

2018 RATEPAYER MEETINGS

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We are dedicated to improving the quality of life of the residents of the Special Areas through the provision of cost-effective, proactive and responsive municipal services, and effective long-term land and waste management.

We will actively work to increase the population of the Special Areas and work to offer diverse opportunities to facilitate that growth.

Special Areas Board Mission Statement

Chair's Report

Jordon Christianson, Chair – Special Areas Board



“This is your meeting, we want to hear what your concerns are and get direction on where you want the Special Areas to go.”

Jordon Christianson, Chair

HOT TOPICS

Governance & Local Elections

- ◆ 2017 Elections: Changes to Advisory Council and Board
- ◆ Advisory Council and Special Areas Board: roles and responsibilities
- ◆ Municipal Affairs review of Special Areas Board: conclusions and outcomes

Coal-Affected Communities

- ◆ Hanna Climate Change Task Force
 - Community Action Teams
 - Community Investment Fund
- ◆ Advocacy with Government
- ◆ Potential Industry Partnerships – Renewable Energy Projects

Economic Development

- ◆ Oyen Railyard Project
 - \$2.1M investment from SAB
- ◆ Potential Industry Partnerships/Projects
- ◆ Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP)
- ◆ Business Attraction & Incentive Policy

Advisory Councillor's Report

BOARD & COMMITTEE WORK

Each Advisory Councillor reports to their subdivision on the work they are doing.

This often includes detailed reports on the various external boards & committees they sit on representing the Special Areas Board.

For more information on your Advisory Councillor's work, head to [our website](#) to look at the Boards & Committee appointments and review the minutes from your Ratepayer Meeting.

Finance & Administration

Darcy Ferguson, Director

FINANCIALS & TRENDS

The Big Picture

- ◆ 2017 Audited Financials available for viewing at [our website](#)
- ◆ In 2017:
 - Actual revenue is up compared to budgeted revenue
 - Oil well drilling revenue is up
 - Major paving project had 50% cost-sharing from Alberta Transportation
 - Actual deficit is less than budgeted

Current Trends

- ◆ Oil & Gas activity up in areas within the region
- ◆ Industry looks like it is stabilized
- ◆ Assessment is no longer showing large decreases
- ◆ Using the accumulated surplus to build capital public assets & infrastructure network

Future Considerations

- ◆ Government grant funding (MSI) changes potentially coming in 2020
- ◆ Moving to a balanced budget (2019/2020) as secondary road surfacing projects are completed
- ◆ Decreasing population may have negative impact on government grant funding

Municipal Services

Owen Francis, Director

PROJECT UPDATES

Roads & Infrastructure

- ◆ Continued maintenance partnership with Alberta Transportation
- ◆ 2018 projects:
 - Granular Base Course (GBC) on two section of SH 886
 - Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG) on SH 862, 586, old 895
 - Local Roads being constructed throughout Special Areas.
- ◆ 2018 marks end of the Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG) program for secondary highways

Emergency & Enforcement

- ◆ 2017 was a record year for emergency response calls
 - 368 calls (more than double average year)
 - Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) trending up
 - Volunteer-based departments
- ◆ Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated 3 times:
 - Bindloss Fire (Sept 11)
 - October 2 Snowstorm
 - Hilda/Burstall Fire (Oct 18)
- ◆ SH 570 continues to be an enforcement focus
 - 3 SAB Peace Officers

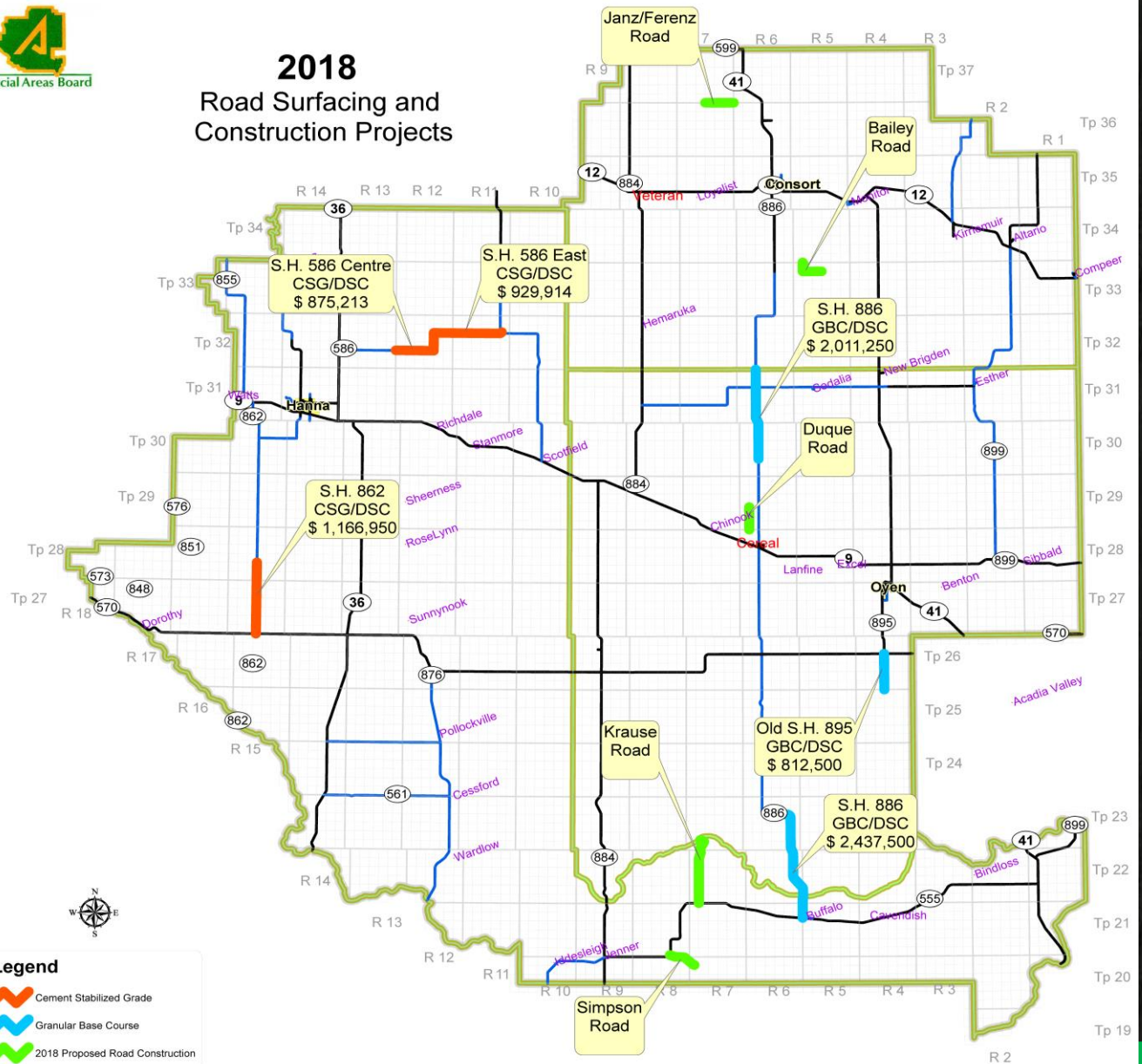
Water & Parks

- ◆ Water:
 - Focus on increasing efficiency and decreasing costs
 - Support neighboring communities for licenced operator work (relief role)
- ◆ Parks:
 - Carolside Roadside Service Area
 - Camping fee increase to \$15/night (unserviced)
 - Work with AEP to re-establish catch limits at Carolside

2018 Road Program



2018 Road Surfacing and Construction Projects



Property Administration

Trent Caskey, Director

TRENDS & UPCOMING WORK

Assessment Trends

- ◆ Stabilized overall assessment base due to the base year modifier not being changed
- ◆ Industry makes up majority of the assessment base and contributes majority of the tax revenue
- ◆ Potential impacts of coal transition and energy generation facilities

2018 Rate Reviews

- ◆ Grazing lease rates updated for 2018
 - Formula based in *Public Lands Act*
- ◆ Cultivation lease rate left unchanged since 2015
- ◆ Community pasture grazing fees increased \$0.02/head/day
- ◆ Pastures at 100% allotment (Remount at 80% due to reduced grass from fire)

Upcoming Projects

- ◆ New policy development related to abandoned railway lands
- ◆ *Application of Public Lands Act Regulation* review
- ◆ *Special Areas Service Fee Regulation* review
- ◆ Economic Development and Business Incentives Policy
- ◆ Oyen Rail Yard Project construction and area development



Want to learn more?

Head to www.specialareas.ab.ca to view copies of current financial statements, ratepayer minute books, newsletters, and ratepayer meeting minutes. To get a hardcopy of any of these items, contact your local District Office or Service Center.

To contact your locally elected Advisory Councillor, head to the Advisory Council contact page at [our website](#).

To speak with Special Areas administration or employees, contact our Board Office at (403) 854-5600.

