

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING  
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISIONS NO. 1 & 5  
Hanna Legion Hall  
May 31, 2024**

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

Mike Hart nominated Mark Blair for Chairman. Seconded by Don Viste. Merle Blair moved nominations cease Jean Pattison seconded. **Carried.**

Merle Blair moved the 2023 minutes be adopted as amended. Seconded by Mike Hart. **Carried.**

**Business Arising from Minutes**

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

**ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Kevin Bossert – Subdivision 1:**

- Acadia Foundation
- Hanna Medical Board.

**Mark Blair – Subdivision 5:**

- Big Country Waste – Fire repair complete and new cell operational. Room for 15 years, applying to pile on older portions of landfill.
- Harvest sky – coal transition finding complete, looking to the future, tourism attraction, managing visitor information centre
- Palliser Regional Municipal Services – safety codes have moved away from Drumheller back to Hanna Office, Park Enterprises replaced Superior Safety Codes as inspections services.

**SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS**

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

Commented on:

- Special Areas Board Member Changes – Kevin Wilson replaced Daryl Swenson on Board (serving with Jordon Christianson, Brad Slorstad, Doug Noble)
- Advisory Council - Graham Schetzle resigned from the Advisory Council and Gordon Long won the by-election to fill the position
- Municipal Partnerships
- Regional Medical Projects and Programs – Acadia Foundation Oyen Lodge Expansion, Consort Nurse Practitioner Pilot Project
- MD of Acadia & Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project – Phase 2 underway, next open house Q1 2025
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy – Minister has approved, currently underway, policy expires July 16, 2026, applications must be submitted by then.

**Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance:**

Commented on:

- Impact on Budget – supply chain, collecting on bad debt
- 2023 Financial Statements.

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

Commented on:

- 2024 Major Projects & Secondary Highways: One full construction crew to Sheerness industrial park, work on a paving plan for upcoming projects, 855 paving after July long weekend with 50/50 cost share with the province, agreement with Alberta Transportation in place for surfacing on Secondary Highways. Granular Base Course work complete in two years, have begun to work on 10-year paving plan based on surface condition of surfaced secondary roads. Pavement repair on Snake Trail in conjunction with the 855 paving.
- Water – Scotfield Water system, regional waterline expansion Pemukan to Compeer, investigation into future potable water systems, with open houses planned for this summer
- Emergency Services
- Fire – Rob Palmer Fire Chief, Kyle Rohl Deputy Fire Chief
- New Cessford Fire Hall in 2024, ordered a new tender (Water Tanker) for Cessford 2025 delivery
- Regional Emergency Management
- Enforcement services – Community Peace officers – ideally three officers, have one, just hired one and recruiting another
- Special Areas Road Use Order – now exempt agricultural users, notification system in development
- Parks and Campgrounds – upgrades and improvements planned, fisheries discussion.

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

Commented on:

- Assessment total 400 million, 3.9 million from solar and wind
- Wind Energy Projects have come on and future projects might result in 1.5 million in additional tax revenue
- Combined Assessment and Taxation Notice sent May 15, 2024– Deadline to appeal July 22, 2024
- Community Pasture: rates 2024- \$1.05/head/day, reductions in allotment for drought, Nolan Ball handling administration
- Cultivation Lease rate 2024 - no change from 2023
- Grazing Lease Rental 2024 – May be a 44% increase over 2023 rentals
- Land Use Order Update Board has had two readings and Minister of Municipal Affairs sign off is pending
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy
- Sheerness Industrial Park and Reservoir
- MD of Acadia & Special Areas Irrigation Project.

**Discussion:**

- Use of Nurse Practitioners in area
- Jordon's appointment end date and the likelihood of staying on past that
- Rates paid to Councillors and board members too low has not moved and should be updated
- Community pasture rates should be increased
- Bussing to Hanna, now that Greyhound is out of operation
- Revenue from Wind and Solar projects

- Berry Creek Bridge on Secondary Highway 570, bypass open, full replacement planned for end of August
- Sheerness Industrial Park
- Sand at Prairie Oasis Park, sand screen, seemed to work well
- Training for grader operations paying off, seeing results
- Relationship with Dinosaur Provincial Park, access to river at Steeveville
- Appeals on Assessment from companies
- Gravel testing for the Tax Recovery Land Sale, call prior to entry. One test site in an oil field site
- Instrument led approach in Hanna should be posted which has been completed in Hanna, Consort and Oyen and weather station operational in Oyen
- Solar and Wind farms in the Special Areas and Special Areas Administration involvement
- Why doesn't Sheerness invest in community operated electrical generation
- Foreigners own electrical grid and generation, and we should be ordering and establishing our own systems owned by the people
- Railway Investigation - make sure there is something in it for us, the right to run short rail line, councillor on the board of directors, etc.

Merle Blair moved to adjourn at 3:51 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.*