



Rural Municipality of Val Marie No. 17

112 Railway Ave E, PO Box 59, Val Marie, Saskatchewan

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting January 13, 2026 - 01:00 PM

PRESENT:

Reeve: Larry Grant
Division 1 Councillor: Tyler Jensen
Division 2 Councillor: Timothy Christianson
Division 3 Councillor: Steven Gunter
Division 4 Councillor and Deputy Reeve: Shadrick Peno
Division 5 Councillor: Greg Kornfeld

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Logan Resch, Acting Administrator
Ben McLearn, Public Works Foreman

1 Call to order

A quorum being present, Reeve Grant called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
Councillor Kornfeld was not present at the call to order.

2 Approval of the Agenda

Res. No. 2026-0001

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the agenda for this January 13, 2026 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda order, item 5.1.

3 Adoption of Minutes

3.1 December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

Res. No. 2026-0002

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting be approved as read with the changing of resolution 2025-0321 to say December 9, 2025 rather than December 8, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda item, order 6.1.

4 Public Hearings

5 Delegations

Councillor Kornfeld joined the meeting, time 1:25 p.m.

5.1 1:15 p.m. - Richard Dupuis, Acting Saskatchewan South Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada

Richard Dupuis, Acting Saskatchewan South Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada, was received by Council at 1:12 p.m. Mr. Dupuis introduced himself and his work experience within Parks Canada, including how he has been the Acting SK South Field Unit Superintendent since September 25, 2025 and what he has been involved with since coming into that position. An update on Parks Canada was given, including how the Federal Minister has changed, the CEO has announced their retirement, and they will be looking to fill the Superintendent position permanently. It was expressed that part of Parks Canada's recent work includes the Multi-Species Action Plan for Grasslands National Park and its invitation to provide feedback. Council expressed their concern for the plan as they do not feel they have significant time to respond to the plan in comparison to the amount of time spent making the plan. Council expressed other concerns relating to Parks Canada and Grasslands National Park which included: the access to the park being solely municipal roads and the maintenance that brings, prairie dogs moving onto ratepayers lands, the frequent changing of endangered or protected species, staff turnover, fire risk, land management, the lack of local knowledge and consultation on projects, and how Council does not feel they are being listened to by Parks Canada. Mr. Dupuis expressed that his intention today was to meet with Council to introduce himself and be able to hear and understand local concerns. Mr. Dupuis excused himself at 2:17 p.m.

Agenda order, item 3.1.

6 Reports of Administration & Committees

6.1 Administrative Update

Res. No. 2026-0003

Moved by: Div. 2 Councillor Christianson

That the Acting Administrator's Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 List of Accounts for Approval

Res. No. 2026-0004

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the "List of Accounts for Approval" detailing the following payments be approved:
Inn. CU - Cheques No.'s 4660 to 4698 totalling - \$197,955.71
Inn. CU - CAFT Payments No.'s 2025-0148 to 2026-0004 totalling - \$24,662.14
Inn. CU - Online Banking Payments No.'s 2025-0121 to 2026-0009 totalling - \$32,671.00
Inn. CU - Automatic Withdrawals No.'s 2026-0001 to 2026-0002 totalling - \$53,829.50
Collabria Credit Cards Payments No.'s 2025-0109 to 2026-0001 totalling - \$1,755.67
Total Payments - \$310,874.02

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 Monthly Statement of Financial Position and Balance Sheet

Res. No. 2026-0005

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the Statement of Financial Position, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliations as of December 31, 2025 be accepted as presented noting that not all year end adjusting is complete and not all invoices for 2025 may have been received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 Committee Reports

Res. No. 2026-0006

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the committee reports and minutes be accepted and filed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 In Camera Session

7.1 Move to In-Camera Session

Res. No. 2026-0007

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That we now move to an in-camera session to discuss employee matters, time 3:15 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

All staff left the meeting room, time 3:15 p.m.

All staff rejoined the meeting room, time 3:43 p.m.

7.2 Rise from In-Camera Session

Res. No. 2026-0008

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That we now rise from in-camera session, time 3:43 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8 Unfinished Business

8.1 2026 Interim Budget

Res. No. 2026-0009

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the 2026 Interim Budget outlining the wage schedule and proposed tangible capital asset purchases be approved as attached.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 Acting Administrator Salary 2026

Res. No. 2026-0010

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the Acting Administrator's salary for 2026 be set at \$66,560 per annum, adjusted for various insurances and benefits and an adjustment to the salary be discussed after a "C" Certificate has been obtained from the Rural Board of Examiners.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 New Business

9.1 Special Meeting of Council

Res. No. 2026-0011

Moved by: Div. 1 Councillor Jensen

That after further review of the agenda for this January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting, no special meeting of Council is needed as all matters will be considered at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Acting Administrator Annual Leave Request

Res. No. 2026-0012

Moved by: Div. 2 Councillor Christianson

That the Acting Administrator be approved to take January 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2026 as annual leave.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 Reschedule March Regular Council Meeting

Res. No. 2026-0013

Moved by: Div. 5 Councillor Kornfeld

Rescinded

~~That the March 2026 Regular Meeting be re-scheduled to Monday, March 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. due to the second Tuesday of March conflicting with the SARM Annual Convention and that this resolution serves as notice to all Council members present.~~

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 Reschedule April Regular Council Meeting

Res. No. 2026-0014

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the April 2026 Regular Meeting be re-scheduled to Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. and that this resolution serves as notice to all Council members present.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 Reschedule May Regular Council Meeting

Res. No. 2026-0015

Moved by: Div. 1 Councillor Jensen

That the May 2026 Regular Meeting be re-scheduled to Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. due to the second Tuesday of May conflicting with the RMAA Convention and that this resolution serves as notice to all Council members present.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6 Council & Appointed Representatives Remuneration for 2026

Res. No. 2026-0016

Moved by: Div. 5 Councillor Kornfeld

That remuneration for Council and other representatives as appointed by Council be set at \$300 per diem for the 2026 fiscal year with the exception of appointments made to Western Municipal Consulting which are outlined in their annual fee schedule.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 Mileage & Meal Allowance Rates for 2026

Res. No. 2026-0017

Moved by: Div. 2 Councillor Christianson

That the following mileage and meal allowances be set for Council, Council representatives, and staff for the 2026 fiscal year:

- Breakfast \$25
- Lunch \$30
- Supper \$40
- Mileage \$0.65 per km

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8 RMAA Memberships 2026

Res. No. 2026-0018

Moved by: Div. 1 Councillor Jensen

That a regular membership be purchased from the Rural Municipal Administrator's Association of Saskatchewan (RMAA) for Logan Resch & Cathy Legault for the 2026 year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.9 Bylaw Development - Drainage on Municipal Right of Ways

Res. No. 2026-0019

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That after further review of Bylaw 2025-09, A Bylaw to Regulate Activities and Things In or On Municipal Roads, which states; "5. Subject to section 10, no person shall excavate, break, plough, farm, cut, or otherwise alter any municipal road without the express permission of Council", Council feels this bylaw prohibits drainage on municipal right of ways so a separate bylaw is not needed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.10 Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) Traceability Rules - 2026 Changes

Res. No. 2026-0020

Moved by: Div. 1 Councillor Jensen

That the R.M. of Val Marie No. 17 will address the issue of changes to the Health of Animals Regulations Part XV (Traceability) by submitting a resolution to SARM to be presented at their 2026 Annual Convention. The Acting Administrator is to circulate the resolution to Council via text prior to submission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.11 Parks Canada Draft Multi-Species Action Plan for Grasslands National Park - Invitation to Provide Feedback

Res. No. 2026-0021

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the Council of the R.M. of Val Marie's responds to Parks Canada's Draft Multi-Species Action Plan for Grasslands National Park with the following:

- The R.M. Council has not been given the proper amount of time to review the plan as Parks Canada was given sufficient time to create the plan
- Council does not have the time to spend going through the plan to point out the numerous flawed statements, misinformation and collusion involved in the plan, nor do they wish to spend ratepayers money to do so.
- Council has not been provided sufficient time to properly explain their thoughts and prove their concerns with the plan.
- Council feels there was a lack of local knowledge and consultation taken into consideration for the development of the action plan.
- Council would be interested in reviewing the plan in detail with Parks Canada and Grasslands National Park with the time to be reimbursed by Parks Canada.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.12 R.M. of Mankota No. 45 - SARM Annual Convention 2026 Resolution (Foreign Investment in Farms/Farmland) Support

Res. No. 2026-0022

Moved by: Reeve Grant

That the R.M. of Val Marie No. 17 support the resolution, Foreign Investment in Farms/Farmland, submitted by the R.M. of Mankota No. 45 for the 2026 Annual Convention.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.13 Appointment of Clerk

Res. No. 2026-0023

Moved by: Div. 1 Councillor Jensen

That it be acknowledged that Vicki-lynn (Anderson) Burnside has been appointed as the Clerk as of January 12, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.14 Transfer of Funds

Res. No. 2026-0024

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the following transfer of funds from the Innovation Credit Union Chequing account be approved:

- 5 GIC Investments with RBC at \$100,000 each that will be laddered to have one mature in 2027, one in 2028, one in 2029, one in 2030, and one in 2031 at the highest interest rate available or as recommended by Shawn Milligan (Account Advisor).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.15 Extend Meeting Time

Res. No. 2026-0025

Moved by: Div. 5 Councillor Kornfeld

That this meeting be extended past the five-hour maximum and continue until the agenda is finished.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.16 Road Classification of "Orkney Grid"

Res. No. 2026-0026

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the decision made by the Rural Road Classification Committee to not reclassify the "Orkney Grid" as per the request from resolution 2025-0108 on April 23, 2025, be noted as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.17 Cheque Signing & EFT Policy - Update Schedule A

Res. No. 2026-0027

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the Schedule A of the Cheque Signing & Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Approval Policy be updated to reflect the following:

1. Vendors authorized to be paid with the CAFT Program:
 - a. Cathy Legault
 - b. Ben McLearn
 - c. John Glas
 - d. Logan Resch
 - e. Jessica Severson
 - f. Jesse Hogg
 - g. Tasha Willshaw
 - h. Vicki-lynn (Anderson) Burnside

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.18 Dudley & Company LLP - 2025 Audit Engagement and Planning Letters

Res. No. 2026-0028

Moved by: Div. 5 Councillor Kornfeld

That the "Audit Engagement Letter" and "Audit Planning Documents" from Dudley & Company LLP for the 2025 Audit be noted as reviewed and received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.19 Sask Lotteries 2027 Community Grant Program

Res. No. 2026-0029

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the R.M. of Val Marie's Sask Lotteries 2027 Community Grant be allocated to the Village of Val Marie - Val Marie Recreation Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.20 November Regular Meeting Letters - Updating Recipients

Res. No. 2026-0030

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the three letters dated January 8, 2026 regarding Predator Control Funding from the Province to Rural Municipalities, Natural Gas Energy Provided to the R.M. of Val Marie No. 17, and Check-Off & Livestock Services of Saskatchewan be sent to the intended recipients listed at the November regular meeting (resolutions 2025-0309, 2025-0310, and 2025-0311), and that the Acting Administrator update the recipient list to reflect the recent changes in Provincial Ministers and Cabinet.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.21 Presentation of Bond

Res. No. 2026-0031

Moved by: Div. 5 Councillor Kornfeld

That the bond coverages for 2026 be noted as presented by the Acting Administrator with the following coverage levels:

- SARM Fidelity Bond: Fidelity Bond Insurance \$200,000 Coverage; and Money & Securities: \$20,000 Coverage. Policy Period: January 1, 2026 to 12:01 AM January 1, 2027 (Regina Time)
- SGI Canada Policy: Fidelity Bond \$500,000; Loss Inside Premises Coverage \$25,000; Loss Outside Coverage \$25,000; Money Orders and Counterfeit Paper Currency Coverage \$25,000; Depositors Forgery Coverage \$25,000; Credit Card Forgery \$1,000; Computer Fraud and Funds Transfer Fraud \$25,000 (subject to various deductibles). Policy Period is March 3, 2025 to March 3, 2026 (coverages reviewed at renewal).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.22 Elected Officials WCB Coverage

Res. No. 2026-0032

Moved by: Div. 4 Councillor Peno

That the WCB Coverage for elected officials be set at the minimum coverage of \$43,726 for 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10 Communications

Res. No. 2026-0033

Moved by: Div. 3 Councillor Gunter

That the communications listed on the agenda be acknowledged as required and filed as deemed appropriate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11 Reeve & Councillors Forum

12 Adjournment

Res. No. 2026-0034

Moved by: Reeve Grant

That this meeting does now adjourn, time 6:56 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
