

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING  
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISION NO. 3 & 4  
Hardgrass Hub, Pollockville  
May 26, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with approximately 16 ratepayers in attendance.

Lyle Conners nominated Justin Griffith for Chairman.

Andy Andrus moved the 2019 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Regan Curry.  
**CARRIED.**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Brad Slorstad – Subdivision 3:**

- TRLS policy with minister, Irrigation project work and development

**Justin Griffith – Subdivision 4:**

- Learning the role, attending lots of meetings

**SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS**

**Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board (SAB):**

Commented on:

- Sheerness operations and water use, moving more water through the Irrigation system
- Looking into engineering solutions to optimize Carolside/Deadfish system
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Update – drafted a policy which is being reviewed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs office
- Letters were sent by the Board to the Ministers of Energy and Environment and Parks as well as to the AER regarding reclamation of oil and gas sites
- Municipal Elections 2021 – 5 new Advisory Councillors, Senate election polling stations were not offered by Special Areas (SA), SA heard a lot of negative feedback, will do differently in future
- Special Areas Board Appointments – Jordon Christianson, Brad Slorstad, Doug Noble, Daryl Swenson
- Red Tape Reduction Initiative – working to reduce by one third, will see changes to forms
- Regional Irrigation Feasibility Partnership – potential project with SA, MD of Acadia, Canada Infrastructure Bank and AB Agriculture and Forestry
- Village of Cereal voted to dissolve, became a Hamlet of SA on January 1, 2021

**Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance:**

Commented on:

- Covid 19 Pandemic – Impact on 2020-2022 Budgets
- 2021 Financial Statements
- Village of Cereal Dissolution
- Special Areas Trust Account

**Owen Francis, Director of Municipal Services:**

Commented on:

- Supply chain, staffing shortages, fuel price
- Roads – Crews return to full capacity in 2022, third year of four-year agreement with AB Transportation, Shaune Kovitch presented 2022 road plan
- Water – new truck fill at Chinook, planned SDS truck fill expansion, Water and Sewer in Cereal
- Emergency Services
  - Fire – Glen Durand retiring, Rob Palmer appointed Chief, will recruit new Deputy Fire Chief, Big Stone fire Hall Replacement, Rapid attack unit in Oyen

- Regional Emergency Management Agency formed 2022
- Community Peace Officers – Town of Hanna contract for Bylaw enforcement, focused on surfaced roads and new industrial construction
- Parks – record usage in 2020 and 2021, John Armstrong pending retirement, Assistant hired and training, Prairie Oasis online booking, 10-year agreement to operate Gooseberry Lake and Little Fish Lake Provincial Parks, Carp have collapsed fishery at Blood Indian and fishery establishment planned for Little Fish Lake

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

Commented on:

- Assessment total 3.7 billion
- Assessment Notice just mailed, deadline to appeal July 22, 2022
- Community Pasture rates 2022- \$0.95/head/day, allotment reductions for drought
- Cultivation Lease rate 2022 – 0.075
- Grazing Lease Rental 2022 – \$45.17
- Land Use Order Review ongoing
- Wind Energy Projects – Six permitted in Special Areas
- Tax Recovery Land Sale – Proposed four quarter sale, crown and tax recovery parcels, priced to fill the value gap between lease and deeded lands, restrictions reduce cost by one third
- Oyen Railyard Project was developed and successfully sold
- Lease Conversion Policy now allows for a maximum of four quarters to be converted
- Oil well drilling tax discontinued and assessment holiday for three years on oil and gas
- Dinosaur Provincial Park Grazing Leases have been renewed
- Sheerness Industrial Park (where the test track was previously) project development through grant funding

**Discussion:**

- Ability to purchase the pumps and canal/pipeline infrastructure from Sheerness
- What is the original agreement between Atco/Heartland and the province on the water for the system?
- State of Village of Empress – Municipal Affairs has appointed an overseer, next steps will be for a by-election for the Village of Empress to elect their own council and Mayor, SAB is not involved
- How much tax revenue comes from agricultural lands? What can go back to support agriculture in these times of drought?
- What is available for water pumping from SA? Rental cost and reduction to cost
- Taking over two new parks – what is the advantage to the ratepayers to take over Gooseberry and Little Fish Lake?
- Scentless Chamomile in gravel pits
- Lease rental rates
- Road damages by wind farm development

**Motions:**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1:** Trevor Kingcott moved that Special Areas work to further the security of water for Carolside Irrigators. Seconded by David Kingcott. **CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2:** Tracy Pierson moved that Special Areas continue to develop and advance the tax recovery land sale. Seconded by Brad Rooke. **CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3:** Brent Horner moved that Special Areas Board reduce the rental cost of the water pumps from \$750/day to \$200/day. Seconded by David Kingcott. **CARRIED.**

Justin Griffith moved to adjourn at 4:06 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.*

ADOPTED