

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISION NO. 2
Handhills Lake Clubhouse
June 6, 2023**

Neal Roes, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. with approximately 11 ratepayers in attendance.

Richard Mashon moved the 2022 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Day Lenfesty. **CARRIED.**

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Neal Roes – Subdivision 2:

Commented on:

- Dry Conditions and rain is needed
- Many wind turbines are up and more being built

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:

Commented on:

- Apologies for miscommunication on meeting location
- Introduced Shaune Kovitch as Director of Municipal Services
- Jordon and Trent spoke to previous motion regarding Bullpound water lines
- Special Areas Board Governance – Jordon, Brad Slorstad, Daryl Swenson and Doug Noble make up the Special Areas Board
- Municipal Partnerships
- Acadia Foundations – Oyen Lodge Expansion, now planned for 14 beds for SL3 and dementia, est. 8.5 million, Acadia also converting 10 existing beds in Oyen 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 and Administration:

Commented on:

- Lingering pandemic impacts and current economic impacts on budget
- 2022 Financial Statements and revenues and expenses
- Receiving money on bad debt, down to five companies not paying

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
- 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 currently – goal is three officers, SA road use order is approved, ag operations are exempted

- Parks – John Armstrong retiring, Melissa Lee – new manager of parks, work with Province regarding Prussian Carp have collapsed fishery at Blood Indian
- Alberta Transportation Bridge restrictions on 570 over Berry Creek and Monitor

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 (Oyen-Lyalta or Edmonton)
- Sheerness Industrial Park
- Lease Conversion Policy now allows for a maximum of four quarters to be converted

New Business/Discussion:

- Ron Walton, two-inch water line off sheerness pipeline
- Compensation for and value of breaking restrictions, should be half or 60% on TRLS pricing
- Value of native prairie and species at risk habitat
- 400 pike placed in Little Fish Lake in 2022
- Plans for infrastructure improvement at Little Fish Lake
- Dust control at 570 and 848 – Alberta Transportation is responsible
- Proposed Buffalo Atlee Co-op and eligibility requirements
- TRLS – maximum assessment based vs maximum quarter based
- Companies not paying surface or taxes, should be inhibited from further drilling
- Stocking rate reductions for lease rentals and lease rental formula consideration of expenses
- Potential Bullpound pipelines
- River crew is operational, old boat is running

Motions:

SA2SUB2 - Motion 1: Be it resolved that railroad right of way be reinserted into title or grazing lease. Moved by Stratton Peake. Seconded by Craig Horner. **CARRIED.**

SA2SUB2 - Motion 2: Be it resolved that the Special Areas Board discuss with the Fire Chief putting on a fire ban as soon as possible. Moved by Stratton Peake. Seconded by Laurie Gillespie. **CARRIED.**

Stratton Peake moved for adjournment at 4:32 p.m.

Brett Richards, Administrator
Special Area No. 2

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