



Village of Andrew  
Council Meeting  
June 22, 2022

The regular meeting of council of the Village of Andrew was held in the multipurpose room in the Village Office Building on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, commencing at 7:08 pm.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Deputy Mayor Haight  
Councillor Pickett  
Councillor Dubitz  
Interim CAO Upham

**PRESENT VIA PHONE:** Mayor Goertz

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:** MOVED by Deputy Mayor Haight that the agenda be accepted as presented.  
RES 202203073 CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
RES 202203074 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Haight that the minutes of the regular meeting of council held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, be approved as presented  
CARRIED

RES 202203075 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Haight that the minutes of the special meeting of council held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, be approved as presented.  
CARRIED

RES 202203076 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Haight that the minutes of the special meeting of council held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, be approved as presented.  
CARRIED

RES 202203077 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Haight that the minutes of the special meeting of council held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, be approved as presented  
CARRIED

**FINANCIALS:** Bank Reconciliation  
RES 202203078 MOVED by Councillor Pickett that the Bank Reconciliation for June be accepted for information.  
CARRIED

**PUBLIC FORUM:**  
Question 1 Why are taxes increasing 17%?  
Response Taxes are not increasing by 17%. Actual tax increase is closer to 5%. The Village mill rate is now 16.9%. This year's mill rate is result of unpaid taxes over many years.  
Question 2 Can you explain the need for all the Special Meetings?  
Response The special meetings have been to discuss budget and financials. Council needed to organize and approve a budget, in order to proceed with this year's taxes.  
Question 3 What is council doing about not ambulance service in the Village? There were 18 days without service in the village this month.

Response Unfortunately this matter is out of councils reach. Concerns have been pushed forward to our MLA. Council encourages all concerned residents to also contact Jackie Armstrong-Homenuik's office with their concern.

Question 4 How did council arrive at this new mill rate?

Response Typically a budget is put together, an assessment summary is given, and all that information is put into the village's operating system, and it derives at an appropriate mill rate. Ideally the village wants to have a clear balance between income and expenditures. This year's mill rate reflects that.

Question 5 When will June's special meetings minutes be posted to the website?

Response Now that meeting minutes have been approved, they can be shared to our website. Office staff will send them to our website designers and have them uploaded soon.

Question 6 A \$50 increase on taxes is a huge hit to our senior community, how are they expected to pay on fixed incomes?

Council had to balance costs and intake. The different tax rates will be posted on the bulletin board across the hall from the village office.

Question 7 What is the village doing about vacant buildings? Can the village put a fence around the house that caught fire approximately 6 years ago? Children are starting to enter the building; it is becoming a liability issue.

Response Council is currently working on finding out which properties are owned by the village, or citizens. Council is also looking into updating village maps. Once we know which properties are owned by the village, decisions will be made on to fix, destroy, replace, or sell. Council will investigate the ownership of said building and provide an update at July's Meeting. If it is not owned by the village, we can not fence it off, or board it up.

Question 8 How did taxes get to this point? Why do taxes payers have to pay now for those who didn't?

Response Current Council can not speak for past council. Council is hoping to resolve this issue for the future.

Question 9 When will lots in tax arrears be sold?

Response Council is working on making a list of properties owned by the village. Then Council will look into which properties can and can not be sold. Council will also map out the potential properties. Steps must be followed as to when and how properties can be sold; Council wants to ensure these steps are followed. Deputy Mayor Haight and Councillor Pickett have also begun to help residents' sell properties privately. Also looking into building/tax incentives to bring more buyers to Andrew.

Question 10 When are we getting a By-Law Officer?

Response Council is looking into options that work with the village budget. The most promising options are Lamont County Peace Officer, who could deal with by-laws and animal control, and working in cooperation with a program that is in place in Smoky Lake.

**DELEGATIONS:** Rose Weleschuk read a letter explaining her role and value to the community and how recent articles in local newspapers negatively impacted her character. She requested an apology from council and retractions in the Vegreville News Advertiser and Lamont Leader. Interim CAO Upham, Deputy Mayor Haight, and Councillor Pickett apologized, explaining it was a miscommunication and a misuse of terms.

**BYLAWS:**

Bylaw 2022-07  
RES 202203079

Tax Rate Bylaw

MOVED by Councillor Dubitz that Bylaw 2022-07 being the tax rate bylaw, be given first reading

CARRIED



RES 202203080      MOVED by Councillor Dubitz that Bylaw 2022-07 be given second reading.  
CARRIED

RES 202203081      MOVED by Councillor Pickett that Bylaw 2022-07 be considered for third reading.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RES 202203082      MOVED by Councillor Pickett that Bylaw 2022-07 be given third reading.  
CARRIED

**BUSINESS:**

RES 202203083      Renewal of Municipal Assessment Services Contract  
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Haight that council renew its contract with Municipal Assessment Services.  
CARRIED

**CAO REPORT:**

RES 202203084      MOVED by Councillor Pickett that the CAO report for the month of June be accepted for information.  
CARRIED

**COUNCILLOR REPORTS:** MOVED by Councillor Dubitz to accept the Councillor reports for information.  
CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT:**      The meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

These minutes approved this 27 day of JULY, 2022

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Mayor Goertz

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Interim CAO Stephen Upham

Deputy Mayor Haight

Councillor Dubitz

Councillor Pickett

