

Rural Municipality of Willow Bunch No. 42
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Public Statement for the RM of Willow Bunch

On December 21, 2021, the RM received two Code of Ethics Complaints in relation to Reeve Patrick Therrien ("Reeve Therrien"). Complaint #001-21 alleged that Reeve Therrien had breached the Code of Ethics in several of his interactions with the Complainant. Complaint #002-21 alleged that Reeve Therrien had breached the Code of Ethics in various interactions with the Complainant.

Council acknowledged by resolution the filing of the Code of Ethics Complaints and directed that Council take all necessary steps to determine whether the formal complaints were valid.

A Confidential Code of Ethics Investigation Report dated April 13, 2023 concluded that 9 out of 11 of the allegations in Complaint #001-21 were substantiated and that Reeve Therrien had breached the Code of Ethics.

A Confidential Code of Ethics Investigation Report dated May 4, 2023 concluded that 2 out of 4 allegations in Complaint #002-21 were substantiated and that Reeve Therrien had breached the Code of Ethics.

Council provided Reeve Therrien and the Complainants with a copy of the Complaints and the respective Investigation Reports. Council invited written submission from Reeve Therrien and the Complainants for the consideration of Council. Reeve Therrien did not submit written submissions, but made a verbal statement before Council.

Upon consideration of Complaint #001-21, the Investigation Report and the verbal statement of Reeve Therrien, at the special meeting held on July 19, 2023, Council determined that Complaint #001-21 was substantiated and that Reeve Therrien had breached the Code of Ethics.

Council passed a resolution imposing the following remedial action in relation to Complaint #001-21:

- a) 180-day suspension from Council and Committees;
- b) No pay during the 180-day suspension;
- c) A written, heartfelt and sincere apology to the Complainant to be provided directly to the Complainant within 30 days from the date of the resolution

At the special meeting on July 19, 2023, upon consideration of Complaint #002-21, the Investigation Report and the verbal statement of Reeve Therrien, Council determined that Complaint #002-21 was substantiated and that Reeve Therrien had breached the Code of Ethics.

Council passed a resolution imposing the following remedial action in relation to Complaint #002-21:

- a) 90 day suspension from Council and Committees upon commencing upon the passing of the resolution;
- b) No pay during the 90 day suspension;
- c) Training on Council Code of Ethics to be completed within 90 days from the date of the resolution; and
- d) A written, heartfelt and sincere apology to the Complainant to be provided directly to the Complainant within 30 days from the date of the resolution.

The 180 and 90 day suspensions for both Complaints are to be served consecutively.

As articulated in the Code of Ethics Bylaw #8/2016, members of Council recognize that our actions have an impact on the lives of all residents in the community. Fulfilling our obligations and discharging our duties responsibly requires a commitment to high ethical standards. Council has released this public statement to promote accountability and transparency within local government in accordance with its obligations.



Denis Lesperance – Deputy Reeve