

**2019 ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 4, SUB-DIVISION NO. 1, 2 and 3
Consort, Alberta
June 12, 2019**

Jordon Christianson welcomed those in attendance and introduced Kelsey Martin, Aggregates Manager, Darren Jones – Financial Services Coordinator and Maeghan Chostner – Communications.

Colin Ulseth nominated Graham Schetzle for Chairperson, Barry Davies seconded, **Carried**.

Chairperson Graham Schetzle, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the Gem Center with a total of 10 ratepayers in attendance. Minutes of the June 11, 2018 meeting were read and declared adopted on a motion by Erica Hadwin, seconded by Pat Rutledge, **Carried**.

Advisory Council Member Reports

Graham Schetzle, SD #1 - reported on Acadia Foundation – vacancies in most, Consort is highest. Looking at alternatives for space usage such as renting, other businesses, etc. East Central Ambulance – still in union negotiations with staff. New ambulance purchased for \$150K. Big Country Waste – interesting board, always looking 20-30 years ahead, as do most Special Areas committees. Sits on ASB – SA#4 Economic Development Board – meets a couple times a year.

Barry Redel, SD #2 – SMRWSC – meet 3-4 times/year. Coronation to Brownfield line with truckfill completed. MPC – development permits – meet monthly. Road Committee – at Youngstown this year so had a shop tour. Consort & District Medical Centre board – have Dr. Irene Shenouda 4 days a week, Dr. Akindipe on Wednesdays and some Fridays. Meet with AHS and with Coronation Medical Board. Alfred Brown Handibus – casino funds to be saved for new Handibus. CARA rep for the ASB.

Doug Noble, SD #3 – appointed to the Special Areas Board, meets every two weeks. Doug sits on the Species at Risk committee, 70% of species are in the SA. ECHS – has yet to attend a meeting.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair

Jordon discussed the following:

- The Advisory Council and administration continue to complete Policy work – community pasture, railway bed ROW, economic development initiatives, TRLS.
- We again have a new government and new minister – Mr. Kaycee Jadu and within our department have lost long term Deputy Minister Brad Pickering who retired. Our new DM is Ms. Meryl Whitaker.
- Dinosaur Prov. Park – trying to find resolution with leases within the park.
- Oyen lobbying on assisted living and dementia care – continue to work with province and Acadia foundation on this.
- Ongoing agreement with AT on secondary's – looking for longer term commitment. Current one expires this year.
- Town of Hanna coal transition – community owned utility solar park – hoping to help with economic impact of Sheerness closing – options for community to draw off this fund for community project benefits. Business case not strong enough, too many hurdles to move forward – still looking at different options going long term. Sheerness potential sale to US company Energy Capital Partners, coming to Hanna next week to meet and discuss what future is for Sheerness. Even though the plan is still to transition to gas, they will still keep capability to run coal through the facility.
- SAWSP – EIA completed – took 6 years, will need to make decision on whether to move forward or not with the project. No real environmental issues, economic value t - \$400m capital to construct – return would be only \$.11-.12/dollar. Considerable investment to move forward and whether province would contribute. Looking to have public consultation workshops to assist in council's decision on this.

Darren Jones, Financial Services Coordinator

Darren reviewed the 2018 financial statements as distributed. Shows we are in strong financial position, with sufficient resources to fund future operational and capital requirements. Accumulated surplus increases to \$15.45m dollars. Continue to focus on lowering expenditures through operational efficiencies, competitive contract pricing and tendering through clear procurement processes.

Owen Francis, Director of Municipal Services

Owen's power point presentation started by discussing:

Roads

- Secondary Highway Agreement – 2019 is final year of 3-year renewed agreement with AT. We take over maintenance of 500 kms of Secondary's from April to October. Will be working towards renewing this term for a longer timeframe.
- Owen reviewed all the 2019 surfacing, 2019-2021 construction and shoulder pull projects on the map.

Water

- Complete water distribution line replacements in Jenner and Bindloss, working with AE to eliminate 7 days/week attendance at Jenner
- New truckfill in Sibbald area.
- Supporting small communities in the Special Areas with service agreements to offer relief personnel for non-SAB operated water systems.

Emergency Services

- New Fire Hall in Veteran (cost-share SAB and Veteran)
- Wildland fire truck
- Regional Emergency Management Plan being completed in 2019, includes all urban municipalities within SA to create community and regional planning and training.
- Community Peace Officers – 3 officers – 2019 focus is increased presence on Secondary Highways, education rather than enforcement, building relationships with other enforcement agencies through joint operations, skill sharing/education, events.

Parks

- new docks and pilings at Blood Indian/Carolside, new playground at POP
- stocking BI with Tiger Trout to help combat Carp problem, plus netting and other control techniques, one fish limit in place for Carolside.
- Camping fees at PO, BI and Carolside.

Comments on *if SA is considering building Misty Lake Road to Hwy#41 and surfacing RgRd 5-0 from Monitor to MD of Provost.*

Trent Caskey, Director of Property Administration

Trent reported on:

- **TRLS** – 2004 TRLS – offered 435,000 acres, only sold 245,680 (56.5%), reviewing previous draft that was proposed with new council.
- **Assessment** update – presented chart of assessments from 2013-18 showing transition of decreasing assessment base. Sitting at just over \$4 billion, slight increase from 2018.
- **Lease Rate** Reviews – CL rates will increase slightly by in 2019, GL rates close to the same in 2019 rates due to strong cattle prices
- **LUO** – review of current LUO is underway; Palliser Regional Services assists us with this process scheduled for early 2020
- **Community Pastures** – increase in 2019 from \$.71/head/day to \$.75, pastures allotted at 100% except Remount where reduced by 20% due to the fire.
- **Community Pasture Policy Review** – created committee of council to work on updating this policy, is out for public review.
- **ICF/IDP's** – Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework and Intermunicipal Development Plans are required to be completed as per the MGA by April 1, 2020.
- **Abandoned Railbeds** - investigating a policy to possibly sell these lands back to the existing titles.
- **Oyen Rail Yard and Logistics Park** – Iron Horse has built facility and is moving frac sand, opening for proposals from other interested parties for future developments.
- **Policy to Promote Economic Development** – investigating options/incentives for development in Special Areas

Discussion on TRLS – think it should be based on a percentage of your land holdings not just 2 quarters. More quarters should be available.

Erica Hadwin moved that Special Areas have another tax recovery land sale with as many quarters as possible available for purchase by the lessee. Seconded by Shirley Evaskevich, CARRIED unanimously.

Presentation by Kelsey Martin on Road Surfacing, Construction & Maintenance Cost Analysis.

New Business

Moved by Sandy Kelts that Barry Davis replace Don Kozlinski as road committee member in SD#3, NW Corner. Seconded by Colin Ulseth . Carried.

Moved by Sandy Kelts that Carley Day replace Dana Henfrey-Sansregret on the Special Area #4 Recreation Board. Seconded by Pat Rutledge. Carried.

Sandy Kelts, CAO of the Acadia Foundation addressed those present regarding the vacancies at the lodges in the Special Areas and are looking for opportunities to fill these vacancies with office rentals, businesses, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52pm on a motion by Graham Schetzle.

Corinne Kelts

**Corinne Kelts, Administrator
SPECIAL AREA NO. 4, CONSORT**