

ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETING

Special Area No. 2, Subdivisions 7 & 8

Buffalo Hall, May 29, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. with approximately 17 ratepayers in attendance.

Daryl Swenson nominated Brad Osadczuk for Chairperson. Seconded by Pat Kukura.

Debbie Ross moved the 2018 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Stan Krause.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Daryl Swenson – Subdivision 7:

Commented on:

- The patrons of Remount remain cut back at 20%; and
- New base commander coming into Suffield seems to have same view of Elk as outgoing base commander Lt. Col. Mike Onieu.

Brad Osadczuk – Subdivision 8:

Commented on:

- Wind projects from the MPC, open house is next week for Buffalo Atlee.

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
- Village of Cereal – viability assessment with Municipal Affairs is ongoing.

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

Commented on:

- 2018 Financial statements – in strong financial situation, had operation surplus, oil well drilling tax up, industry bad debt and levy on industrial and provincial program to cover school tax portion on bad debt written off;
- 2019 mill rate – same as last year;

Owen Francis, Director of Municipal Services:

Commented on:

- Roads - Alberta Transportation agreement on secondary's, in third year of three year agreement, staged surfacing plan continues, shoulder pull program on previously engineered roads will begin;
- Water – continuing to work with AB Environment on reducing Jenner Water treatment plant from 7 days/week monitoring, planned truck fill in Sibbald area, continue formal agreements with small communities to offer relief personnel for water services;
- 886 granular base course near Cereal – there is 8 km to finish in the next few days;
- Water - Automated monitoring system at the Jenner water station, replace some waterlines in Jenner and Bindloss, support villages with water technicians; and
- Emergency Services:
 - Fire 2018 – 222 fire calls (127 for fire), fire training for public works staff, capital replacement plan – Veteran Fire Hall and one Wildland Fire Truck purchase, work on Regional Emergency Management Plan;
 - Community Peace Officers – increased patrol focused on secondary highways, focus on education; and
 - 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;
- Policy to Promote Economic Development; and
- Remount allotment decreased by 20% as a result of the fire, other community pastures at 100%.

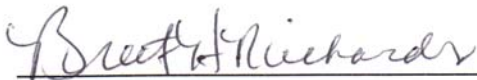
Kelsey Martin, Aggregates Manager:

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

Discussion:

- Krause road rock piles moved over seeded land – will need reseeded;
- Fencing on Krause road should have started two months earlier, contracts should go until the end of the job;
- Exposed telephone lines with Telus;
- Fill in burrow pit on Krause road, does not hold water and the sides are steep and eroding;
- Power pole mounds on Simpson Road, checkerboard signs need replaced on Simpson Road;
- Future tax recovery land sales;
- Land Use order changes and opportunity for public consultation, setback distances from residences to turbines;
- Dust control strips for residences on Krause road due to gravel haul;
- Gopher poison licencing and availability;
- Gravel windrow left on the edge of the road after grading;
- Washboard on roads;
- Interval of grading on roads; and
- Pulling the shoulder of the road when grading in spring and fall would solve the windrow left on the side of the road.

Chair moved for adjournment at 4:20 pm.



Brett Richards, Administrator
Special Area No. 2