

ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETING

Special Area No. 2, Subdivisions 3 & 4

Hardgrass Hub, Pollockville, May 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. with approximately 19 ratepayers in attendance.

Brad Rooke nominated Brad Slorstad for Chairman. Brad Pierson moved nominations cease.

Craig Horner moved the 2018 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Calvin Rooke. **Carried.**

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:

Commented on a number of items, including:

- Spring Advisory Council meeting was postponed;
- Special Areas Board Governance - Doug Noble, Brent Horner, Daryl Swenson and Jordon. Focusing on review of policy on Community Pasture, sale of abandoned railways, land use order, aware of bad debt on oil and gas, do not see it changing soon;
- Change in Government – new minister Kaycee Madu, new deputy minister Meryl Whittaker, continue to work on DPP issue, long term care and dementia beds in Oyen;
- Coal Transition – Sheerness is transitioning to natural gas but will have dual fuel capabilities, have conditionally sold to Energy Capital Partners, Climate Change Taskforce (SA & Hanna) was working on potential solar project to generate funds to support communities - this has now lost traction. Community action team work continues;
- Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP) – environmental impact assessment is completed, socioeconomic return is valued at 13 cents on the dollar of investment; and
- Previous motions – regarding increased irrigation – has council and board support, these conversations with Alberta Environment started this spring and tax recovery land sale- always a big discussion at Council, tabled last fall until election decided.

Darren Jones for Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance and Administration:

Commented on:

- 2018 Financial Statements;
- Strong financial position;
- Continue to focus on lowering expenditures;
- Additional revenue means surplus position for 2018;
- Revenue: net taxes up, grazing lease revenue on budget, MSI funds up, other revenue up (Oil well drilling taxes);
- Expenditures: were down 1.2 M from budget, surplus was 3.7 M, accumulated operational surplus at 15.4 M.; and
- Planned balanced budget 2020/2021.

Owen Francis, Director of Municipal Services:

Commented on a number of items including:

- Roads - Alberta Transportation agreement on secondary's, in third year of three year agreement, staged

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- Parks – Docks and piling at Blood Indian/Carolside, playground at Prairie Oasis, stocked Blood Indian with Tiger Trout to help control Prussian Carp, one fish limit at Carolside currently, camp fees in place at Carolside, Blood Indian, and Prairie Oasis.

Trent Caskey, Director of Property Administration:

Commented on:

- 2004 TRLS Update was 56.5% sold, 940,000 acres of Tax Recovery Land remain in SA;
- Market Value Assessment update;
- Adjustments in the assessment base;
- Review of Lease Rates;
- Land Use Order Review;
- Community Pasture Fees and Policy Review;
- Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks and Intermunicipal Development Plans (32 in total);
- Policy for Sale of Abandoned Railway;
- Oyen Rail Yard and Logistics Park Project; and
- Policy to Promote Economic Development.

Kelsey Martin, Aggregates Manager:

- Presented on cost and expense tracking of SA equipment and construction crews.

Discussion:

- ATCO waterline to Sheerness invaluable, is equity stake possible?;
- Is an irrigation district needed?;
- Irrigation expansion, future of ATCO water line;
- Pipeline, access road and wellsite reclamation. Special Areas support to Leaseholders with reclamation concerns;
- Community Pasture use on mine land;
- Mine land possible use for garbage; and
- Sublet policy and a lack of flexibility, possible changes on other public land lease regarding sublet.

Motions:

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Regan Curry moves the SAB explore ownership (either whole or in part) of the ATCO waterline and pumps that service the Sheerness Power Plant to protect and possibly enhance the water licence associated with it. Seconded by Trevor Kingcott. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2: Brad Rooke moves that SAB initiate a new Tax Recovery Land Sale. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Craig Horner moves that SAB make a policy to have leaseholder signoff before issuing comment on a reclamation application. Seconded by Brad Rooke. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 - Motion 4: Regan Curry moves that SAB lobby the Minister of Environment and Parks to ensure current reclamation meets the standards laid out by the AER. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**