by other persons.
 - 7.1.3. Remove from a Park, Campground or Public Lands:
 - 7.1.3.1. any person making an unauthorized use of the area
 - 7.1.3.2. any person failing to comply with any provisions of this Bylaw, or
 - 7.1.3.3. any person creating a nuisance or disturbance or committing a trespass or any undesirable act, by force if necessary.
- 7.2. An Enforcement Officer may remove, store, dispose of, or seize any vehicle or item parked or placed in contravention of the provisions of this bylaw, or abandoned.
- 7.3. In this section "abandoned" means:
 - 7.3.1. left standing at a location for more than 72 consecutive hours other than pursuant to:
 - 7.3.1.1. a license, permit or other similar authorization, or
 - 7.3.1.2. prior authorization of an Enforcement Officer or Park Attendant, or
 - 7.3.2. left situated unattended at a location or in a condition so that it constitutes a present or potential hazard to persons or property.
- 7.4. An Enforcement Officer may move the item or cause it to be moved to a location determined by them and store it or cause it to be stored or order the owner, operator or person in charge of the item to move the item to a location determined by the Officer and within the time determined by them.
- 7.5. If any item stored pursuant to this section is not, within 30 days of its removal or a longer period as determined by Council, claimed by the owner or someone on

their behalf in return for full payment for the removal and storage costs incurred, the item and its contents if any, shall be turned over to Council to be disposed of in a reasonable manner.

8. PENALTIES

- 8.1. Any person who contravenes a provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offense and upon summary conviction is liable to a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor in excess of \$5000.00 and/or eviction from the Park, Campground or Public Lands.
- 8.2. An Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Tag to any person, who the Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
- 8.3. A Violation Tag shall be served upon such person,
 - 8.3.1. personally,
 - 8.3.2. in the case of a corporation, by serving the Violation Tag upon the Manager, Secretary, other executive officer or person apparently in charge of a branch office,
 - 8.3.3. in the case of a parking offence, by attaching the Violation Tag to the vehicle, or by mailing a copy to such person by registered mail.
- 8.4. Where a Violation Tag is issued pursuant to the Bylaw, the person to whom the Violation Tag is issued may, in lieu of being prosecuted for the offence, pay to the Town the specified penalty in lieu of prosecution as indicated on the Violation Tag, and outlined in Schedule A.
- 8.5. In those cases where a Violation Tag has been issued and if the specified penalty in lieu of prosecution on the Violation Tag has not been paid within the prescribed time, then an Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to Part II of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.
- 8.6. Notwithstanding section 8.2 of this Bylaw, an Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to immediately issue a Violation Ticket to any person who the Officer has reasonable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this bylaw.
- 8.7. If a motor vehicle, off highway vehicle, aircraft, boat or trailer is involved in a contravention of this bylaw, the owner/operator of that motor vehicle, off highway vehicle, aircraft, boat or trailer is guilty of an offense.

9. SEVERABILITY

- 9.1. It is the intention of Council that each separate provision of this Bylaw shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein and it is the further intention of Council that if any provision of the Bylaw is declared invalid, all other provisions hereof shall remain valid and enforceable.

10. COMING INTO EFFECT

10.1. This Bylaw shall come into effect on the date of the third reading.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 2024. A.D.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 2024. A.D.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 2024. A.D.

TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE

Cathy Moore
Mayor

Keith Davis
CAO

SCHEDULE A

SECTION	OFFENCE	PENALTY 1 st Offence	PENALTY 2 nd and Subsequent
4.1.1	Causing damage to park or campground	\$250	\$500
4.1.2	Entering prohibited area	\$100	\$500
4.1.3	Unauthorized fire	\$100	\$500
4.1.4	Unauthorized animals	\$100	\$500
4.3	Littering	\$100	\$500
4.4.1	Noise violation	\$100	\$500
4.4.2	Discharging fireworks	\$500	\$2500
4.5	Disorderly conduct	\$100	\$500
4.6	Public urination or defecation	\$250	\$500
5	Camping violations	\$100	\$500
6	Off-leash dog area violations	\$100	\$500
	Nightly and weekly camping rates	As per the Fees, Rates and Services Bylaw	



CAO Report

Our Vision: *Picture Butte is the Community of Choice to work, live and play in Lethbridge County*

Our Mission: *Picture Butte is a thriving community dedicated to serving our people through fiscal responsibility and transparency*

Date: 19 April, 2024
To: Mayor, Council
From: CAO

North County Recreation Complex study

The consultants are working on the final copy and the change order request for the third schematic design. I am expecting this at the end of the April.

Wastewater Project

WSP are working on final design details, and utility right of ways. Aaron and I have regular meetings with WSP regarding this work and Phase 3 of the sanitary main upgrade.

Phase 3 Sanitary Main Install (4th Street from Hwy 25 to Crescent Ave.)

We were notified this week that Atco Gas plan on relocating their gas main from 29th of April to the 17th of May. The contractors that we have hired to do the sanitary main install, KLP, will be on site after the 17th of May. KLP have scheduled a 20 day period, plus days for inclement weather, for completion. Businesses have been notified by Aaron.

Sunset Park Phase 2

Fortis have stated that they are planning on removing the power lines in April. This will finally complete all work required for Sunset Park Phase 2. I followed up with Fortis regarding this but have not received an update as of writing.

Electric Ice Resurfacers

The reporting requirements for the funding have been met. Payment should be on its way. This project is complete.

Miscellaneous

- We will begin interview for the Parks and Recreation Director this week.
- We have a few interested parties ask questions about the Economic Development Committee. I expect that we will have a few applications that Council can consider in the near future.
- We had a staff appreciation breakfast at Eddies on the 12th of April. All staff were able to attend.
- I attended an Interagency meeting on the 17th of April.
- I participated in an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) consultation with Municipal Affairs staff on the 10th of April. This was a session seeking information about our experience with ICF and recommendations for legislation updates.
- Committee of the whole and Council meeting preparations.
- I have put together another grant application for the Community Facility Enhancement Program with Walk on the Wildside with cooperation from John Kolk.

HOLIDAY STATUS

Days in lieu used 35 hrs out of 70 hrs

Accrued Holidays 36 days

Submitted by: Keith Davis, CAO



Memorandum

- Our Vision:** *Picture Butte is the Community of Choice to work, live and play in Lethbridge County.*
- Our Mission:** *Picture Butte is a thriving community dedicated to serving our people through fiscal responsibility and transparency.*

Date: April 22, 2024
To: Mayor, Council
From: Director of Emergency Services

RE: Emergency Services Report – March 2024

Year-to-Date Emergency Events (Jan-Mar)						
Fire		Medical		Motor Vehicle Collisions		Total
Town	County	Town	Other	Town	County	
7	16	70	277	3	5	378

Fire Services

Fire crews responded to 19 events in March including 2 motor vehicle collisions, 2 tender assists, 3 alarms, 1 ice rescue, 2 structure fires, and 9 medical emergencies. Wildfire season officially begins March 1 every year, but was moved ahead to February 20th this year due to the increased fire risk across Alberta.

On March 11, 2024 our Technical Rescue Team was dispatched for an ice rescue on a pond in Coalhurst after reports that a child had fallen through the ice. Our TRT members were on scene in 16 minutes, entered the water and performed a search of the area. No victims were found and the reports turned out to be false, however it was a great exercise for the team and test of our response procedures.



Technical Rescue Team members in action in Coalhurst

Emergency Medical Services

Our EMS crews responded to 111 medical events in March with 68 being emergency response and 42 inter-facility transfers. March 30, 2024 marked the end of the year-long pilot project with Alberta Health Services to conduct inter-facility transfers. During the project, our IFT unit completed 495 patient transfers in the 131 shifts it was in-service throughout southern Alberta. On April 11, 2024 it was announced that 2 contracts had been awarded to private ambulance companies for low-acuity interfacility transfers within 50 kilometers of Calgary and Edmonton. However, no additional funding has been announced for this work outside of those 2 metro areas.

Our third contract extension on our 2012 EMS Contract with Alberta Health Services was set to expire on March 31, 2024. After months of requests to Alberta Health Services to begin the negotiation process for contract renewal, we received a bridging agreement allocating an additional six months to complete the negotiations. The Town of Picture Butte has agreed to the extension and again formally requested a negotiation meeting, but to date have still not received a commitment from AHS. The communication from AHS has been that they need time to complete the reorganization ordered by the provincial government.

Bylaw Services

Officer Mosby performs regular daily patrols of Picture Butte to actively monitor for bylaw compliance. Bylaw Services will be pivoting from winter-time snow removal enforcement to spring and summer enforcement including weeds, unsightly properties, trailer parking, and campground patrols. Officer Mosby and I have drafted the new *Parks and Campgrounds Bylaw* for Council review. Officer Mosby completed the annual business license renewal campaign in March with a much smaller number of follow-ups required from previous years, but also with one fine being issued. There are currently 4 of the 10 allocated Urban Hen Licenses issued in town.

2024 Bylaw Enforcement Files				
	January	February	March	Year-to-date Totals
Dog Control Bylaw	8	1	3	12 files
Traffic Bylaw	3	8	2	13 files
Noise Bylaw	-	-	-	-
Unsightly Premises Bylaw	24	14	6	44 files
Public Information	-	-	2	2 files
Business License Bylaw	1	1	9	11 files
Animal Regulation	1	-	-	1 file
Fire Protection Bylaw	1	-	-	1 file
Utility Bylaw	-	-	-	-
Land Use Bylaw	-	-	-	-
Urban Hen Bylaw	4	1	-	5 files
Total	42 files	23 files	22 files	87 files
Development Files	13 files	32 files	15 files	60 files

Emergency Management

The regional emergency management framework project continues as we have met with the steering committee and consultant several times recently. The consultant has drafted the bylaw and agreement, which Council has reviewed, and are in the final stages of approval from the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. We have a meeting with the AEMA team on April 26,

2024 to review the documents and process for regionalization. We have also begun the next phase of the project which includes development of the regional emergency management plan and training of municipal staff.

On April 9 and 10, 2024 we hosted a regional ICS 200 training course for municipal staff from Picture Butte, Nobleford, Coalhurst, and Lethbridge County. The 20 participants spent 2 days learning the basics of the incident command system and the organization and structure of an incident management team. A second training session was held April 16 and 17, 2024 in Coalhurst in which another 5 of our staff completed the same training along with regional partners.



Participants completing the ICS 200 training in our EOC room

Submitted by: Frank West, *Director of Emergency Services*

Keith Davis

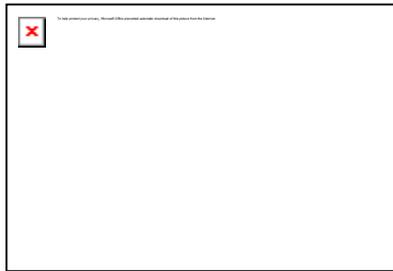
From: R.J Bailot <executivedirector@cataskforce.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:29 PM
To: Keith Davis
Subject: Re: Picture Butte

Good morning Keith,
I apologize for the delay in getting back to you.
Our organization actually assisted with the cats that were living in the home of the guy that was charged.

We have actually done some spay neuter assistance over the years in Picture Butte. One gentleman in particular was feeding several cats. Such a kind man. At this time we are not able to provide any additional clinics in 2024, but if you were interested we could connect to discuss 2025?

Cheers
RJ

RJ Bailot (*he/him/his*)
Executive Director | Canadian Animal Task Force
☒ 403-837-7442 ☒ cataskforce.org
☒ executivedirector@cataskforce.org



In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta

On Thu, Jan 18, 2024 at 12:21 PM Keith Davis <keith@picturebutte.ca> wrote:

Hello

I'm not sure if the news of Picture Butte has reached Calgary but we have had an incident in Town where an individual has been charged by the RCMP for abuse to animals. The allegations are that he was abusing cats in his home.

I don't know if our community is any different to any other rural community in Alberta but this incident has brought the ongoing issue of animal control, in particular cat control to a head in our Town. The Town of Picture Butte does not regulate cat ownership in Town and it is an issue that frankly the Town has not wanted to get involved in. With this latest isolated event Council may change their mind in this regard.

One of our Council members came across your website and I am just wondering if you could provide some specific details on how your spay and neuter clinics and Community Cat Care and Management programs work. I noticed that funding for the program comes from the municipality so I was wondering how that is calculated or what is requested to run that program.

Any information you could share would be valuable. Our Council meets on Monday night and it will be a topic of discussion.

Thanks for your time.

Regards

Keith Davis

CAO

Town of Picture Butte

(W) 403-732-4555

RECEIVED

APR 09 2024

TOWN OF
PICTURE BUTTE



April 4, 2024

Dear Town of Picture Butte:

I am once again launching a call for nominations for my Community Builders Awards, and given your role in our community, I am writing to ask if you might be willing to help spread the word and/or nominate someone you know?

Residents of the Lethbridge constituency are invited to nominate anyone who goes above and beyond to make a positive difference in our community.

In the past, this has included retirees, farmers, foster parents, educators, artists, athletes, social workers, coaches, entrepreneurs, emergency responders, student volunteers, and many others who go the extra mile to invest in the lives of others and make our community great.

The awards will be presented in four categories: youth leader, adult leader, not-for-profit leader, and business leader.

Recipients of the 2024 Community Builders Awards will be chosen by a panel of community members and will be honoured at a special ceremony in the fall.

If your life has been positively impacted by the investment of someone in our community, please nominate them today!

Should you be willing to help spread the word, a poster has been enclosed for display in your organization. For more information, please visit RachaelThomas.ca or contact Dallas at 403.320.0070. **The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, May 17th.**

Please feel free to share this invitation widely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RT" followed by a horizontal line.

Rachael Thomas
Member of Parliament for Lethbridge

COMMUNITY BUILDERS — AWARDS —

NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

CATEGORIES:

- YOUTH LEADER
- ADULT LEADER
- BUSINESS LEADER
- NOT-FOR-PROFIT LEADER

NOMINATE SOMEONE ONLINE OR BY PICKING UP A NOMINATION FORM IN THE OFFICE.



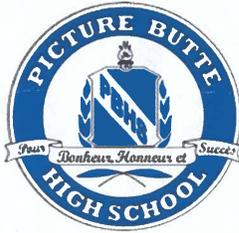
RACHAELTHOMAS.CA/
COMMUNITYBUILDERS
PH: 403-320-0070



NOMINATE SOMEONE BY MAY 17TH



RACHAEL THOMAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal
M. Lowe
mark.lowe@pallisersd.ab.ca

Box 1280
401 Rogers Avenue
Picture Butte, AB
T0K 1V0
Phone: (403) 732-4404
Fax: (403) 732-4757
www.pbhs.ca

RECEIVED

APR 10 2024

TOWN OF
PICTURE BUTTE

Town of Picture Butte
Attention: Keith Davis
PO Box 670
Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0

April 10, 2024

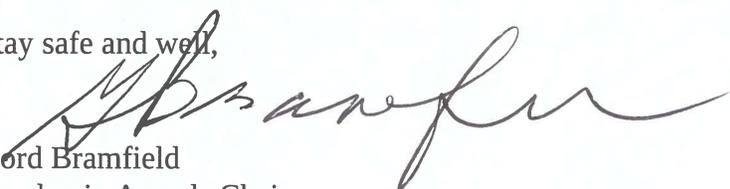
To all our Community Academic Award Sponsors,

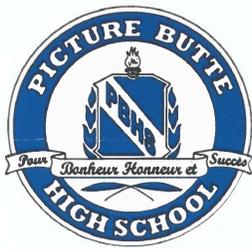
We hope this letter finds you in good spirits and health! We are quickly approaching the end of this school year which will culminate with our Academic Awards night. We are so appreciative of the support that this community has shown the students of Picture Butte High School in the past and we are hopeful for continued support. We want to reach out to you regarding your level of involvement with our Academic Awards. We will be running a full slate of academic and citizenship awards and we invite our sponsors to join us as we celebrate these academic and personal successes of our students. We are hoping to offer as many awards as we have historically, and hope that you are able to support us in some capacity.

As a sponsor, we are looking for your intent to give financial support or decline for the year. We would very much appreciate hearing from you so that we can begin to make arrangements. With that, we kindly ask if you could please fill out the enclosed form and return it no later than Friday, May 31st, 2024.

In times like this, we're reminded of how interconnected we all are. Thank you for being part of our community. Without you, none of it is possible.

Stay safe and well,


Gord Bramfield
Academic Awards Chair
Picture Butte High School



PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

2024 ACADEMIC AWARD FORM

The Picture Butte High School Academics Awards committee would like to thank you once again for your commitment to acknowledge achievement in our school. It is due to the contributions from this community and our Alumni that last year we were able to award over \$10 000, in recognition of our students' abilities.

Please take a minute to answer the following questions to help us out when organizing the event, and **enclose this form** with your sponsorship.

YES, we are willing to sponsor our special bursary or memorial award again this year

NO, we will not be able to lend support to this endeavour but we look forward to hearing from you next year.

Name of Award _____

Last year you contributed: \$200.00

Attending Awards Ceremony (June 26th, 2024 - Jr. High 6:00 PM & Sr. High 7:00 PM):

YES _____ **NO** _____ **If yes, name of person attending:** _____

1. A cheque or money order is enclosed. \$_____

Tax Receipt : Cheques need to be issued to **Palliser School Division**

No Tax Receipt: Cheques can be issued to **PBHS**

**** All cheques still need to be sent to PBHS for processing****

2. Name of Sponsoring Firm, Organization or Individual (for use in the program):

3. Contact name (please print clearly)

Please return before May 31st, 2024 to:

Picture Butte High School
PO Box 1280
Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0

Signature of Authorized Person

Keith Davis

From: Cathy Moore
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:46 PM
To: Keith Davis
Subject: Fwd: Recreation

Just received this. Thought I would share.

Cathy Moore
Mayor
Town of Picture Butte

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike Davies <md.weeds@shaw.ca>
Date: April 10, 2024 at 2:27:22 PM MDT
To: Crystal Neels | Town of Picture Butte <cneels@picturebutte.ca>
Cc: Cathy Moore <cmoore@picturebutte.ca>, Cynthia Papworth <cpapworth@picturebutte.ca>, Teresa Feist <tfeist@picturebutte.ca>, Henry deKok <hdekok@picturebutte.ca>
Subject: Recreation

Dear Town Council

When I first heard that you as town council thought that having a Recreation Director was a position needed in are town I was ,lets say blown away. This only going to add to the already huge deficit that we as tax payers in this town have to pay. The whole structure that the current CAO (Town Manager) has deemed necessary is just not needed in a town of are size. I have taken Recreation Management many years ago , at L.C.C and have a good understanding of this type of work and what the duties are . In my opinion there's really no reason that 4 administration staff in the office , lifeguards , Public Works Supervisor and a Lead Rec Hand can't manage a swimming pool that's seasonal and a Arena. Ball Diamonds ? really other than maintaining them what else do we expect? If the Town Manager can't organize the current staff to do this then I'm at a loss for words.

How I think a small town should approach Recreation

A Recreation Society that can oversee the arena and swimming pool, and all other cultural, recreation activities in the town . This Idea is not new with in small towns in are area. Village of Champion has a Swimming Pool Society, Lomand has one to run there Arena. The City of Calgary has a lot of community Arenas that are run buy a Society . Now before you disagree with this idea let me list a few benefits

The society would have a board that would consist of both Lethbridge County residents and Town of Picture Butte residents and councilors from each and members from the bigger user groups eg. minor hockey, mens hockey, curling club, figure skating ect. and general public .

Funds could be directed from the Lethbridge County and the Town of Picture Butte
More interaction with the user groups, they would have more say on the operation, this would drive them to become more interactive with the day to day operation, budgets and improvements .

Fund- Raising and grants would increase

The Town could reduce the financial burden on the town residents rather than increase them

The board would be responsible for the day to day , including staff

Outside funds for the operation would go directly to the Society eg. Lethbridge County , Town Of Picture Butte , and any grants they may acquire. That way we as residents and users of these facilities know what the cost really are.

The Society would hire the staff starting with a full-time administrator , the society would not be bound by Cupe staff and could contract out services or hire staff for their ability and not their union contract. The Rec Society could partner with outside companies for staff requirements , as does The village of Champion , they share lifeguards with the Town of Vulcan
There are lots of details to work out at the beginning but after that the benefits would be that the cost would go down and the community would get more involved

This is how you save money not just spend money
Mike Davie



Memorandum

- Our Vision:** *Picture Butte is the Community of Choice to work, live and play in Lethbridge County*
- Our Mission:** *Picture Butte is a thriving community dedicated to serving our people through fiscal responsibility and transparency.*

Date: 19 April, 2024
To: Mayor, Council
From: CAO

Re: Picture Butte Minor Hockey request

Background:

Picture Butte Minor Hockey is requesting to open the arena two weeks earlier than the 1st of October. They have committed to use their regular ice allocations for the month of September.

We have not prepared for this request and would ask Council to direct Administration to bring back a report with a recommendation in a Council meeting in May.

At the moment we are preparing to present the financial breakdown of arena costs, the results of the user satisfaction survey and any recommendations from those two analysis to Council for their consideration at the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

Recommendations:

1. To direct Administration to bring a report and recommendation to Council at the 27th of May Council meeting.

Submitted by: Keith Davis, CAO



PICTURE BUTTE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



Tuesday, April 8, 2024

Attn Mayor Moore and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Picture Butte Minor Hockey Association to ask for your consideration in opening the arena earlier in the year. We had made the same request last year, but it was too late at that time and we were told that it would be considered for this upcoming season.

We anticipate tiering to begin the weekend of October 4-6. With the arena opening on October 1st our teams only get one ice time before they begin their tiering games. As you can imagine this is not ideal and can cause a great deal of anxiety for many of our athletes and coaches.

Additionally, with other associations having ice as early as the beginning of September it puts our teams at a huge disadvantage and makes it even more difficult for our teams to be tiered properly.

We are hoping that you will consider opening the arena for the week of September 16. We will commit to using our regular ice time on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays-Sundays through September.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristy Ruaben
Ice Scheduler

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2024; 6:00 pm
ORRSC Boardroom (3105 - 16 Avenue North, Lethbridge)

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission was held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm, in the ORRSC Administration Building, as well as virtually via Zoom.

Attendance

Executive Committee:

Gordon Wolstenholme, Chair
Scott Akkermans
David Cody
Christopher Northcott
Neil Sieben

Staff

Lenze Kuiper, Chief Administrative Officer
Raeanne Keer, Executive Assistant

Absent

Don Anderberg, Vice Chair
Brad Schlossberger

Chairman Wolstenholme called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Christopher Northcott

THAT the Executive Committee adopts the March 14, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Scott Akkermans

THAT the Executive Committee approves the January 11, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Official Business

a. Staff Update

L. Kuiper stated that we welcomed a new Assistant Planner, Rachel Schortinghuis, who joined us this week.

He stated that in addition, we have received notice from Sherry Johnson, Bookkeeper, of her retirement at the end of April, and have hired her replacement to start in mid-April.

L. Kuiper further explained that we have been advertising for a Planner but have been unsuccessful in finding a candidate and therefore we will be starting another round of interviews for a second Assistant Planner to be able to assist the Planners with their work loads.

b. Subdivision Activity

L. Kuiper presented the Subdivision Activity statistics as of February 29, 2024 for information.

The Committee discussed the average number of applications received and the correlating number of lots created.

c. Municipal Outreach and Communication

L. Kuiper stated that he has been in conversation with a nearby municipality who is interested in joining the Commission and that we hope to make a presentation to their Council and Administration soon.

L. Kuiper stated that some questions have come out of the 2024 membership fee increase, and that many of them are connected to some of our members still operating with the 1995 agreement. He stated that we will be starting to review our contracts to update them to current practices.

d. GIS Update

L. Kuiper stated that some changes will be coming to our hosting platform for GIS and as a result we will need to purchase additional servers to handle the capacity.

e. SDAB and ARB Update

L. Kuiper stated that we are looking for new ways to manager our board members for the Chinook Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board and the Regional Assessment Appeal Board to help alleviate some of the work from member municipalities regarding recruitment and work to find efficiencies in managing the board.

5. Accounts

a. Office Accounts

L. Kuiper presented the Monthly Office Accounts for December 2023 to January 2024 and the Payments and Credits for November to December 2023 to the Committee.

Moved by: David Cody

THAT the Executive Committee approve the Monthly Office Account for December 2023 to January 2024 and the Payments and Credits for November to December 2023.

CARRIED

b. Financial Statements

L. Kuiper presented the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023, the Comparative Income Statement actual to December 31, 2023, and Details of Account as of December 31, 2023 to the Committee.

Moved by: Scott Akkermans

THAT the Executive Committee approve the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023, the Comparative Income Statement actual to December 31, 2023, and Details of Account as of December 31, 2023.

CARRIED

6. New Business

There was no new business for discussion.

7. CAO's Report

L. Kuiper presented his CAO Report to the Committee.

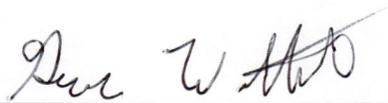
8. Round Table Discussions

Committee members reported on various projects and activities in their respective municipalities.

9. Next Meeting – April 11, 2024

10. Adjournment

Following all discussions, Chair Gordon Wolstenholme adjourned the meeting, the time being 7:03 pm.



CHAIR



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



122 – 5th Avenue South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0S9 • 403-328-1155 • www.greenacres.ab.ca

VIA EMAIL
April 5, 2024

Keith Davis
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Picture Butte
120 – 4th Street North
Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0

RE: GREEN ACRES FOUNDATION 2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Keith,

Please find attached the 2023 Report to the Community for Green Acres Foundation.

As a partner municipality, I would like to request a time for Jeff Carlson, Board Chair, and I to address the council and answer questions regarding this report. I look forward to your response so we can make these arrangements.

Sincerely,

GREEN ACRES FOUNDATION

Dawna Coslovi
Chief Executive Officer



Report to the Community —2023—



Message from the Chair and CEO

2023 was another spectacular year for Green Acres Foundation. Our resident survey results for 2023 show that our residents felt safe in their GAF home – which makes us proud of the work we do. We were also recognized by the citizens of Lethbridge and area as the Best of the Best in Seniors' Housing for the 5th year in a row.

In 2023 we honoured our past with the 50th anniversary of Blue Sky Lodge opening. As well, we opened Phase 1 of Abbey Road Terrace with 15 new apartment suites in a beautiful southside neighbourhood.

As we look ahead, we need to continue in our forward momentum. We are committed to continual improvements of our sites and to growth of our organization. To ensure we are prepared for the necessary future need for housing in our area, the Foundation purchased land in strategic areas of Lethbridge. We are “shovel-ready” for a capital project to rebuild the existing 1979 built lodge in Picture Butte. The new lodge would have appropriately sized suites and amenities with the overall capacity increased to 50 suites. The lodge is a provincially owned building and we need the government's financial support to rebuild. We have been requesting this support from government since 2015 and we will continue to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens in that area in our goal to see this project come to fruition.

Since 1960, the Foundation has been committed to provide superior housing for southern Alberta senior citizens. With services provided by our group of dedicated employees, we can ensure our residents enjoy a high quality of life. We are extremely grateful for the loyalty and dedication shown by our employees, who strive to provide safe, secure and enjoyable housing communities for seniors.



Jeff Carlson, Chair
Board of Directors



Dawna Coslovi
Chief Executive Officer



Blue Sky Lodge's 50th Anniversary

Board of Directors

Green Acres Foundation is governed by a nine member Board of Directors. The board members are appointed by the City of Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, the Towns of Coaldale, Coalhurst, Picture Butte and Nobleford, and the Villiage of Barons. The 2023 board members were:

Jeff Carlson, *Chair*
Don McDowell, *Vice Chair*
Heather Caldwell
Rajko Dodic
Ron Gorzitza
Lorne Hickey
Roger Hohm
Cynthia Papworth
Ryan Parker



403-328-1155



greenacres.ab.ca



@greenacreslethbridge

Who We Are

Our Mission

Green Acres Foundation provides affordable housing and quality services responsive to the needs of clients.

Our Vision

To be a fiscally sustainable organization known for innovation, growth, diversity, and recognized as the trusted choice for affordable housing and quality services.

Our Values

Integrity, honesty, respect, and loyalty

Our Guiding Principles

- We strive for the provision of service excellence while ensuring the safety, security, and dignity of residents and employees
- We are innovative, attuned, and adapt to the future needs in the housing market place.
- We are open to diversity in programs and service delivery
- We uphold the highest ethical standards
- Affordability is a priority in our decision making
- Partnerships, collaboration, and cooperation are integral to our operations.
- We are a good corporate citizen

Our Strategic Priorities

A Great Place to Live

Strategic Alliances and Partnerships

Organizational Growth and Sustainability

A Great Place to Work

Organizational Profile

We Offer



Housing



Services



Community



Affordability



Security



Activities and
Excursions

Alliances and Partnerships

At Green Acres Foundation we believe that we need to work together with community partners for the good of our residents and organization. The Board of Directors has established that mutually beneficial partnerships should be considered whenever possible. We are proud of the strong partnerships that we have established, as these collaborations assist us in being the housing provider of choice.

Our very strong partnership with Alberta Health Services started in 1999 at Piyami Lodge to provide housing with health care services. As a result residents are able to “age in their community” rather than having to move away from their home. This is the partnership that started the evolution of housing operators and health collaborations which are now available throughout Alberta as the designated supportive living model. Following that Piyami Lodge partnership, the Foundation established three additional partnership agreements with AHS to provide designated supportive living level of care within three home-like lodge settings.

To further assist Albertans from outside of Lethbridge, we offer housing for patients who undergo treatment at the Jack Ady Cancer Centre. Our alliance with the cancer centre dates back to 2010. We continue to receive messages of appreciation from guests accessing this service.

We also have a long-standing partnership with Lethbridge Elder Abuse Resource Network (LEARN). This partnership started in 2016 with the Foundation providing “safe suites” for seniors requiring temporary accommodations and services due to an abusive situation. Since the inception of this innovative program, we have assisted many residents during their stressful time of need; many of whom continue to live with Green Acres Foundation.

We also recognize the importance of partnerships with youth organizations and provide space for the Lethbridge Guides at two lodge sites for their group activities. The intergenerational interaction between the youth and the residents is beneficial to everyone.

In 2023, the Foundation entered into three new partnership agreement(s) with the City of Lethbridge, Government of Alberta, and CMHC and obtained partial funding for the construction of Abbey Road Terrace.

We continue to nurture our existing partnerships with AHS, the Seniors System Navigation Team, LEARN, Volunteer Lethbridge and many of the area schools. Strong partnerships enhance what we are able to offer our residents and we will continue to seek mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships.



“We will never forget your many kindness during our stay. This is so important especially when going through difficult times like cancer treatment. You took away all extra challenges people like us face, and made it a really good experience. God bless you all.”

Barb and John



Successes of 2023

Best of the Best

Green Acres Foundation was voted Best of the Best in the Seniors Housing category for the fifth year in a row!

E-Bike Launch

In April and May 2023, we launched our new assisted E-bikes for our residents. These E-bikes were funded through our annual charity golf tournament, Lions' Club of Picture Butte, and partial funding by the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta.

New Look

Our website got a fresh new look that better represents Green Acres Foundation as a great place to work and live and includes new features to help clients choose their path towards senior living.

Abbey Road Terrace

In July 2023, we welcomed the first residents into Phase One of our historical apartment location. Phase I was completed on time and under budget. Phase II of the building will be completed in July 2024.



Blue Sky Lodge E-bike launch, May 2023



Successes of 2023

Social Media

The gingerbread house contest featured on our Facebook page in December was a great success. This contest generated interest internationally and reached over 6000 people, gaining 66 new followers. The winner was Pemmican Lodge, who created a replica of their Lodge, complete with little gingerbread residents using pretzel walkers.



Pemmican Lodge's gingerbread house

Wheatheart Manor

We purchased Wheatheart Manor apartment building located in Barons, Alberta. This six-unit site provides much needed affordable housing in that municipality.

Our Future

At Green Acres Foundation, we are determined to ensure that sufficient affordable seniors' housing is available in our area. We are "tender-ready" for one re-build project and anticipate breaking ground in the near future. In 2023, we finalized the purchase of property in west Lethbridge – completing our goal of strategically having land available in the three sectors of Lethbridge.



Donations

One of the ways we fulfill our role as a good corporate citizen is through fundraising for other causes. Some of these donations from employees and residents include: \$6,088 to Westminister Elementary School, \$253 to partner schools for Pink Shirt Day/ Anti-Bullying Day, \$957 to the Terry Fox/ Silver Fox Campaign, \$1,213 to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, \$1,300 and 1,329 lbs in food donations to the Lethbridge Food Bank for our "Feed the Bus" event, and 527 lbs of food for the North County Interfaith Outreach Society.

Great Place to Live

"I am very excited and I have been happy to have chosen this place to live."

"Everything is excellent. When I have a chance, I recommend other people to come here and have a look!"

"The variety of outings and activities are exceptional and I enjoy all the staff as they try to accommodate a variety of options."

Great Place to Work

"I totally enjoy working for Green Acres Foundation!"

"I enjoy my work and interaction with staff and residents."

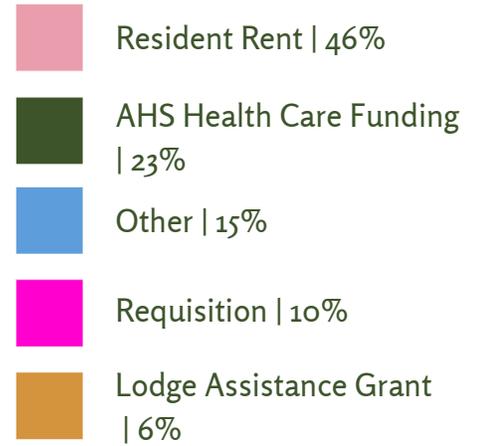
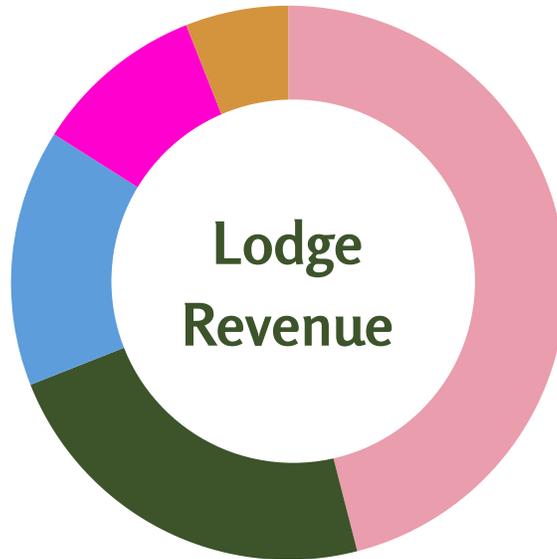
"Great job Piyami for making this a great environment for the residents. Comments are regularly made about the great care given to family members, excellent food and the cleanliness of our facilities."

2023 Financial Overview

Lodge Communities

Other Revenue

- Grants
- Investment Income
- Donation Revenue

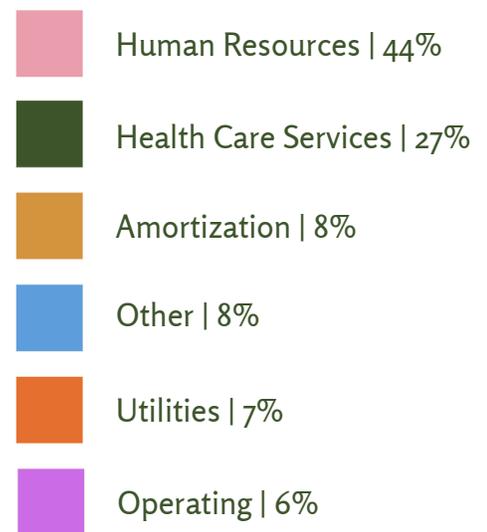
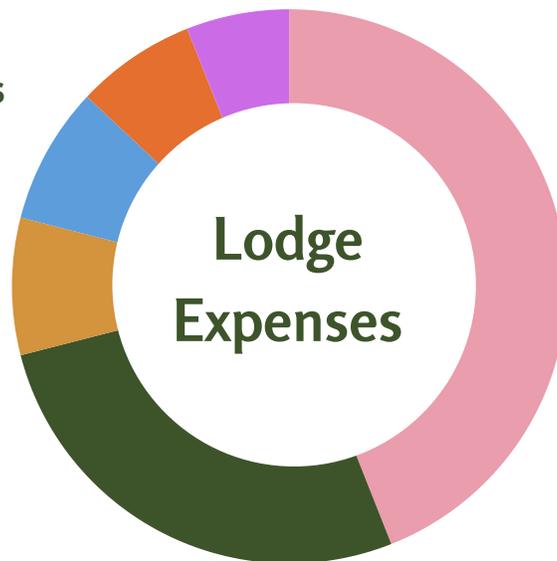


Maintenance Projects

\$442,500

Examples include:

- suite renewals
- boiler replacement
- floor covering replacement
- roofing replacement
- security fencing



\$2,137 / Month

Average Cost to House a Resident

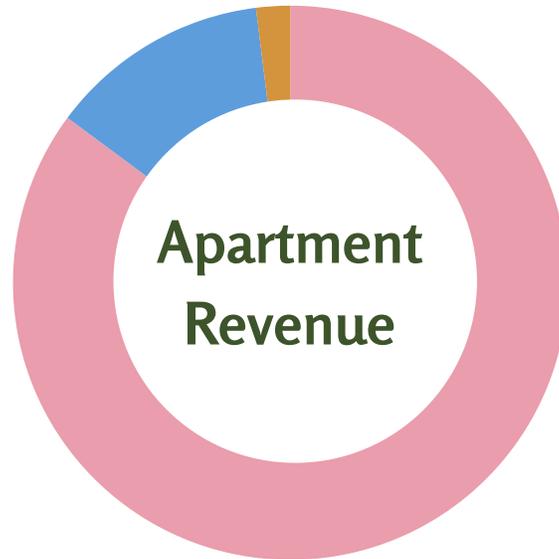


\$1,847 / Month

Average Lodge Rent Paid

2023 Financial Overview

Senior Independent Apartments

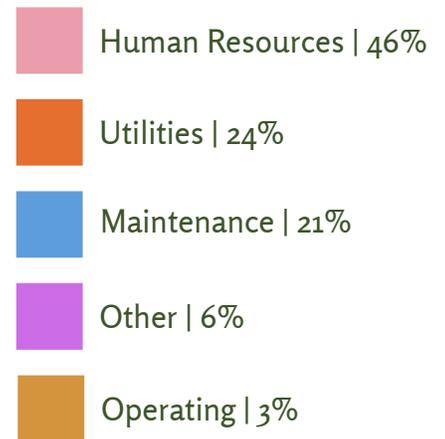
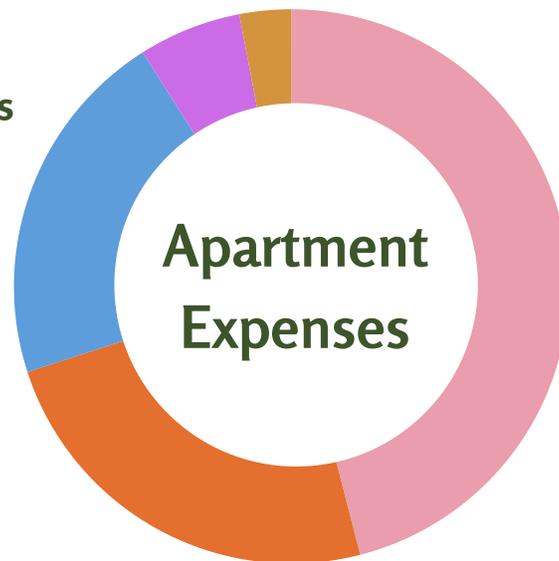


Maintenance Projects

\$807,800

Examples include:

- sanitary sewer line replacement
- suite renewals
- hot water tank replacements



\$698 / Month

Average Cost to House a Resident



\$700 / Month

Average Lodge Rent Paid

2023 Foundation Facts

98%

Ninety-eight percent of residents are satisfied with staff.

98%

ninety-eight percent of residents feel their facility is safe.



2,500

Volunteer Hours



683,280

Meals Served



32,448

Rooms Cleaned

98%

ninety-eight percent of residents are satisfied with the cleanliness of their facility

96%

ninety-five percent of employees say GAF is a great place to work.

Number of Employees & Volunteers



125

Healthcare



128

Chefs
Food Service



56

Resident
Services



67

Support Staff



99

Volunteers

Total 475

5 retirements totaling 132 years of service.
Longest serving employee retired with 43 years of service.



13

Number of centenarian residents in 2023.

Percent of Male & Female Residents



Apartments



Lodges



48%

Forty-eight percent of employees have 5 to 10 years of service.

27%

Twenty-seven percent of employees have over 10 years of service.

**Barons-Eureka-Warner Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Minutes of Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Coaldale Hub (2107-13th Street)
In-person and Online**

Attendance (in-person)

Board Members:

Degenstein, Dave – Town of Milk River, Chair
Caldwell, Heather – Town of Coalhurst
Bekkering, Garth – Town of Taber
Coad, Ray – Town of Vauxhall
Doell, Daniel – Village of Barons
Feist, Teresa - Town of Picture Butte
Foster, Missy – Village of Barnwell
Harris, Merrill – M.D. of Taber
Heggie, Jack – County of Warner
Jensen, Kelly – Town of Raymond
Jensen, Melissa – Town of Nobleford
Nilsson, Larry – Village of Stirling

Attendance (on-line):

Chapman, Bill - Town of Coaldale, Vice-Chair
Payne, Megan – Village of Coutts

Absent

Hickey, Lorne – Lethbridge County
Kirby, Martin – Village of Warner

Staff (in-person):

Morrison, Zakk – Executive Director
Hashizume, Linda – Executive Assistant
Florence-Greene, Evelyn – Accounting Assistant

Call to Order

D. Degenstein called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

J. Heggie moved the Board to approve the agenda as amended.

- Items under Delegation 3b will present first, 3a second.

Carried Unanimously



Minutes

T. Feist moved the minutes of the February 7, 2024, FCSS Board meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Delegation

Leanne Coquet, Counsellor & Co-Chair Joint Health and Safety Committee reported to the Board on the Activities of the Joint Health and Safety Committee for 2022/2023.

D. Degenstein asked where the Muster point is located at the Coaldale office.

L. Coquet stated that the Coaldale Muster point is located by the Little Free Pantry Box on the northwest side of the building.

G. Bekkering asked about single person worksites and safety around working alone.

L. Coquet stated:

- FCSS has a policy regarding working alone.
- Working alone training is provided.
- Door chimes were installed to alert staff when someone enters building.

L. Nilsson moved the Board to accept the Joint Health and Safety Committee Report for 2022/2023 for information.

Carried Unanimously

Leanne Coquet left the meeting at 4:15 pm.

Jillian Boyd, Youth Development Coordinator, and four Youth DO Crew participants presented information on the Youth Sensory Suitcase including background information, funding, and details on their contents.

The Board discussed the Youth Sensory Suitcase and asked questions.

T. Feist moved the Board to thank Jillian Boyd, Youth Development Coordinator and the Youth DO Crew participants for their time and receive the presentation as information.

Carried Unanimously

Jillian Boyd and the Youth DO Crew participants left the meeting at 4:45 pm.



Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented for information:

- SAKA AGM Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2024
- 2024-02-09 – Village of Stirling – Updated Council Appointments – Deputy Mayor Larry Nilsson and Councilor Alternate Matt Foss to the FCSS Board for 2023-2024 year.

M. Harris moved to receive the correspondence presented for information.

Carried Unanimously

Reports

Executive Director

Z. Morrison reviewed the Executive Director's report.

The following was highlighted:

- National Volunteer Week (NVW 2024) from April 14th – 20th.
- The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is a **FREE** service and is available to all eligible residents in the Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS service area. More information at <https://fcss.ca/community-volunteer-income-tax-program/>
- Emergency Response Provider Counselling Services. More information at <https://fcss.ca/counselling-services/>

J. Heggie moved the Board to approve the Executive Director's Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Financial Report

Z. Morrison reviewed the Financial Report.

The Board discussed the Financial Report.

G. Bekkering moved the Board approve the March 2024 Financial Report including:

- Financial statement for January 31, 2024;
- Monthly accounts for January 1-31, 2024;
- ATB Mastercard statement January 12, 2024 to February 12, 2024

Carried Unanimously

New Business

Z. Morrison shared with the Board that an invitation was received from the Consulate of Mexico in Calgary for an information exchange with two of our staff.

Round Table:

T. Feist shared FCSS held a Newcomer Event on March 1, 2024, in Picture Butte.

L Nilsson shared Stirling is celebrating their 125 Anniversary on May 5, 2024 and invited the Board members to attend.

M. Harris shared the province is discussing drought strategies.

J. Heggie asked how the FCSS Tax season is progressing.

Z. Morrison responded that the tax season is busy.

J. Heggie asked if the construction of the office space was completed and if it is satisfactory.

Z. Morrison responded the construction has been completed and Management has found it is working well.

H. Caldwell reported Coalhurst is starting a Community Garden, has a Community Grant and Neighborhood Grant program.

H. Caldwell indicated she will connect with Zakk Morrison regarding some statistics from the Early Childhood Mapping Project from several years ago.

M. Jensen shared a clothing exchange was held in Nobleford. They are renovating a building to house the new Town Office and have implemented SeeClickFix click fix app that residents can access for increased community and public works information in Nobleford.

B. Chapman attended the budget speech held by Nate Horner in Lethbridge.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next regular Board meeting will be April 3, 2024, at the Coaldale Hub (2107-13th Street) in-person and online (via Teams) starting at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

D. Doell moved the meeting adjourn at 5:07 p.m.

Carried Unanimously



Chairperson

03 APR 24



Executive Director

April 9/2024

Water Management

An urban perspective on planning for water.

As southern Alberta municipalities face looming water scarcity planners must push for the development and implementation of policy and regulatory tools to help secure a sustainable future for their communities. Educational campaigns are necessary to put this conversation at the forefront as municipalities look to respond, alongside the provincial government and other stakeholders, with meaningful short and long-term solutions for urban development in a drought-prone region.

Oldman River Regional Services Commission



Water Management Context

The 2003 Water for Life Strategy initiative sought to focus the conversation on water management. Through the Alberta Water Futures: Risks and Opportunities for Water Management, Perspectives Report, June 2021, the large players in the management strategy have acknowledged that “further work is warranted [and] we need to look ahead, plan, and to take action to shift from being a predominantly reactive water management system to one that is more proactive, thereby ultimately increasing the resilience of the system to future risks.” The water crisis of 2023 where water had to be hauled to communities in the Municipal District of Pincher Creek because the Oldman River Reservoir intake was dry highlights the need for a proactive stance. It is not so much that water issues have changed; it is that in the cyclical reality of southern Alberta’s semi-arid climate, we get lulled into an over appreciation of the wet years as the norm and perhaps misunderstand why the southern basins were closed to new water licences in the first place.

Alberta’s existing water transfer system currently allows for the re-distribution (trading) of water licences between different water users, under certain conditions. The current system has several public policy protections: a public review of every water transfer, the consideration of hydrological and third-party impacts for each transfer, and the opportunity for the province to hold back 10 percent of the allocation for environmental in-stream purposes.

At the municipal level, governing water use decisions has always been a matter of balance between economic growth and licensed allocation. Hidden within the notion of some users is the idea that water is a virtually free subsidy with few guard rails on development-related consumption. The true cost of water is however increasing for urban populations. It cannot be overstated that if you are planning for land use you are by default planning for water and therefore should place an emphasis on the effect the planning approval would have on water availability for other uses and users. This periodical will examine the role urban municipalities have as partners in water management and in making land use decisions that affect water usage in southern Albertan urban communities.

Climatological Context

A semi-arid climate is a dry climate sub-type. It is located in regions that receive precipitation below potential evapotranspiration, but not as low as a desert climate. There are different kinds of semi-arid climates, depending on variables such as temperature, and they give rise to different biomes. Southern Alberta is considered a cold semi-arid climate. Cold semi-arid climates (type “BSk”) tend to be located in elevated portions of temperate zones generally from latitudes in the mid-30s (Oklahoma City) to low 50s (Red Deer), typically bordering a humid continental climate or a Mediterranean climate. They are also typically found in continental interiors

What is a Water Licence?

A water licence is required for any individuals wanting to use or divert water in Alberta (with few exceptions). From business to individual use, the regulations apply if one wishes to use ground or surface water. Since August 2006, portions of the South Saskatchewan River Basin have been closed to new water licence applications, except for First Nations, Water Conservation Objectives (WCO), and water storage projects (as per an Approved Water Management Plan). This moratorium on the issuing of new water licences has created Canada’s first market-based system to transfer (trade) water licences.

Source: Alberta Water Portal Society



Emergency intake facility at the Oldman River Reservoir for nearby urban communities.

Alberta uses an allocation system referred to as FITFIR (First-in-Time, First-in-Right). This system uses 'priority' as the determining factor in certain water-specific situations. Priority is the date and time number assigned to a water allocation and is recorded on the licence. Under Alberta licensing, there is no priority given to the specific use. However, the priority number indicates seniority in times of shortage and is the First-in-Time aspect of FITFIR. This means when there is not enough water for all the licencees, the oldest licencees get their water before the newer ones.

Allowing seniority protects existing licencees from shortages created by new users and also reminds new users not to be wasteful. Under this system, the more junior your licence, the greater the risk of not receiving all or part of your allocated water in low water years. However, during emergency situations, the government has the power to suspend a water licence and redesignate the water for other uses. A licence can also be cancelled for non-use or non-performance of a condition of a licence; however, there is no record of this occurring to date.

Water Conservation Objectives established under the provisions of the Water Act:

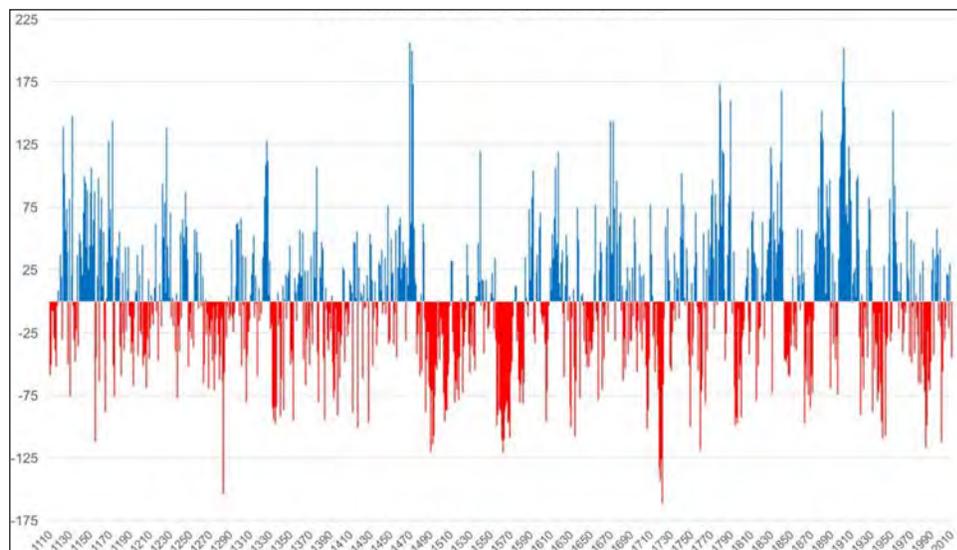
- protection of a natural water body or its aquatic environment, or any part of them;
- protection of tourism, recreational, transportation or waste assimilation uses of water; or
- management of fish or wildlife.”

Generally, a water conservation objective can be expressed in relation to a rate of flow needed or a water level needed.

some distance from large bodies of water. These areas usually see some snowfall during the winter, though snowfall is much lower than at locations in similar latitudes with more humid climates.

Drought is something that has occurred regularly in this region (for example, over 40 droughts have affected western Canada over the last two centuries). Over the last nine hundred years, the Prairie Provinces have experienced several decadal droughts, several multi-decadal droughts, and large flood event years (see Figure 1 where red represents drought years).

Figure 1: South Saskatchewan River: Water-Year Flow



Legislative and Policy Context

The legislative and policy documents governing water begin with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* which references the *Water Act*, Water for Life, and the Approved Water Management Plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin.

The *Water Act* supports and promotes the conservation and management of water, through the use and allocation of water in Alberta. It requires the establishment of a provincial water management framework and sets out requirements for the preparation of water management plans. The Act addresses: Albertans' rights to divert water and describes the priority of water rights among users; and the types of instruments available for diversion and use of water and the associated decision-making processes. It also includes the range of enforcement measures available to ensure the goals of the Act are met. Water-related legislation is of particular note, given that water-based amenities are common in urban campgrounds, where riparian environments, wetlands, navigable waters, and fish-bearing watercourses exist, supported by their respective acts and regulations.

The water management plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin

recommends a balance that is broadly acceptable to the public between water consumption and environmental protection, in light of economic and social objectives and ecological necessity. The plan envisions future management in the basin combining innovative, efficient and productive water use and improved management of aquatic ecosystems.

Alberta is the first province in Canada to introduce the ability for a licensee to transfer all or part of its allocation on a permanent basis. The water, however, cannot be a new allocation, only an unused portion of an existing licence. The licence holder must demonstrate how their actions result in a reduced need for water (surplus water that has never been used could not be sold). Applicants can only obtain water through a licence transfer if they demonstrate a need for it. What has rarely played out in southern Alberta is the commodity sale of allocation for a development the scale of Cross Iron Mills mega-mall in Rocky View County (north of the City of Calgary). The mall was the first large-scale cash-for-water-rights transfer in the province of Alberta. Thus, began the first steps toward a market system that distributes water based on one's ability to pay.

The cost of urban bulk water may soon be a burgeoning battleground, but managers of water systems are just as concerned about upstream users and their contaminants which are adding to the overall cost of cleaning the water for consumption. Simply put, high-quality source water is less expensive to treat. Most provinces now appear to recognize the importance of developing plans that protect source water. In view of this, support of the Oldman Watershed Council and similar organizations could be viewed as an important partner to urban balance sheets.

Land Use Planning

In Canada, there are millions of lawns; watering them accounts for about one third of all residential water use. In a quick overview of Oldman River Regional Services Commission urban member planning documents, it was found that the term xeriscaping only occurred in 7% of current documents. Fewer still list the recommended drought-tolerant plants that should be encouraged for landscaping requirements on all permits. The resulting position is that landscaping is carried out on an individual's personal preference with limited interaction on the part of municipalities for approval of a landscape plan, an inspection of the installation, or follow up as a condition of development. The result may be perpetuating the use of water resources for extensive lawn growth in residential areas.

In industrial and commercial development areas the nature of development and expense of landscape turns on its head and is likely to be forgotten or limited resulting in barren streetscapes and seas of hardscape with little appeal and no relief from the sun. When successful, commercial settings often complete the necessary requirements with cubic yards of landscape gravel and drip irrigated plantings. The use of drip irrigation when maintained is a water saving approach to landscaping especially when feeding drought-tolerant plants suited to commercial environments.

In an article for Scientific American Krystal D'Costa writes: "The state of a homeowner's lawn is important in relation to their status within the community and to the status of the community at large. Lawns connect neighbors and neighborhoods; they're viewed as an indicator of socio-economic character, which translates into property and resale values. Lawns are indicative of success; they are a physical manifestation of the American Dream of home ownership. To have a well maintained lawn is a sign to others that you have the time and/or the money to support this attraction. It signifies that you care about belonging and want others to see that you are like them. A properly maintained lawn tells others you are a good neighbor. Many homeowner associations have regulations to the effect of how often a lawn must be maintained. So important is this physical representative of a desired status that fines can be levied if the lawn is not maintained."

Krystal D'Costa, "The American Obsession with Lawns," Scientific American, A Division of Springer Nature America, Inc., May 3, 2017, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/anthropology-in-practice/the-american-obsession-with-lawns/>

Just beware of a big misconception about xeriscaping: It means making landscapes more waterwise and appropriate for the local environment. It doesn't mean pulling out all the grass and replacing it with gravel. But lawns that include too much grass, the wrong type of grass, or grass in a bad spot require more water and maintenance than is sustainable. When you think about lowering water usage and lawn care, start with these steps before perusing the easy-care lawn alternatives that follow.

Thinking about replacing your grass lawn? Here are small steps you can take to get started:

- *Removing turf areas on slopes, where water runs off.*
- *Taking out narrow strips of grass, especially in "nuisance strips" near the sidewalk.*
- *Evaluating whether your turf is made of high-water-use grass mixes.*
- *Removing grass in corners of the lawn, or awkwardly shaped areas that are difficult to water and mow.*
- *Getting rid of grass along fences.*
- *Keeping appropriate use of grass lawns, like the areas where the kids play, helps cool patios and the house.*
- *Reducing the amount of grass on your property, especially where it doesn't grow as well (like under trees).*

With a deeper look at commercial and industrial land use, it is a worthy exercise for council and its planning staff to discuss land uses that require large quantities of water. Simple solutions like water recycling may be logical in the development of uses like car washes. Other uses could quite blatantly be inappropriate given local circumstance. The Town of Stavely recently removed the use of Cannabis Production Facility after the existing approved facility was found to be using 4 times (equivalent to the volume used by 180 households) its original development approval for water.

Historically, servicing projections were seldom put under the microscope at the time of development permit, but the state of the basin suggests that municipalities should begin looking closer at forecasting water use for individual developments. Without the benefit of a water master plan linked to future land use, restricting the development of large water users is a rather blind exercise. One of the most thorough water shortage response plans comes as part of the conversion of the temporary water licence to a permanent licence for the Claresholm Industrial area. A joint Water Shortage Response Plan (MPE, 2020) was adopted in August of 2020 between the M.D. of Willow Creek and the Town of Claresholm (subsequently added to the Town Water and Sewer Utility Bylaw). The plan was done as a requirement of Alberta Environment to receive the water licence. The M.D. of Willow Creek (including the Hamlet of Granum) and the Town of Claresholm have agreed to jointly implement the response plan and to issue joint media releases as the triggering criteria of the Pine Coulee Reservoir operating levels are reached.

From the normal full supply level of the reservoir, a five stage system of restriction was created as the water level declines. This system is applied to broad land use categories which include residential, commercial, public and agriculture. In the initial stages, water restriction for lawns moves from three days a week to a complete stop at a Stage 4 and 5 where reservoir levels are critically low. As one might expect several other residential activities are also curtailed at the critical levels, including pool and water feature top ups, vehicle washing, and spraying of outdoor surfaces.

The policy in addressing commercial business curtails water for aesthetic use on exterior cleaning and lawns, but it also addresses select businesses whose use of water is integral to their livelihood. At the Stage 4 restriction businesses with retail lawn, garden and plants must cease and car washing must stop at Stage 5. Hard reality for aesthetic based businesses, but in the context of water need for human/livestock consumption and firefighting as the Stage 5 allowable uses it is understandable.

Water Conservation as a Complete Multi-Departmental Approach

Land use planners have a role in the documents they help craft, but in water reduction policy there is a need for all levels of local governance to

participate. Many actions may already be addressed such as investing in water line replacement to eliminate water leaks in outdated infrastructure. Other policies may include:

- a re-evaluation of efficient water uses in public spaces and parks. Park space audits which include an evaluation of active and passive use and should be aware of the neighbourhood needs for the park;
- a street tree management and replacement program that chooses drought-tolerant species;
- furthering public education on the best practices for reduction of water on residential properties including how to design landscaping for drought tolerance with xeriscaping and encouragement of rainwater collection for use on landscaping;
- the installation of a demonstration garden that shows what can be achieved with minimal lawn;
- a rebate on water efficient household fixtures and/or appliances;
- ensuring all users are metered and that the water rates have been recently reviewed as the price of water has a major influence on the amount of water used by households. For example, in 2009, Canadian households with meters on volume-based pricing schemes used 73% less water than unmetered households on flat-rate pricing schemes.

In a search of ORRSC urban municipalities' water bylaws and websites, the results show that although all municipalities have rules regarding tampering with the water system and meters, only four have implemented water restriction protocols with a fine mechanism for enforcement. Most of the remaining urban municipalities had some form of public notice encouraging voluntary water use reduction. Water consciousness through education can have the biggest impact on water usage. As an example, the City of Brooks has published a citizen guide for 100 ways to reduce water.

Where land use planners have access to the information of other departments, this information can be fed back into land use planning documents. A municipal development plan can emphasize these other programs and provide land-based estimates for water use.

Concluding remarks

Some may argue that the management of irrigation allocation (currently licensed in the Oldman watershed for 73% of the total licensed amount) would provide a larger impact on the availability of water. But before southern Alberta gets to the critical decisions of transfers, being paid to remove lawn, or enforcing water efficient equipment for businesses and residences, there are efficiencies that a reduction in use can provide for urban construction and growth of the economy ...until it doesn't. Our American neighbours are playing out these policies on a big economic scale and agriculture is seeing the biggest losses in livelihoods as more water is allocated to human survival in metropolitan cities. Urban and rural entities end up owning that reality in increased food costs and loss of local revenues. If planning for land is planning for water, then every drop of water counts and so should our collective attitude toward it.

Alberta showed a 56% increase in water lost through the distribution system between 2011 and 2021 equating to 70.4 million cubic meters in 2021.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 38-10-0271-01 Potable water use by sector and average daily use



Xeriscaped public space in the Town of Claresholm

For more information on this topic contact admin@orrsc.com or visit our website at orrsc.com.

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