

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING  
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISION NO. 1 & 5  
Hanna Legion Hall  
June 7, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. with three ratepayers in attendance.

Scott Viste nominated Mark Blair for Chairman. Seconded by Don Viste.

Don moved the 2022 minutes be adopted as amended. Seconded by Scott. **CARRIED.**

**Business Arising from Minutes**

Carolside levels – some extra pumping, trending similar to last year.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Mark Blair – Subdivision 5:**

- Harvest Sky – Government funding has ended, signage in town and demolition of old buildings complete
- Big Country Waste – Fire last fall in new cell, starting to construct new cell

**Kevin Bossert – Subdivision 1: did not report.**

**SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS**

**Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:**

Commented on:

- Special Areas Board Governance – Jordon, Brad Slorstad, Daryl Swenson and Doug Noble make up the Special Areas Board
- Director of Municipal Services – Owen Francis has retired and Shaune Kovitch has replaced him
- Municipal Partnerships
- Acadia Foundations – Oyen Lodge Expansion, now planned for 14 beds for SL4 and dementia, est. 8.5 million, Acadia also converting 10 existing beds to long term care
- Big Country (Oyen) Hospital - Update
- MD of Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy – Update, Breaking Restriction Contraventions

**Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance:**

Commented on:

- Covid 19 pandemic and current economic impact on Budget
- 2022 Financial Statements and had Darren Jones review revenues and expenses

**Shaune Kovitch, Director of Municipal Services:**

Commented on:

- 2023 Major Projects & Secondary Highways: Constructing 22.5 +4 km, Recrowning 28.9 km, Surfacing 27.4 km and adding RAP program in hamlets, continuing staffing shortages, Paving on Highway 855
- Water – Scotfield Water, Cereal water and sewer
- Emergency Services
  - Fire – Rob Palmer is Fire Chief, Kyle Rohl is Deputy Fire Chief
  - Site prep for Cessford Fire Hall, fire hall addition in Consort
  - Regional training for volunteer fire fighters
  - Fire Smart Program

- Enforcement services – two officers – ideally three officers, SA road use order is approved
- Parks – John Armstrong retiring, Melissa Lee – new manager of parks, work with Province regarding Prussian Carp have collapsed fishery at Blood Indian

**Trent Caskey, Director of Property Administration:**

Commented on:

- Assessment total 3.7 billion
- Assessment Notice just mailed – Deadline to appeal July 21, 2023
- Wind Energy Projects
- Community Pasture rates 2023- \$1.00/head/day, reductions for drought
- Cultivation Lease rate 2022 – 0.075 factor
- Grazing Lease Rental 2022 – \$51.67
- Land Use Order Review and Update
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy
- Oyen Railyard Project and possible Rail Expansion Project
- Sheerness Industrial Park
- Lease Conversion Policy now allows for a maximum of four quarters to be converted

**Discussion:**

- Grazing or lack there of at Antelope Hill Provincial Park is a fire hazard
- Purchase of vehicles not serviceable within Special Areas
- Paving and planned repair on Snake Trail

Bob Gainer moved to adjourn at 3:52 p.m.

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Brett Richards, Administrator  
Special Area No. 2

*Motion to approve minutes to occur at the next annual ratepayer meeting.*