COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT
WARD # 1 – GARY THESE
OCTOBER 2026

October 1 **NPARA Board Meeting** **9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.**
Recap of summer work and financials. We looked at a used combine for the demo. Decided to purchase the combine if it worked good in the crop.

October 5 **Grimshaw Gravel Association** **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Recap of summer events and financials.

October 6-7 **RhPAP Convention** **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
Meet with other RHPAP people from all across Alberta, discussed problems with the system and came up with solutions. Jeremy Evans gave a captivating talk about his survival of a Grizzley bear attack and how he is living with the aftermath of the incident.

October 13 **Regular Council meeting** **7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
As per agenda.

October 15 **Met with Ratepayer**
Wanted to show problem with water backing up into his land.

October 27 **Regular council meeting** **7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.**
As per agenda.

October 28 **ASB Zone Meeting in Tangent** **7:45 a.m. to 5:00p.m.**
Speaker Kary Anne Koehler/ Monuro from GOA said that municipal grants were at a rate of 5 for the municipalities and to 1 for the province. Rat infestations have moved to urban dumps in Edmonton and Calgary. 33 wild boars have been removed from the province. Night shooting is being used for most of that. Darcy Allen from the farmers advocate office spoke about weeds on well sites. A new process of sending the weed notice to the AER who then sends it to the oil companies, this will hopefully get better results. Devon Smiegielski spoke on the use of drones in agriculture. Kerri O'Shaughessy from Cows and Fish spoke on the value of riparians. Bob Krenic resigned from ASB as a delegate, Ashley Hepp acclaimed as the new delegate. Both resolutions were passed.

October 29 **AG Now Presentation** **4:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.**
An interesting dinner and presentation given by the Do More Agriculture foundation on how to talk to people having mental problems in the agriculture industry.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:
November 2 to 5 - Rural Municipality Association Conference

November 10 - Regular Council Meeting

November 19 –Budget Meeting

November 27 – CNL and Staff Christmas

Gary These

Councillor Ward 1

County of Northern Lights

October 2026 Ward Two Report

Councillor Kayln Schug

October 1, 2026 **GRHARC Funding Members Meeting** **6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

The funding members of the GRHARC Committee (MD of Peace, Town of Grimshaw, Village of Berwyn and the County of Northern Lights) met to discuss funding matters for the group. The topics discussed were housing options for healthcare professionals in our area, a coordinator position, and the requisition model and finances. Action items were given for research and will be brought back to the December regular meeting of the group for discussion.

October 2, 2026 **NAEL Meeting – Peace River** **10:00 am – 2:15 pm**

I attended the Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL) meeting in Peace River as an alternate for Reeve Ungarian. Highlights included: a delegation of an MLA/MP buddy system so that we can keep the pressure on our MLAs and MPs to attend and remain engaged with their local municipalities; a presentation from Clark Banack on the 'Alberta Center for Sustainable Communities' to give a presentation on underutilized commercial real estate in rural Alberta, and an update from MLA/Minister Dan Williams and MLA/Minister Todd Loewen virtually. I did have the opportunity to ask Todd about the Notikewin Park access, to which he replied there will not likely be a fix until spring, but they are working with Transportation to address and work out a repair. We also heard an update from District 4 Director Karen Rosevold from RMA and AM President Dylan Bressey. The next meeting will be held in Valleyview on February 5th.

North Peace Housing Foundation – Del-Air **4:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

The board met at the Del-Air Lodge in Manning for this month's regular meeting. The meeting synopsis is shared monthly in our council agenda package for review. Some meeting highlights of note include: our annual review of our CEO Tammy Menssa, and an in-depth discussion and presentation on the debrief of the flood event that happened at Harvest Lodge in Fairview. We are currently working on addressing some of the concerns we have heard relating to the application process as well as our current vacancies, particularly in our lodge program. Our next meeting will be held in Peace River on November 12th, and that will be our AGM followed by our regular board meeting.

October 5, 2026 **Rural Crime Watch Meeting Grimshaw** **7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

It was great to see so many people come out to the Grimshaw multiplex! We heard presentations from IMS (a division of Apex Security), Fish and Wildlife Officers, and RCMP.

October 6, 2026 **RhPAP Conference – Peace River** **11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

The conference kicked off with some presentations: *Building Integrated Care Pathways* by the CEO of Primary Care Alberta, Kim Simmonds; *Navigating the Alberta Political Landscape* by Hal Danchilla with Integrated Strategic Partners; *Rooted in Community: The Impacts of Rural Pharmacy* by Brad Willsey with the Alberta College of Pharmacy; and finished with *The Generational Advantage* by Jennifer Barroll with Leading the Human Edge.

Key takeaways for me included: research required on what it would look like to bring RN prescribers to our area and the burden they might have lift especially in Grimshaw with only one doctor, clarity on what it means to have a virtual doctor to keep an emergency room open, and once again a large gap and how to overcome that gap in education to the public about what each community has (for example, leveraging the use of prescribing pharmacists, etc.)

October 7, 2026 RhPAP Conference – Peace River 8:30 am – 4:15 pm

Day two of the conference saw: *From Attraction to Belonging: Lessons from Communities* panel discussion; *Importance of Rural Exposure* by Dr. Aaron Johnston and Dr. Richard Martin; *Picking Up The Pieces Keynote* by Jeremy Evans aka The Grizzly Dude; and *When Every Skill Matters: Continuous Learning In Rural Medicine* panel discussion.

Key takeaways for me included: a lot of ideas and information on the recruitment of doctors --- particularly those coming in from out of country and those hurdles (no credit, hurdles to housing, etc.) It is always so valuable to hear from other communities their lessons learned so we can do better with what they have learned. GRHARC is excited to get working on connections and lessons learned to try and implement new strategies for recruiting and retaining healthcare providers of all specialties in our region.

Dr. Ramana – Nuclear Presentation - Grimshaw 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

I attended the nuclear presentation at the Grimshaw Legion, presented by Dr. Ramana. By my estimate, there were about 25 people in attendance. In my own opinion, the significant concerns raised focused on: cost and time to build, the potential risks in the event of an accident, the lack of an appropriate storage site for the waste (deep geological site), water usage, and a jobs dilemma. I appreciate the conversations, and I hope we continue to see informational sessions in the coming months and years as we work through the process, both in favour of and in opposition to nuclear development, as we learn together and make informed decisions based on science and data.

October 8, 2026 RhPAP Conference – Peace River 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

The third day featured presentations from Darlene Schindel and Michael Procinsky, titled *Integrating Health, Social, and Community Care to Rural Caregivers*; and *Rural Health Sustainability* from Travis Webster, who is the Rural Health Corridor Michael Lead with Alberta Health Services.

Key takeaways for me included: the significance of needing to work collaboratively together and the hurdles that many people have navigating the healthcare system. I was able to have a great conversation with Michael Procinsky with Health Aging Alberta, and am excited to explore what creating a navigating link for our community would look like.

A helpful navigating search engine for how and where to access healthcare help in Alberta:
https://www.prim arycarealberta.ca/pathways/

RISK 20th Anniversary Celebration – St. Isadore 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

I had the honour of providing the cake to celebrate all the event planners, professionals, and supporters who currently and historically have helped to ensure the event is a success for our youth to help educate and prevent impaired driving. We presented David LeBlanc with a plaque to commemorate his 20 years of dedication to this program.

October 13, 2026 Council Meeting 9:00 am – 3:05 pm

Items were discussed as per the agenda and can be viewed on the county's YouTube channel at: http://www.youtube.com/@countyofnl.

Town of Manning – Joint Council Meeting 4:00 pm – 5:50 pm

Items were discussed as per the agenda, and those items requiring council approval will be brought forward to the next council meeting for debate and ratification.

October 15, 2026 RhPAP Webinar – Rural Healthcare Team 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

I appreciate the 'Knowledge Now' webinars that RhPAP hosts – I always gain so much insight from them. This one was titled: Rural Healthcare Team: Understanding Scope, Roles and Collaboration. Hannah Wiens (CAPA, Canadian Association of Physician Assistants), Alana Takashi (Alberta College of Pharmacy), and Michelle Stone (College of Registered Nurses of Alberta) presented.

Key takeaways, in my opinion, were:

- Independent Broad Scope: Alberta Nurse Practitioners (NPs) possess advanced university training to independently diagnose, prescribe, order tests, and refer to specialists without physician supervision.
- Government-Funded Primary Care: The Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program (NPPPCP) provides overhead funding for NPs to offer publicly funded care, requiring a minimum 900-patient panel, walk-in access, and after-hours coverage.
- Rural Impact & Access: Over 100 NPs actively practice under the program—a third in rural Alberta—filling vital gaps in chronic care, preventative health, and ongoing patient access.
- Collaborative Teams: NPs work independently but collaborate closely with physicians, pharmacists, and allied health staff to strengthen team-based care.
- Community Setup: Communities seeking NPs need local clinic space and multidisciplinary support; interested NPs begin by submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI).

YouTube Recorded Link can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlWfhm4kYLk&t=22s

NPHF – Development Committee Meeting 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

It was the first meeting of the development sub-committee. The committee reviewed NPHF-owned properties and land across the portfolio, as well as the 2024 Demand and Analysis Report. We then heard a presentation from Scott Builders on what a building project would look like if we used them as part of design and preconstruction for a future project, and ways in which we can maximize grant funding, etc. We then had an in-depth discussion on what role, if any, NPHF can play in helping assist with healthcare professional housing, understanding that attraction and retention of healthcare professionals in rural Alberta rely on the ability to often secure housing. NPHF is currently waiting for the province to proceed with the capacity planning for HMB's so we can decide how to move forward.

October 16, 2026 Regional Economic Development Committee 9:00 am – 10:00 am

The group met in Peace River to discuss a joint and more regional effort to address economic development. After much discussion, the group decided that the administration would meet with the current EDOs and draft a template to bring back to councils for discussion and decisions on what a proposed regional group would look like, as well as associated costs.

October 20, 2026 Regional ICF Meeting – Peace River 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

The ICF Committee met at the council chambers in the MD of Peace to review the draft agreement. We had a robust conversation and suggested amendments to bring forward to the next meeting on November 30th. The process is held in closed session until it is ready for council ratification.

October 22, 2026 Alberta Counsel Webinar – Post-Referendum 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

The webinar was hosted by Richard Feehan and Michaela Frey who are both senior advisors at Alberta Counsel as well as both former MLAs for the NDP and UCP. At the end of the day, Alberta's referendum showed majority support for increased provincial control over immigration, but the constitutional reform questions did not receive majority support. Approximately 25% supported holding a binding referendum on separation, highlighting ongoing divisions, particularly between urban and rural communities. Premier Danielle Smith has stated that another separation referendum will not proceed under her leadership, while the UCP seeks to refocus on a united Alberta within Canada. The NDP is expected to use the referendum results to challenge the UCP's priorities and internal unity ahead of the next provincial election. Moving forward, health care, education, affordability and the economy are expected to be key political issues, creating opportunities for municipalities and community organizations to advocate for local priorities.

October 26, 2026 PRAMP – Sub Committee Meeting (Zoom) 10:00 am – 11:00 am

The meeting focused on planning the PRAMP 2027 calendar using photos from the recent photo contest, reviewing a proposed children's storybook about air quality, and discussing potential new initiatives. The group also discussed identifying key priorities and activities for the next six months as part of the Education and Outreach Plan.

Alberta Counsel Webinar – BC Election Results 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Richard Feehan and David Busch hosted the webinar, titled 'BC Has a New Government, What Does That Mean for Alberta?' The change in the provincial government in BC will undoubtedly have an impact on politics here in Alberta. The overarching message was that we will have to wait and see what campaign promises are carried out, and how the interprovincial relationships work out.

October 27, 2026 Council Meeting 9:00 am – 3:10 pm

Items were discussed as per the agenda and can be viewed on the county's YouTube channel at: http://www.youtube.com/@countyofnl.

Thank you, Council, for once again supporting me in another year as Deputy Reeve. I take the role very seriously, and I appreciate the confidence you have in me to conduct the duties of that position.

October 28, 2026 ACCPA – One Day Forum Peace River 9:00 am – 3:15 pm

The insight forum was the first of its kind, and it was great to have the event held in Peace River. With over 50 registered attendees, it was a great turnout for the first of its kind. The morning began with a presentation from John Beatson with CPED Alberta (Crime Prevention by Environmental Design) titled *The Connection Between Crime and Economic Development*. Followed then by a presentation by Kimberly Hurst with Citizens on Patrol and her story of success with working with Indigenous Nations to help promote the C.O.P program here in Alberta. Krista Hurta, John Howard Society Grande Prairie, and Kimberly Kyle, Grande Prairie RCMP, then presented on the Grande Prairie Drug Treatment Court. The

afteroon portion featured a workshop on how to utilize the principals of CEPTED in our own communities and businesses. As Chair of the Mental Health Task Force and Vice Chair of the Peace Regional RCMP Advisory Committee, I took many notes and action items away from the event that I look forward to exploring and researching with those respective groups.

For more on CEPTED Alberta: https://cptedalberta.com/

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

November 2nd- 5th – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Conference – Edmonton
November 10th – Town of Manning ICF Meeting @ 3:00 pm
November 12th – PREA Meeting @ 10:00 am
November 12th – North Peace Housing Foundation Meeting @ 4:00 pm
November 13th – PRAMP Meeting via Zoom @ 9:00 am
November 18th – Peace Regional Mental Health Task Force Committee Meeting @ 5:00 pm
November 25th - Peace River RCMP Advisory Committee Meeting @ 5:00 pm
November 30th - Peace River Regional ICF Meeting @ 2:00 pm



Deputy Reeve Kayln Schug – Ward Two

COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD # 3 October 2026

DATE **MEETINGS/CONFERENCES**

Oct. 2 Chili Cook-Off, Manning **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

This fun event was hosted by the county staff social committee. I entered this event on behalf of council and much to my surprise came in second place, there was some pretty tough competition!

Oct. 6-8 RHPAP Conference, Peace River **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

The RHPAP Conference focused on strategies for building a sustainable rural healthcare system. Emcee Shawn Pitman of Peace River opened the event on an upbeat and entertaining note. The theme, *Rooted in Community*, reflected the conference's emphasis on recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in rural communities.
Kim Simmonds, PhD, CEO of Primary Care Alberta, outlined the four pillars of Alberta's recently reformed healthcare system. She emphasized four desired outcomes: improved access, better integration across departments, high-quality care, and culturally appropriate services.
Hal Danchilla of Integrated Strategic Partners provided an informative overview of the current political climate and shared insights drawn from polling data.
Keynote speaker Jeremy Evans shared his harrowing account of surviving a grizzly bear attack. His powerful message centred on resilience, thriving after adversity, and focusing on what matters most. The medical team that treated him then described how they responded to the extraordinary emergency with compassion and professionalism. Overall, the conference was highly informative and worthwhile. Beyond the educational presentations, connecting with municipal and community leaders provided valuable insight into shared challenges and practical approaches we can apply in our own communities.

Oct. 13 Council Meeting, Manning **9:00 am -**

As per agenda available on *countyofnorthernlights.com* and on YouTube *@countyofnl*. Check it out with our newly improved audio/visual equipment!

Oct. 13 Town of Manning Joint Council Meeting **4:00 pm -**

Fire Services Consultant Rod Schmidt presented his findings on the current inventory of Town of Manning and County fire services. The councils discussed purchasing urgently needed firefighter supplies and agreed to publish the PREA position paper in the local newspaper. Manning RCMP Sergeant Gavin Ool attended as a delegation to discuss plans for creating the community advisory committee meeting this fall, including potential community representatives to invite. The councils also considered how LLRWMSC could address ongoing break-ins at the North Star transfer station with Sargent Ool.

Oct. 19 LLRWMSC **7:00 pm – 8:45 pm**

Glen Moore of I Want Wireless attended as a delegation to present a proposal for installing a cell tower at the Manning/North Star Transfer Station. Members voted to proceed, noting that the project would improve lighting and provide Wi-Fi connectivity for security cameras. Dillon Consulting also submitted a report on the proposed Cell 2 development. Dillon will be asked to provide quotes for the two available options. Fall clean-up went well. A total of 183 white metal units received.

COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD # 3 October 2026

Oct. 20 PRAIC, Virtual **9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Indigenous Liaison Position

The meeting opened with a presentation from a Peace River community member who expressed concern about the removal of the Indigenous Liaison positions within the division. PRAIC requires further information before determining its next steps.

Programs and Committee Updates

- The Wolftrail Women's Walking Program began in September.
- The 2027 Peace River Pow Wow is scheduled for May 29 and 30.
- The documents for the nonprofit Friends of PRAIC Society have been submitted.
- PRAIC volunteers at the soup kitchen on the second Friday of each month. An online sign-up sheet is available.

Community Activities

The Aboriginal Youth Career Workshop was a success, with 126 students and 12 teachers attending. The September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Walk/Run also recorded its highest participation to date. Many thanks to the organizers of both events.

Upcoming Events

- **November 7:** Indigenous Christmas Market at the Peace River Municipal Library.
- **November 8:** National Aboriginal Veterans Day service at Riverfront Park in Peace River, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Oct. 27 Council Org and Regular Meeting **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Congratulations to Terry for Reeve and Kayln for Deputy Reeve. Meeting Agenda and minutes are available on *countyofnnorthernlights.com* and on YouTube *@countyofnl*. My committees stayed the same for the most part, one additional committee being the Peace Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee whose focus is the Peace River hospital and clinic.

Oct. 28 ASB Conference, Tangent **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Kerrianne Koehler-Munro, provincial Manager of Ag Service Boards, opened the conference with a comprehensive update on programs and coverage under three grant streams: Legislative, Resource Management, and Rat Control. Farmers Advocate Darcy Allen reviewed the Ag Pest Act and RCAM (Reasonable Control and Measures). Oil and gas regulations remain largely unchanged, but AER can now issue RCAM once municipal enforcement options are exhausted. A town hall is scheduled for November 24, from 11:00 a.m. to noon; watch for an invitation. Pesticide Certification Specialist Devon Smiegielski discussed drone spraying and related regulations. Kerri O'Shaughnessy of Cows and Fish outlined the organization's history and how it helps farmers manage water issues. Both resolutions presented at the conference passed.

Oct. 29 Circular Materials Information Session **3:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

I participated in this online info session for the recycling program representing Long Lake RWMSC. County and Long Lake members had a chance to air their observations as to how the new program was working at this early stage and how to improve participation and processes. We will do another update in a couple months.

COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD # 3 October 2026

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS, ETC:

Nov. 2	**Travel to RMA Fall Convention**	**8:00 am**
Nov. 3-5	**RMA Fall Convention**	**8:00 am**
Nov. 9	**Grimshaw Holy Family School Christmas Lunch**	**11:00 am**
Nov. 10	**Council Meeting**	**9:00 am**
Nov. 10	**PRHARC**	**7:00 pm**
Nov. 16	**LLRWMSC**	**7:00 pm**
Nov. 17	**PRAIC**	**9:30 am**
Nov. 19	**Council Budget Meeting**	**9:00 am**
Nov. 19	**MPTA Executive Meeting**	**6:00 pm**
Nov. 24	**Council Meeting**	**9:00 am**
Nov. 27	**County Christmas Party**	**5:00 pm**
Nov. 30	**MPTA Board Meeting**	**6:00 pm**

Brenda Yasinski, County of Northern Lights, Ward 3 Councillor

COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT
WARD # 4 – Brent Reese
OCTOBER 2026

Oct 13: Regular Council Meeting and Joint Meeting with Town of Manning.

Oct 27: Regular Council Meeting.

North Star Water Issue: As council is aware. a resident has been trying to connect his residence to an already serviced lot in North Star. The water connection has already been paid for and installed at the property line. He's being asked to pay almost $15,000 for equipment to be hauled from outside the county and do the install to the residence.

There is only one approved contractor so it's a take it or leave it deal. As the resident purchased the property as a serviced lot he was shocked at the quote he received. He's received estimates from "unapproved" local contractors that are a fraction of the quote.

I've gone through my records to unearth some history on our water distribution program. The information here comes from a document produced by the engineering company we employed in the early phases of water distribution. It's not dated but it's probably from around 2010 as we were in phase two of the program. The county was bankrolling %100 of the cost outside of the $10,000 buy in fee. The water co-op was directing where the lines ran.

I bring up this history as it directly relates to the issue in North Star. In the first phases of the water distribution program, North Star was not even offered the service even though it had a truck fill from which some of the water lines ran.

When the service was eventually offered to North Star residents, they were required to pay the same $10,000 fee even though some if not most of the connections cost less than that. So the hamlet residents were helping to subsidize the extremely expensive connections that had already occurred farther out. At least one connection was well over $100,000. Phase one connected some of the county's wealthiest residents at the greatest expense to the municipality.

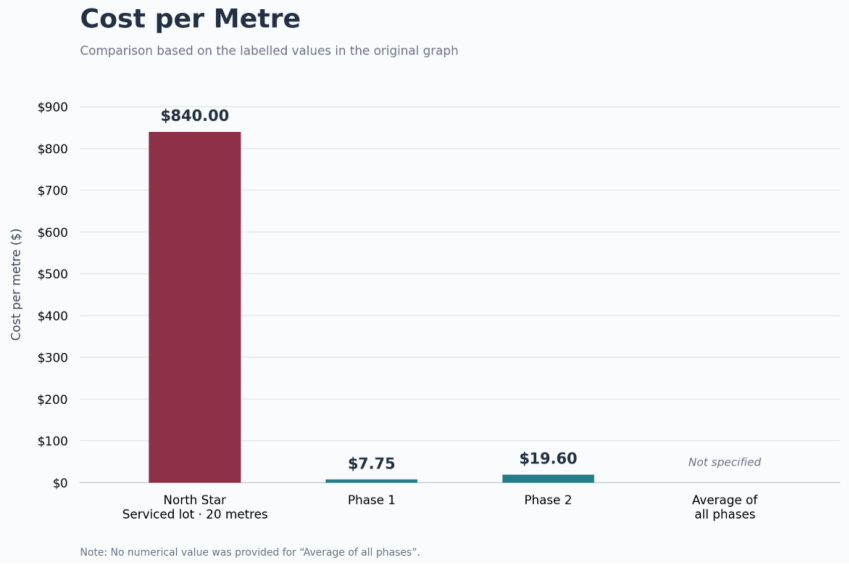
I've prepared a graph to demonstrate the cost per meter that the resident is being forced to pay compared to those in the first two phases of water distribution. He is told he's not allowed to use any nearby contractors or licensed plumbers or do any of his own excavation. Needless to say he's extremely frustrated.

Because the price quoted is also for a sewer connection I arrived at the cost by adding half of the quote to the $10,000 that was already paid for the connection. The water connection is likely more than half but the quote doesn't separate the two. So this is a conservative figure. The actual cost is probably in the range of $1000 per meter. If you look at the graph, you'll see how grossly unfair this is.

The graph doesn't show the average of the later phases but it comes to about $13.70 per meter.

Of course there's been some inflation since these numbers were produced but it's still absurd. To put this it further perspective, if you took this $840 per meter cost and applied to the phase 1 water program, the residents would have had a bill of $1,101,000 based on average length of connection. This is not a direct apples to apples comparison but it further demonstrates the gross unfairness in which hamlet residents have been treated compared to large landowners when it comes to water distribution.

North Star and our other hamlets have been places where people typically seek affordable housing. There's not a lot of millionaires there. Surely we can do better than this.



Brent Reese

Brent Reese

COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD #5 **OCTOBER 2026**

MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED

DATE		TIME
Oct. 13, 2026	*Attended Regular Council Meeting as per agenda*	*9:00 am–3:05 pm*
Oct. 13, 2026	*Attended Jt Council Meeting with Town of Manning as per agenda*	*4:00 pm-5:49 pm*
Oct. 19, 2026	*Attended Regular Council Meeting as per agenda*	*9:00 am-11:30 am*
Oct. 20, 2026	*Stronger Together Library Conference in Edmonton*	*9:00 am-6:00 pm*

Keynote Speakers:

Day 1-R. David Lankes – Death, AI, and Librarianship

R. David Lankes explored the changing role of libraries in a society experiencing increasing social isolation, ideological divisions, and rapid technological change. He emphasized the importance of libraries as welcoming community spaces that encourage learning, connection, storytelling, and the free exchange of ideas. His presentation also addressed intellectual freedom, book challenges, and the ethical considerations surrounding artificial intelligence.

Day 2-Ira Wells – Against Book Banning: History, Strategy, and Securing Our Freedom to Read

Ira Wells examined the history of book banning and the challenges libraries face in protecting intellectual freedom. His presentation explored how censorship can affect access to information and discussed arguments library professionals can use when responding to book challenges. He reinforced the importance of allowing readers access to a variety of ideas and perspectives while protecting the freedom to read.

Breakout Sessions:

Day 1- Ctrl-Alt-Canva: Presenter: Elizabeth Griffiths

This session demonstrated how Canva can be used to create professional promotional materials for library programs, events, and social media. Topics included layout, typography, colour selection, and creative design techniques. The session provided practical ideas for improving library communications and promoting services in an accessible and cost-effective way.

Day 1- Ready, Set, Engage -Presenter: Angela Kublik

This session explored ways to engage with the community to better understand local needs and improve library services. It emphasized gathering public input, communicating effectively, and using community feedback to support planning and decision-making.

Day 1 From Dread to Dialogue-Presenter: Megan Ginther

This session examined ways to make employee performance conversations more constructive and less stressful. It highlighted the value of regular communication, identifying workplace challenges, recognizing opportunities for improvement, and supporting employee development.

Day 1- EPL's Ideal Candidate Project-Presenters: Corrina Chetley-Irwin and Sharon Day

This session explored how the Edmonton Public Library used recruitment data and competency assessments to identify the qualities associated with strong employee performance. It demonstrated how evidence-based approaches can help improve job descriptions, interview questions, and hiring decisions.

Day 1- Writers' Guild Special Session: Moderator: Peter Midgley, Panelists: Dr. Toni Samek, Haley Amendt and Luciana Erregue-Sacchi

The Writers' Guild of Alberta special session on Bill 28, which focused on Alberta legislation concerning library materials, freedom of expression, intellectual freedom, and the potential impacts on public libraries.

The discussion addressed concerns about provincial legislation affecting access to reading materials and the authority of local library boards without any consultation with the library system. Bill 28 raised questions regarding provincial oversight, local decision-making, and the professional responsibilities of library staff. The Writers' Guild of Alberta expressed concerns about the potential effects on intellectual freedom and the public's access to information.

The session also highlighted the importance of balancing age-appropriate access to library materials with the principles of intellectual freedom, parental responsibility, and the role of libraries in providing resources for diverse interests and perspectives.

The session reinforced the importance of understanding provincial legislation and its implications for local library governance and we should continue to pushback on this legislation. Municipal library boards play an important role in ensuring that libraries continue to serve their communities and should be able to allow intellectual freedom.

Oct. 21, 2026 *9:00 am-4:30 pm*

Day 2- AI Essentials: Building Literacy and Making Informed Decisions *Presenter: Dr. Ainslie Harris*

This session introduced the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and explained how AI tools generate information. It addressed the risks of inaccurate information, privacy concerns, and potential bias. The presentation emphasized the importance of understanding AI and using it responsibly, with appropriate safeguards and policies.

Day 2-Meeting the New Challenges -Presenters: Jim Turk and Sharon Day

This session examined the increasingly complex challenges facing public and school libraries, including collection challenges, protests, social media campaigns, legal threats, and government intervention. The presenters discussed the importance of preparation, appropriate policies, and effective responses to protect library services and intellectual freedom.

Day 2-It Takes a Village-Presenters: Sheila Smith and Gail de Vos

This session explored how libraries can strengthen their communities by building partnerships with local organizations, volunteers, interest groups, and residents. It highlighted the value of collaboration in increasing community participation, developing programs, and strengthening the library's role as a community resource.

Day 2- Library Space Design-Presenter: Melissa Ramsey

This session examined how library layout and collection displays can influence browsing and help patrons discover books they might not otherwise find. It highlighted opportunities to improve displays and organize library spaces to encourage exploration, reading for enjoyment, and greater use of library collections.

The Stronger Together Library Conference reinforced that libraries are more than places to borrow books. They are important community institutions that promote literacy, encourage lifelong learning, provide access to information, and bring people together.

Oct. 23, 2026 *Small Business Awards* *6:00 pm-10:00 pm*

The 17th Annual Small Business Awards was held at the Battle River Ag Hall in Manning, co-hosted by the County of Northern Lights, the Manning & District Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Manning. Entertainment provided by comedians Shannon Laverty and Kristeen von Hagen. Their performances added entertainment and laughter to the celebration of local business achievements.

The evening recognized and celebrated local businesses, business leaders, and employees for their contributions to the community. The awards highlighted the importance of supporting local businesses, recognizing outstanding customer service, encouraging business growth, and acknowledging the dedication of local employers and employees.

The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our local business community and recognize the important role small businesses play in the economic vitality of our region.

Oct. 27, 2026 *Attended Organization & Regular Council Meeting as per agenda* 9:00 am-3:10 pm

Oct. 29, 2026 *Attended Talk Ask Listen Workshop* 5:30 pm-8:00 pm

North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA), in partnership with The Do More Agriculture Foundation, hosted the Talk Ask Listen workshop at the Pioneer Museum in Manning. Following a wonderful beef dinner prepared by volunteers of the museum, The Facilitator, Justin Anderson, focused on mental health awareness in agriculture and rural communities. We learned practical ways to recognize when someone may be struggling, start conversations about mental health, listen with compassion, and connect people with appropriate support services.

The workshop highlighted the importance of reducing mental health stigma and encouraging open conversations, particularly in rural communities where isolation and the stresses of farming can affect mental well-being. These skills can help strengthen community connections and ensure people feel supported and know where to turn for help when needed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS, ETC:		**START TIME**
Nov. 2-5, 2026	RMA Conference in Edmonton	8:00 am
Nov. 10, 2026	Regular Council Meeting	9:00 am
Nov. 10, 2026	Manning Municipal Library Meeting	6:00 pm
Nov. 19, 2026	Prepare Food For Thought Breakfast at MACS	7:45 am
Nov. 19, 2026	Budget Meeting	9:00 am
Nov. 24, 2026	Regular Council Meeting	9:00 am
Nov. 27, 2026	CNL Staff Christmas Party	6:00 pm

Gloria Dechant
COUNCILLOR
Ward 5: Breaking Point - North Star
780-836-6578 Box 238, Manning, AB T0H 2M0

We acknowledge the Indigenous people and ancestors whose land we are on

COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD #6

October 2026

Oct 5th: Meet with MLA Williams (virtual) 1430/1530

Chair, vice-chair and administration of PREA had a quick virtual meeting with MLA Williams. He updated us on the GoA's nuclear framework that is still being compiled but assured that it will be out by the first of new year if not sooner. MLA will try arrange meetings for PREA with various cabinet ministers and possibly the Premier's Chief of Staff.

Oct 6th – 8th: RHPAP Confernce 0800/1700

Attend 3 day RHPAP conference in Peace River. Good panels and keynote speakers. Met up with aquaintances and network with new attendees. I was given a long service award from RHPAP.







Oct 13th: Regular council meeting 0830/1400

Regular council per agenda.

Oct 13th: Joint council meeting with Town of Manning 1600/2030

Presentation to councils from consultant helping with CNL fire department.

Presentation from Sgt Ool from Manning RCMP detachment.

Discuss some immediate items required for fire department

Will get a quote and proof to publish PREA Position Paper in local newspaper

Oct 14th Meet with RCMP 1000/1200

Meet with Sgt Ool along with Manning councillor Fredrickson at the Manning detachment. Sgt Ool shared draft terms of reference for a proposed Community Diversity Committee for the Manning area. He explained how he worked with a community developing a similar committee at a previous posting. He had a list of possible organizations and individuals that may be interested in becoming members of proposed committee. He will reach out to them and see if there is any interest.

Oct 16th Regional Economic Development 0800/1300

Meet with other regional municipalities in Peace River to explore forming a regional economic development organization. There is currently a varied mix of how individual municipalities engage in economic development. Some have formed partnerships, some have their own department and some have no dedicated staff. There seemed to be general agreement that one strong regional organization would be benificial and could share resources. Adminstration will work together to put some scenarios and costing options and bring it back for review.

Oct 19th Manning Regional Fire Services 1600/1830

Fire chief's report showed 78 calls up until end of Sept '26 of which 23 were in County, 41 in Town and 14 on Provincial highways. With the late spring and wet summer wildland fires were very low compared to other years. Currently have 24 members, with 10 of them being most active on callouts. Draft agreement between Town and County was reviewed and with a couple of minor edits it will be presented to councils for approval. Financials were reviewed and approved.

Oct 20th **Regional ICF meeting** **1300/1800**

Travel to MD of Peace admin office and attend second regional ICF meeting. The first meeting held at County of Northern Lights had a very positive consensus to have an equitable agreement amongst all 4 municipalities. This second meeting got more into the finances and will require more information from adminstration before proceeding further.

Oct 21st **MAARC meet with AHS** **1200/1300**

Meet with new AHS North Region manager who is from High Level. Manning Mayor and I were invited to the Manning Community Health Center to meet with new regional manager for north zone which just recently includes Manning. She gave a rundown of how they are structured and she is very open to working closely with each community and take forward concerns that arise.

Oct 23rd **Manning & District Small Business Awards** **1730/2200**

Attend the Manning and District Small Business Awards. As usual, great evening recogonizing small businesses in the region. I brought greetings from council, followed by a great supper and presentation of wards. Comedians rounded out the evening. Hats off to the organizers and Josh for doing the MCing again.d

Oct 26th **Manning Sports Center Association** **1830/2130**

Checked what other arenas in the region charge for ice rental. Manning is right in the middle so no changes at this time. Financials were reviewed and approved. Association will renew the contract with the town, no changes from previous. Report from caretaker, everything is going fine, a few ongoing plumbing and heating issues that are being attended to.

Oct 27th **Organizational mtg & regular council mtg** **0830/1630**

Organizatinal meeting; Reeve and Deputy Reeve remain the same. Councillor Reese gave notice of resignation. Assign council to boards and committees for the next year. Regular meeting followed.

Oct 29th **Boucher Bros Lumber anniversary** **1500/2100**

Travel to Peace River for Boucher Bros Lumber 75th anniversary celebration. The venue was absolutly packed, great show of support for a long established sawmill that has operated in the north for 75 years, including Keg River area. There was a good presentation of the families history of sawmilling and they gave recognition to several people including our municipality.



Terry Ungarian

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Nov 2-3 RMA convention Edmonton

Nov 3 CNA conference in Calgary

Nov 10 Regular council meeting

Nov 10 ICF committee meeting with Town of Manning

Nov 12 PREA meeting at MD of Peace

Nov 16 CRAA executive meeting

Nov 17 Regional airport meeting

Nov 19 Help with breakfast at school

Nov 19-20 Budget meeting

Nov 24 Regular council meeting

Nov 27 CNL Christmas party

Nov 30 Regional ICF meeting at NSC

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October 6 Nuclear MTG at the Legion Left Keg River at 5:30p.m. | Home at 10:15 p.m.
There was at least 50 in attendance including myself, Gloria, Terry, Brent and Gerhard (CAO) The guest speaker talked about Risk and Cost of building the Infrastructure and Risk that come with this. Lots of information and food for thoughts.

October 13 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 19 to 22 STRONGER TOGETHER LIBRARY CONFERENCE
I left home 7:30 a.m. and got to Manning at 8:55 a.m. where Gloria picked me up, and we drove to Edmonton together and arrived there at around 4:00 p.m.. Checked in at the conference table in the hotel at 5:00 p.m.

<u>October 20, 2026</u>
8:00 a.m. Breakfast Served – 9:00 a.m. Welcoming remarks, Blessing from Elder Howard Mustus Jr.

9:30 a.m. – Speaker R. David Lankes – Death, AI and Librarianship -Talked about the rise on book bans. He wrote AGAINST BOOK BANNING: HISTORY, STRATEGY, AND SECURING OUR FREEDOM TO READ. BILL 28-how we need to talk to the politicians about our rights and much more.

11:00 a.m. – Session 1B – Trustees Engaging with Policy-with Margaret Law-Link the Goals of your Plan of Service with the daily operations of your Library. Good Policy allows the Board to express their wishes in a way the guides the Manager in the right direction with good Policies and Procedures.

Break for Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. Session- HOW TO KEEP YOUR FRIENDS With Margaret Law and Graeme Matichuk and Tom Slates (Graeme and Tom who are Volunteers for Friend of the library

Friends of the Library – They must be register as a Society and they are libraires strongest champions. Raising funds to help the libraries.

2:00 p.m. Session -FROM DREAD TO DIALOGUE-with Meagan Ginther

Performance reviews- Instead of this Have a GOOD MEETING-one every 3 months –this is what the board found to help them with knowing how things were going instead of once-a-year annual performance review.

In the meeting ask a question, give them the chance to answer the question LISTEN to their answer

Make the conversations to help people grow and make them less painful

3:00 p.m. Session – EPL (Edmonton Public Library) IDEAL CANDIDATE PROJECT with Corrine Chetley-Irwin and Sharon Day- This was a project that these two ladies did in researching on manager assessments, competency analysis and a review of recruitment tools. Things that they thought were critical turned out to be less predictive than expected. So with that how data sources were selected and insights translated into action... Not what I expected but some information-that can be used when hiring.

4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. –PANEL – WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA –BILL 28 PANEL- DR. TONI SAMEK,

LUCIANA ERREGUE-SACCHI AND HALEY AMENDT AND MODERATOR – PETER MIDGLEY

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BILL 28 -Much related to our MLA Dan Williams – Taking away our rights, no real definition, was asked for the list of books that should be banned and would not give. He is saying it will be the libraries who make that decision. Board Policies need to be looked at etc. Said the Municipalities' need advocate. This is what the panel basically said we are losing our rights.

October 21, 2026
8:00 a.m. Breakfast Provided

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

9:15 a.m. GUEST SPEAKER- Ira Wells – AGAINST BOOK BANNING – He wrote a book on this regarding the History, Strategy and Securing Our Freedom to Read and went through how book banning started thousands of years ago and related to Religion which is what it is also doing today and other people who feel they do not like certain books so they should be banned.

10: 20 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 p.m. Session –THE POWE OF CONNECION – With Katheron Gibson- supporting local writers, musicians and artists. Collaboration started in 2022, highlighted what went well, good, the bad and the ugly. Budgets, time requirements, strategies for leveraging community partnerships etc.

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 p.m. Session-MEETING THE NEW CHALLANGES with Jim Turk and Sharon Day with regards to

Bill 28. Discuss the nature of the new forms and how libraries can effectively prepare and respond to them.

2:00 p.m. Session – IT TAKES A VILLAGE with Gail de Vos and Sheila Smith – talked how this small Village of Seba Beach and Library work together. Discussed aspirations for the community, partnerships and steps we would need to make those aspirations a reality.

3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:30 p.m. Session – LIBRARY SPACE DESIGN with Melissa Ramsey – Understanding Browsing Behaviors to Support Serendipitous Discovery. EPL did a study to develop a stronger understanding of customer experience with the physical library spaces. People with physical limits etc.

4:30 p.m. FINISHED WITH END OF DAY. Checked out of our Hotel on October 22 at 7:00 a.m. and drove to Valleyview by 10:30a.m. where I got a ride with my daughter as we were attending our niece's funeral. Drove home to Keg River after the funeral.

October 23 Business Awards @ Ag Hall Left home around 4:30 p.m.
It was over around 9:45 p.m. and I drove to Peace River as I had a meeting in Grande Prairie the following day at 10:30 a.m. with Peace Library System-Executive Meeting

October 24 Peace Library System Executive Meeting 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Drove home after
Meeting as to the agenda - Policies updates and Budget, Meeting Dates for 2027 were discussed.

October 27 Annual Organization MTG and Regular Council MTG - As per Agenda
Congratulation to Terry and Kayln and after elections, sorry that Brent Reese said after much reflection on the last 16 years he would be resigning and thank us all for working well together. Not all of his words but he sent us email after.

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Finished the meetings for the day at 3:16 and drove to Peace River and stayed overnight there for a conference the next morning.

October 28 Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Greetings from Minister Williams online. Greetings from Mayor of Peace River who spoke about crime happening and what was done in the past did not work now, the cost of damages to the businesses downtown etc. Greetings from Barry Gibb Metis District-Leader, RCMP Willowberg (spelling) spoke of being in Peace River for 11 years and they look after Peace River, Woodland Cree, up to Dixonville, plus Nampa and Harmon Valley.

Jean Boda ACCPA chair spoke how it came about. We had many speakers, also a breakout session and speaker for the John Howard – this is where a person who wants to get help with their drug addiction through going to DRUG TREAT COURT SERVICES – it was very intense information and what they have to do to get into it.

I have pages of notes, and I think this is something that needs to be looked into.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:
November 2 to 5 - Rural Municipality Association Conference

November 10 - Regular Council Meeting

November 19 – MACS Volunteer at 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – Budget Meeting and possible next day

November 21 – Peace Library System Board – Elections etc.

November 27 – CNL and Staff Christmas

Linda Halabisky

Councillor Ward 7