

## Message From Clark German (incumbent Mayor/electoral candidate)

I would like to provide additional information and context to the submission made by candidate Gail Knudson in the October 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Whistle.

While I agree the reference to additional Council meetings is an accurate observation, it falls short of providing residents the complete factual picture as to why there were additional meetings, therefore generating a misleading and inaccurate perception of wasteful governance.

The following provides a more detailed summary of the 2020/21 special meetings:

- ◆ 5 non discretionary meetings to comply with Municipal Affairs/regulatory compliance requirements regarding public hearings, development permits, and the intermunicipal collaboration framework development.
- ◆ 3 meetings to ensure Village operations complied with the rapidly changing requirements from Alberta Health Services regarding the Covid 19 Pandemic.
- ◆ 6 meetings to provide input, review and approve the Village operating and capital budgets, (3 – 2020, 3 – 2021). This extensive development and review process resulted in Council being able to approve holding the municipal tax mill rate flat for three consecutive years now and absorbing the cost of policing for 2021 vs flowing it through to the ratepayer.
- ◆ 7 Human Resources meetings to deal with multiple Village staffing and Council issues.
- ◆ 3 meetings to address high priority Public Works issues
  - ◆ 1. the significant purchased water loss the Village was experiencing, costing ratepayers thousands of dollars per month (primary issue found and resolved)
  - ◆ 2. review/award the contract to internally repair and externally insulate the water tower
  - ◆ 3. review/approve a proposal for an infrastructure study to support the development of a long term sustainability plan for the village

In summary I feel that Council had adequate justification for the meetings as they were either non discretionary, or served the interests of the ratepayers and residents well.

Candidate Knudson indicated that 3 CAO's were hired during my term. That is incorrect, I have only been on Council long enough to be involved in the hiring of the current CAO.

I also want to take this opportunity to clarify my position on the remote CAO work arrangement. We have had 4 CAO's in as many years which has made it progressively more challenging for the incumbents to perform well for the Village. While I feel additional attrition in the role would have short term negative impact on the Village, I do agree that Council needs to be responsive to the concerns of residents. As such I would be supportive of re-evaluating the remote work arrangement to determine if it best serves the majority of residents.

Thank You

\*Paid for by Clark German

## Message from Harry Nibourg (incumbent Council Member/electoral Candidate)

- ◆ **What do you think about Economic Development, regarding the business sector, and how it impacts our Village?**

Economic Development is very important to a community of our size and the trick is to find a niche in the market. I feel for the businesses that are tourist based. Yes, it is important that a community support our businesses, but on the same token, a business has to offer something the greater community needs, that is how a business will thrive. But with the high-speed internet service we have negotiated for the village, this will give our local future entrepreneurs the tools to pursue the lucrative online retail business. As I do believe the government should encourage entrepreneurship, I don't think government should be picking winners or losers. If any of you or anyone you know has an idea for a business in Big Valley, please let me know, as maybe we can help to bring it to fruition.

- ◆ **What do you cherish most about our community, and if you could change one thing, what that be?**

It is the diverse individual characters that make up our community as they all bring something to our village that is unique to their personality, but with this diversity comes different beliefs on how and what our village should be. I just wish volunteerism would make a resurgence, as it was when I was young. The lack of greater volunteerism I believe can blame in large part, on our media and the entertainment industry for telling us how we should be, rather than us knowing how we should be as an individual in our own community. If I may twist JFK's famous quote "Ask now what your village can do for you, ask what you can do for you community" The government can't fix all our problems, but we stand a chance, if we all work together.

- ◆ **What is your vision for the Village in the short term and long term, and do you have an innovative idea that you think would enhance our community that would be achievable in the four (4) year term?**

In the short term I would like to see an EV charging station at our expanded camp site, as to make Big Valley a charging destination for Electric Vehicle owners that are on holidays. In the long term I would also like to work with Clark to get an agreement with the local school board to revitalize the tennis courts to be used as a multi-use facility, such as a skate-park, pickle ball, badminton/tennis and any other recreational activity that could be interchangeable. I also look forward to working with our newly formed Rec committee to bring to fruition their innovative ideas.

- ◆ **What does fiscal responsibility mean to you? How do you maintain fiscal responsibility?**

It means getting the best value for the ratepayers' dollars. This is where I think it is very important to keep our infrastructure in good operating condition with preventative maintenance, as this will save us large amounts of time and money in the future, it will allow us to be proactive rather than reactive. Our team needs to look into getting the bridge north of the village repaired, not closed. If that bridge is closed, it will be a great fiscal downfall for the village. Our team has to put pressure on all levels of government to get it done. As the old saying goes "We need to wheel, deal beg borrow & miss a meal to get er' done"

I'm going to use my infrastructure joke. The body was debating who is the most important. The mouth said, if I shut you won't know what were thinking. The ears said if we shut you won't be able to hear what's going on. The eyes said if we shut you won't know where were going. The derriere belches out, if I shut, your problems wont matter.

That's why infrastructure (aka our lagoon and sewer line repair and the north bridge) are a priority

Thank you and the best to the candidates for letting their names stand to make our village better.

\*paid for by Harry Nibourg

**Notice of Election**

Local Authorities Election Act (Sections 12, 35, 46, 53)  
 Alberta Senate Election Act (Sections 5, 37)  
 Referendum Act (Section 7)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: Village of Big Valley, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given:

A. That an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Ward or Electoral Division Number (if applicable)
Councillor	3	N/A

B. That an election will be held for the election of a Senate nominee for the purposes of the *Alberta Senate Election Act*;

C. That a vote of the electors will be held on the following referendum question(s) under the *Referendum Act*;

- a. Should Section 36(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* – Parliament and the government of Canada’s commitment to the principle of making equalization payments – be removed from the Constitution?
- b. Do you want Alberta to adopt year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is summer hours, eliminating the need to change our clocks twice a year?

Voting will take place on the 18th day of October 2021, between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00 pm.  
 Voting stations will be located at:

Canadian Northern 1912 Railway Station  
 56 Railway Avenue North, Big Valley, AB

In order to vote, you must produce identification for inspection. The identification must be one or more of:

- (1) Piece of Photo Government ID OR (2) pieces of ID to confirm your identity and place of residency

As required by section 53 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

DATED at the            Village            of            Big Valley           , in the Province of Alberta  
 this   23rd   day of   September  , 20   21  .

*Shay Minde*  
 Returning Officer