

2018 ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING
Special Area No. 2, Subdivision 2
Homestead Coulee Hall, June 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 pm, with approximately 11 ratepayers in attendance.

Stratton Peake nominated Neal Roes for Chairman. Seconded by Richard Mashon. Cam Gillespie moved nomination cease. **Carried.**

Richard Mashon moved the 2017 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Laurie Gillespie. **Carried.**

Advisory Council Member Reports

Neal Roes – Subdivision 2:

Commented on:

- Carolside Irrigation, expansion complete, will let the system work for a few years before other expansions considered
- Ag Service Board, Ag Fieldman Jesse Williams will be starting maternity leave, replacement hired.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:

Commented on a number of items, including:

- Special Areas Board Governance - 5 new councillors, Doug Noble replaces Bonnie Sansregret on Board to sit with Brent Horner and Daryl Swenson. Jordon's term expires in fall of 18 but a further term of 3 years has been awarded.
- ABC review of SAB - Municipal Affairs not prepared to move forward at present, has stopped the review of SAB and current governance will continue
- Coal Transition – Provincial and Federal mandate on phase out of coal. Climate Change Taskforce (SA & Hanna), economic development for area, working on potential solar project, to generate funds to support communities
- Oyen Rail Project
- Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP)
- Assisted living beds need in Oyen - 10 beds assisted living, 10 beds dementia care coming to decision this fall.

Owen Francis, Director of Municipal Services:

Commented on a number of items including:

- Roads - Alberta Transportation agreement on secondary's, in second year of three year agreement, GBC 886, FINAL Cement on 586 and 862 which will complete the cement stabilized grade program, 2018 construction, last year 44 km of paving on 876 which AB Transportation did fund 50%
- Water – Focusing on setting up Jenner Water treatment reduced from 7 days/week monitoring. Completed Wardlow distribution Building and truck fill, continue formal agreements with small communities to offer relief personnel for water services
- Emergency Services – Fire - last year about 360 call outs (double average), Fires-Suffield, Hilda, early October Snow storm. Regional Training Partnership continues, new equipment planned for Empress, Jenner, Cereal. Homestead Coulee Fire Hall replacement 2019-2020
- Community Peace officers – increased patrol focused on 570/36 and 570/884 intersections and very high speeds



- Parks – upgrades at Carolside dam, restroom, garbage receptacles, plan netting to re-establish catch limits at Carolside

Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance and Administration:

Commented on:

- Revenues up 5.7 M
- Good news for assessment base
- 2018 budget
- Financial Statements
- Tax Receivables
- Return to balanced budget in 2 years
- Province covering education portion on bad debt

Trent Caskey, Director of Property Administration:

Commented on:

- Wrap up of the 2004 TRLS, 56 % sold 3 agreements still in process
- Assessment Base, base year modifier caused the biggest drop
- Rate Reviews, cultivation rate remains the same, grazing lease rates linked to market, up slightly, Province is not going to change grazing rate either.
- Renewable Energy Projects – no allowance for renewable projects on Public Lands, setbacks for wind projects
- Community Pasture Update – rate at \$0.71/head/day, at 100% allotment exception of Remount where 20% reduction due to fire, TB situation now resolved
- Railway Policy, returning to parcel
- CARB Hearing
- Application of Public Lands Act and Special Areas Service Fee Regulations were to expire September 2018, but the expiry has been repealed
- Mapbook, legend to direct hunters

Discussion:

- Possibility of Special Areas owned natural gas, incentives for business
- SAWSP pipe vs canal
- Fire at Starland offices – how is Special Areas protected
- Business interest in Bitcoin, Marijuana
- Tax Recovery Land Sale – assessment based sale vs two quarters, crown lease sold in Sask, more titled lands gives economic security to local area
- Big companies buying deeded land, leading to fewer people in small communities, corporate ownership of land
- No service or gas signage on 570 – have been requested,
- Possible cardlock at Water station in Sunnynook
- Hamlet of Dorothy needs signage for rest area, possibility of wifi (low bandwidth), and cell booster for emergency, garbage bin needed
- 862, grass seeded in pasture not a good catch, Ron's back trail repair, grader operator
- Fire Chiefs-term limits to reduce stress
- Next large project to fund- recreation and infrastructure – swimming pool in Consort, fire trucks, pavement, assisted living project
- Need for dementia care in Hanna
- Review of motions from other ratepayer meetings



Motions:

SA2SUB2 - Motion 1: Stratton Peake moves to look at options for increased irrigation on main pipeline, Bullpound and Carolside systems. Seconded by Neil Dornan. **Carried.**

SA2SUB2 - Motion 2: Stratton Peake moved to support further investigation of tax recovery land sales based on assessment, taking into account lands not sold under previous sales, to move forward at the appropriate time. Seconded by Neil Dornan. **Carried.**

Stratton Peake moved for adjournment at 3:37 PM.

Brett Richards

Brett Richards, Administrator
Special Area No. 2, Hanna

Not Ratified