

## **Press Release – June 20, 2023**

In the initial conversations with Aspen View Public Schools, the Town of Smoky Lake explored options to re-purpose the small gymnasium as part of the old H.A. Kostash School building located at 5019-50 Street in Smoky Lake.

Town Council and Administration worked closely to examine and consider the financial implications that re-purposing of the small gymnasium would have on taxpayers, as future development needs of this building would be the responsibility of the municipality.

In November 2022, Town Council decided not to pursue the acquisition to repurpose the small gymnasium building and requested the Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO) of the Smoky Lake Region to discuss any potential business opportunities for the small gymnasium building prior to the demolition. No interested parties came forward.

In January 2023, the Town advised Aspen View Public Schools of their decision not to pursue the acquisition and re-purposing of the small gymnasium.

In April 2023, Town Council was approached by local business owners with a potential business opportunity to re-purpose the small gymnasium building. Town Council advised Administration to contact Alberta Infrastructure to consider a change order to prevent the demolition of the small gymnasium. Administration met with Alberta Infrastructure and the Aspen View Superintendent to discuss the change order request.

In May 2023, Aspen View Board of Trustees advised the Town that they made a motion to proceed with the full demolition of the old H.A Kostash School based on information received from Alberta Infrastructure. Town Council made the final decision not to pursue the small gymnasium following the decision made by Aspen View Public Schools.