

Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council, to be held on  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order:
2. Agenda Amendments and Adoption
3. Adoption of the Minutes: a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – February 21, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
4. Delegation: None
5. Bylaws: None
6. Unfinished Business: None
7. New Business: a) Policy No. 44 – Sale of Municipal Lands – Request for Decision 24-11
8. Financial Reports: None
9. Committee Reports:
  - a) Red Deer River Municipal User Group – Councillor T. Besuijen
  - b) Lacombe Regional Solid Waste Commission – Councillor Gilliat
  - c) Parkland Regional Library Board – Councillor Gilliat
  - d) Alix Public Library Board – Councillor Gilliat
10. Administrative Reports: None
11. Correspondence a) Tyler Gandam, President, Alberta Municipalities – Keeping Political Parties Out of Local Elections
12. Closed Meeting: a) FOIP Section 17 – Personal Privacy Re: Human Resources
13. Adjournment:



This Strategic Plan provides a strong foundation for our organization to use as we move forward into the future. It reflects our commitment to the health, well-being, connectedness, and economic prosperity of our community. We want to make sure Alix is not just a great place to live, raise a family, and retire, but a place where one day your kids can live and raise a family of their own. And as we grow, we want to keep all the things that make our community special. In addition to the strategic goals in this plan, the Village of Alix will also continue delivering on fundamental municipal responsibilities such as fire protection, planning and development, water, waste collection, safe roads and more. Our community is much more than its elected representatives and municipal staff. It's the citizens who live, volunteer, work, play, and socialize here who shape this community and bring it to life. This plan shows our commitment to working for you and with you to help shape a bright future we can all be proud of.

## Vision

Vibrant Village by the lake

## Mission

We foster an open, cooperative government that encourages public participation and ensures levels of service our citizens expect and deserve.

## Core Values

**Community:** We will help citizens maintain the Village's unique qualities, foster a strong sense of belonging and strive to meet needs locally.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** As stewards of community resources, we will deliver municipal services in a cost-effective way.

**Innovation:** We will seek innovative solutions for the growth and success of the community.

**Respect:** We will treat each other with respect and act with integrity.

**Safety:** We will work in partnership with the community to prevent crime and protect lives, property, and the public realm.

**Teamwork:** We will build strong relationships with our public, employees, and partners under the shared goal of continuous improvement.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council, held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

- Present: Mayor Rob Fehr, Councillors Barbara Gilliat, Janice Besuijen, Tim Besuijen and Edwin Cole
- Also Present: Michelle White, Chief Administrative Officer
- Call to Order: Mayor Fehr called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- Public Hearing: a) Proposed Bylaw #481/24 – Municipal Development Bylaw – Request for Decision 24-09  
Mayor Fehr called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M.
- Call for Written Submissions: Mayor Fehr called for written submissions regarding the proposed Municipal Development Plan Bylaw #481/24.  
Three written submissions were reviewed.
- Call for Verbal Submissions: Mayor Fehr called for verbal submissions regarding the proposed Bylaw #481/24.  
There were none.
- Resolution #033/24: Moved by Councillor T. Besuijen that this Public Hearing of the Village of Alix Council be closed at 6:11 P.M.  
CARRIED
- Amendments/Deletions to Agenda: Mayor Fehr called for amendments to the agenda.
- Approval of Agenda:
- Resolution #034/24: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council approve the agenda as presented.  
CARRIED
- Minutes: a) Regular Meeting – February 7, 2024
- Resolution #035/24: Moved by Councillor J. Besuijen that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, be accepted as presented.  
CARRIED
- Delegation: a) Ms. Jill Hillman, Executive Director and Mrs. Latisha Niehaus, Administrative Manager, Alix Mirror Wellness Supports Society – Review of 2023 Resource Centre Programs  
Ms. Jill Hillman, Executive Director and Mrs. Latisha Niehaus, Administrative Manager of the Alix Mirror Wellness Supports Society entered the meeting at 6:13 P.M.  
Ms. Hillman and Mrs. Niehaus retired from the meeting at 6:45 P.M.
- Bylaws: a) Municipal Development Plan Bylaw #481/24 – Request for Decision 24-08
- Resolution #036/24: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council hereby give second reading to Bylaw #481/24, being a bylaw to authorize the adoption of a Municipal Development Plan.  
CARRIED

Bylaw: (continued)

- Resolution #037/24: Moved by Councillor Cole that the Village of Alix Council hereby gives third and final reading to Bylaw #481/24.  
CARRIED
- b) Bylaw #482/24 – Amendment to Utilities Bylaw #421/16 –  
- Schedule “A” - Request for Decision 24-05
- Resolution #038/24: Moved by Councillor T. Besuijen that the Village of Alix Council give first reading to Alix Utilities Bylaw #482/24 being a bylaw to amend Bylaw #421/16, “Schedule “A”, for the purpose of changing the Bulk Water Rate.  
CARRIED
- Resolution #039/24: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council give second reading to Alix Utilities Bylaw #482/24.  
CARRIED
- Resolution #040/24: Moved by Councillor J. Besuijen that the Village of Alix Council give permission for third and final reading to Alix Utilities Bylaw #482/24 at this time.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Resolution #041/24: Moved by Councillor Cole that the Village of Alix Council give third and final reading to Alix Utilities Bylaw #482/24.  
CARRIED
- Unfinished Business: a) Memorial Tree and Bench Program – Policy No. 47 – Request for Decision 24-06
- Resolution #042/24: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council hereby approves Policy No. 47 – Memorial Tree and Bench Program as presented.  
CARRIED
- New Business: a) Alix Public Library – Request for Decision 24-07
- Resolution #043/24: Moved by Councillor T. Besuijen that the Village of Alix Council hereby accepts with regret, the resignation of Ron MacIntosh from the Alix Public Library Board and extends appreciation for his years of service.  
CARRIED
- b) Municipal Census – Request for Decision 24-10
- Resolution #044/24: Moved by Councillor Cole that the Village of Alix Council hereby directs administration to conduct a Municipal Census in 2024.  
CARRIED
- Financial Reports: a) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing  
b) Bank Reconciliation – January, 2024  
c) Tax Trial Balance – February 14, 2024
- Resolution #045/24: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council hereby accept the Financial Reports as presented.  
CARRIED

Committee Reports: None

Administrative Reports: a) Chief Administrative Officer's Report

Resolution #046/24: Moved by Councillor J. Besuijen that the Village of Alix Council hereby accept the Chief Administrative Officer's Report as presented.

CARRIED

Correspondence and Information:

- a) Bashaw Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Alix Stats 2023
- b) Brenda Knight, Lacombe County Councillor, Division 2 – Mirror Day Parade Invitation
- c) Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas – Alberta's Water Shortage Management Plan
- d) National Police Federation – 2024 Pre-Budget Submission to the Government of Alberta
- e) Westerner Days 2024 – Central Alberta Pavilion
- f) S. Faszer – Lake Dredging and Riparian and Shoreline Removal – Notice of Objection
- g) S. Faszer – Alix Lake Dredging and Removal of Aquatic/Riparian Areas – Notice of Public Concern

Resolution #047/24: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that Correspondence Items (a) through (g) be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Closed Meeting: None

Adjournment:

Resolution #048/24: Moved by Councillor J. Besuijen that this Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council be adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

CARRIED

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer



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# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

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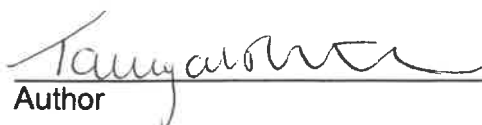


**Date:** February 28, 2024 RFD 24-11  
**Memo To:** Village Council  
**From:** Tanya Meston  
**Subject:** Policy Review: Sale of Municipal Lands

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1. **PURPOSE** – To review Policy No. 44, Sale of Municipal Lands.
2. **BACKGROUND** – This policy review date was set for 2025. An earlier review is requested in order to amend the policy to further comply with the Municipal Government Act.
3. **OPTIONS** –
  1. To amend the policy and set a new review date.
  2. To repeal the policy.
4. **DISCUSSION** – This policy was created in 2022 to provide guidelines and procedures to follow when a resolution has been made by Council for the sale of municipal lands. Number 6, (a) of the policy outlines the procedure for advertising a sale for less than market value. The advertisement must also provide an outline of the procedure to be followed by anyone wishing to file a petition.
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – None at this time.
6. **LEGAL** – Municipal Government Act, Section 606, Requirements for advertising and Section 231, Petition for vote on advertised bylaws and resolutions. The following wording is proposed to be added to the policy to comply with these MGA sections:  
  
*6. (a) "The advertised notice shall also outline the procedure to be followed by anyone wishing to file a petition."*
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** – The additional information added to Policy No. 44, Sale of Municipal Lands, will provide for clear direction on the advertising requirements to be followed by administration when providing information to residents and will result in residents' having access to all of the information they require if they wish to file a petition for vote on an advertised resolution.
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** –
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #1. I recommend the following resolution:

"that the Village of Alix Council hereby approves amended Policy No. 44, Sale of Municipal Lands, as presented and sets a review date of 2026 for the policy."

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Author





Department: Administration

Policy No: 44

Policy Title: Sale of Municipal Lands

Resolution No:

Date:

Review Date: 2026

### **Policy Statement:**

The Village of Alix wishes to see the community grow and prosper. Where practical, the sale of municipal properties is one way to achieve this goal.

NOTE: This policy does not pertain to the sale of property for the purposes of tax recovery as outlined in the Municipal Government Act.

### **Guidelines/Procedures:**

1. Council may determine by resolution to sell a municipally owned property and what method of sale to use.
2. The CAO may accept an Offer to Purchase property in any form. At a minimum, such an offer must include:
  - o The buyer's full name, address and phone number
  - o Date the offer is made
  - o Civic or legal address of the property the offer is regarding
  - o The dollar amount being offered for the property in Canadian funds
  - o Buyer's conditions on sale
  - o Closing date

The CAO may request additional information including but not limited to; a deposit amount to be included as part of the offer.

3. An Offer to Purchase must be brought to Council except when the property has been listed for sale with a real estate agent. When listed with a real estate agent, the CAO has discretion to accept, counter, reject or bring the offer back to Council based on guidance given during a Closed Meeting or by the resolution authorizing the property to be listed for sale.
4. If an Offer to Purchase is for market value of the property or higher, Council may make a resolution to accept the offer.

5. If an Offer to Purchase is received for less than market value of a property, the sale needs to be advertised prior to being accepted in accordance with Municipal Government Act s. 70.
6. Procedure for advertising a sale at less than market value is as follows:
  - a. Notice shall be advertised for a minimum of 2 weeks in a newspaper with local circulation or mailed out to all Village residents. The notice shall contain a description of the property, the amount of the offer being considered and shall give a 14 day period for public comment. **The advertised notice shall also outline the procedure to be followed by anyone wishing to file a petition.**
  - b. If a petition objecting to the sale is received, the CAO shall determine the validity of the petition in accordance with the legislated requirements outlined in the Municipal Government Act. The CAO has discretion to grant an extension to the public comment period if notified a petition of objection has been started before the 14 days has ended.
  - c. If a counter offer is submitted for the property within the 14 day period for public comment, the CAO shall advise the person who submitted the original Offer to Purchase and give them 5 business days (not including the day of notification) to respond with a higher offer. This process shall continue until there is only one buyer remaining.
  - d. If the dollar value of the final offer is the same or higher than the amount stated in the advertisement, there is no need to bring the matter back to Council and no additional advertising is required.

**General:**

7. Other considerations such as re-zoning, compliance with the municipal Land Use Bylaw, Development Permits etc. are to be considered outside the scope of this policy.
8. Information pertaining to an Offer to Purchase shall be treated as confidential in nature. It shall only be disclosed during a Closed Meeting of Council. The dollar amount may be disclosed for advertising and counter offer negotiations.
9. The Village may apply terms and conditions to the sale of property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Red Deer River Municipal User Group Association

January 18, 2024

Councilor Tim Besuijen

For more information see the RDRMUG web page [rdrmug.ca](http://rdrmug.ca)  
(Web page includes minutes of meetings and presentations, not printed here to reduce paper usage)

1. AGM
  - a. Review of Agenda and minutes from previous meeting
  - b. Financial Statement
    - i. Review draft financial statements, EOY 2023
    - ii. Appoint audit representatives.
      1. I volunteered to do this along with another RDRMUG member.
    - iii. Appoint Accounting Authority
  - c. Executive committee
    - i. The make up of this will be decided next meeting.
  - d. Guest Speaker: Roger Ramcharita – Executive Direct of Regulatory Assurance South – Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.
    - i. 2024 Drought Conditions
      1. Red Deer River at 59% of regular flow
      2. Forecast for El Nino warm and dry which is typically warm and dry.
      3. Dixon dam is full, other areas are way below normal levels
      4. Suggestion of a drought response plan for each municipality be set up by the municipality
2. Regular Meeting of RDRMUG at Drumheller.
  - a. Adoptions of agenda and previous meetings
  - b. Review financials, again
  - c. Review 2024 budget
3. Presentation of SSRM activities to date
  - a. One recommendation from the study is an instream storage on the Red Deer River. Better flood mitigation, better Water Conservation, more consistent flow to downstream.
4. Executive Director Report
  - a. Update on administrative items
  - b. Correspondence with Minister Schulz
5. Municipal round table

Regards,



Tim Besuijen



Lacombe Regional Solid Waste Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 22, 2023  
Prentiss Office

## **Organizational Meeting**

### **Election of Officers**

Chair – Grant Creasey – City of Lacombe  
Vice Chair - Dana Kreil – County of Lacombe  
Executive Member – Barb Gilliat – Village of Alix

## **Regular Meeting**

**Waste Haul Summaries** – Nothing out of the ordinary

### **Campground/Seasonal Lot Disposal Charges**

LRSWC has been discussing ways to collect disposal costs for non-County residents at various campsites, seasonal lots and camps in the County. After much discussion, it was decided the threshold will be 200 campsites and that administration will devise a formula to collect fees.

### **Managers Report**

Two new employees have been hired.

#### **Tri Drive Trailers**

LRSWC received a quote for \$100,000 each to build new trailers. Another quote was received for \$69,500 to completely refurbish our existing trailers. It was decided to have one built and to refurbish one of the existing trailers.

### **Remote Site Security**

Security cameras have been installed at the Alix Transfer Station. They seem to be working well. Once all the bugs are fixed, equipment will be ordered for other sites.

### **EPR Transition**

Jay has contacted all the Commission members and recommended they register themselves for the program.

### **Board Agendas**

There has been a request for Board members staff to receive the meeting package prior to the Board meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:53**

## Parkland Regional Library Board

### **September 14, 2023**

Budget was presented with a .43 increase to the municipal requisition. The rate will be 9.18 per capita. The population numbers will be the current posted Alberta Treasury Board population figures.

Population Figures were raised again. The proposed change to the population figures used was defeated at the February Board meeting, the 6 months waiting period to review again has lapsed. A motion was made by the Representative from the City of Camrose to review the numbers used again. A committee will be formed, and a presentation given at a future Board meeting.

The Compensation Policy Working Group presented their recommendations. The current 15 step program will be amended to a 7 step program with an optional 5-year blended COLA. The step increase will be on the anniversary of the hire date. Staff will present a spreadsheet at the next meeting to show the costs of the new proposals.

### **November 17, 2023**

Vice Chair Gilliat chaired the Zoom meeting as the Chair Teresa Rillings was not re-appointed to the PRLS Board by her Municipal Council.

#### **Election of Board Chair**

Barb Gilliat was elected as the new Chair (22-6)

The new Executive was elected. Lacombe's Kreil will represent Blackfalds, Alix & County of Lacombe

The dates for 2024 meeting dates were approved. All meetings in 2024 will be virtual.

**February 22, 2024**

Changes to meeting procedures were introduced. After a topic background is presented, the motion will be made, followed by any discussion. Each member is allowed to speak twice alternating between pro and cons.

Dr Margaret Law gave a presentation on Board Responsibilities and Ethics.

A proposal to amend the Parkland Regional Agreement to use the same population figures as PLSB uses to issue library grants instead of the Alberta Treasury Board figures was defeated 22-17.

Alix Public Library Board  
Regular Meeting  
Feb. 6, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

**Annual General Meeting held. Election of Officers (Dec. 19, 2023)**

Chair – Cathy Perry

Vice Chair – Barb Gilliat

**Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting Minutes (Councilor Gilliat did not attend)**

Ron McIntosh resigned as Vice Chair

Friends of the Alix Library are waiting to receive the money from the casino.

Policy Manual is under review; needs to be sent to PLSB once it is completed.

Feb 6, 2024

**Old Business**

The Policy Report was approved as amended. Cat will help Terry format the proposed changes.

The format for the Minutes was discussed, At will assist Terry with this as well.

**New Business**

The minimum age for Board members was discussed. It would be nice to have some younger people on the Board. The quest for new Board members continues.

Cat discussed have Speaker at the library, there were many suggestions of topics/people we could invite.

Cat is hosting “Yarnatics” on Thursday nights; an evening for knitters/crocheters or any crafters to attend with their projects.

The Library is hosting cookie decorating on Family Day.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm

# CAO

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**From:** Tyler Gandam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 22, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** CAO  
**Subject:** Join the Call to Keep Political Parties Out of Local Elections  
**Attachments:** Government of Alberta Survey Results.png; 2023-02-22 Key Messages on Political Parties for MLAs citizens etc.docx; Political Parties - Media Event - Social Post Examples.docx

Dear Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs,

A public survey, an ABmunis resolution, and results of the province's own consultation processes indicate that Albertans do not want to see the encroachment of political parties at the local level. Despite this, the Government of Alberta has not committed to abandoning plans to enable parties to be included on local election ballots.

Today, ABmunis hosted a media availability calling for a commitment from the Government of Alberta to listen to Albertans. We need your help to amplify our call so that all political parties know Albertans' local leaders want local elections to be independent.

Attached for you to adapt and use are:

- Messages you can select from and adapt for local media; for email, letters or conversations with your local MLA; or for conversations with interested Albertans. (There are more messages than you would likely use in one communication so you can select and adapt the ones that will resonate best with your audience)
- Social media post examples and images.

We also encourage you to follow and share ABmunis' social media posts on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas related to ABmunis' campaign to keep local elections independent.

Thank you,  
**Tyler Gandam** | President

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E: [president@abmunis.ca](mailto:president@abmunis.ca)  
300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6  
Toll Free: 310-MUNI | 877-421-6644 | [www.abmunis.ca](http://www.abmunis.ca)



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*We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We acknowledge that what we call Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, presently subject to Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Six Regions of the Métis Nation of Alberta.*



## Messages on keeping local elections independent.

The following messages are provided for you to adapt and use in letters, emails or conversations with your MLA or communication with other interested Albertans. The messages are grouped into themes, and you are encouraged to select a couple that are most relevant to your audience.

- We all represent Albertans.
- Given the size of Alberta and Canada, political parties are necessary at the provincial and federal levels.
- However, at the local level, Albertans don't see political parties as adding value.

## Survey Results

- Since 2020, Albertans have indicated through three surveys, two of which were conducted by the provincial government, that they do not want to see political parties introduced in local elections.
- Through a 2020 provincial government survey on the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA), Albertans commented that they do not want to see increased partisanship or increased influence of campaign donations at the local level.
- The results of a public survey, conducted by Janet Brown Opinion Research on behalf of ABmunis in early September 2023, indicate that most Albertans do not support the introduction of political parties at the local level. Specifically:
  - Sixty-eight per cent (68%) of respondents indicated that they would prefer to see municipal candidates run as individuals. Only 24 per cent of respondents would prefer to see municipal candidates run as members of a political party.
  - More than 80 per cent (81%) agree that municipal officials who are part of a political party would vote along party lines and not necessarily in the best interest of the community.
  - Sixty-nine per cent (69%) of respondents think that political parties would make municipal governments more divisive and less effective.
- Results from the Government of Alberta's November 2023 survey on proposed changes to the LAEA show that 70 per cent of Albertans are opposed to the introduction of political parties at the local level.

## Good Governance

- While political parties are an important part of the parliamentary system at the provincial and federal level, they are not a good fit with local government legislation and processes in Alberta.
- Political parties could contravene the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) where it requires a councillor to consider the interests of the municipality as a whole and not the interests of the success of the party in decision making.

- Political parties would create an environment where all issues are discussed in private by party members resulting in a whipped vote versus the current system which encourages debate and openness to changing your mind based on public hearings and council discussion.
- In the United Kingdom, local elections are seen as referendums for higher levels of government, and we don't want to create that environment here.
- Parties could also lead to money being raised in one part of the province being used to influence the election in another region. This would again take the focus away from keeping local elections local.
- The Government of Alberta has spent years encouraging municipal governments to collaborate at a regional level to save money for Albertans. Introducing political parties at the local level could make regional collaboration an even more difficult task.
- Some councils have struggled with good governance, but political parties could make problems like split councils worse, not better.

### Voter Turnout

- Vancouver and Montreal have political parties but have similar or sometimes lower voter turnout than comparable Canadian cities where political parties are not featured in local elections.

### Trust and Integrity

- We recognize there is currently nothing preventing candidates from running on slates or for political parties, other than an historic lack of success.
- However, changes to legislation could be made that might make it easier for political parties or slates of candidates to raise funds. We know from previous reviews of the election rules that Albertans want to see less money involved in local elections, not more.
- The mandate letter from Premier Danielle Smith to Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver instructed him to collaborate with Minister of Justice Mickey Amery to review the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) and make recommendations for any necessary amendments to “strengthen public trust in and the integrity of our municipal election laws”.
- We believe the best way to strengthen trust and integrity is to listen to Albertans when they say they do not want political parties at the local level.