

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISION NO. 3 & 4
Hardgrass Hub, Pollockville
June 1, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. with approximately six ratepayers in attendance.

Murray Rooke nominated Brad Slorstad for Chairman. Seconded by Darcy Robb. **CARRIED.**

Randy Landis moved the 2022 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Kate Horner. **CARRIED.**

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Brad Slorstad – Subdivision 3:

- TRLS policy with minister, Irrigation project work and development

Justin Griffith – Subdivision 4:

- Roads under construction, Cessford and Pollockville roads to be surfaced, discussing bounty on coyotes, Tax recovery land sale policy with the Minister still hopeful.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon addressed previous motions – Sheerness pumping additional water Alberta Environment will cover the cost of pumping, stock water down Bullpound Creek est. at 3-5 million, looking into maintaining water level in Carolside over winter, and potential optimization of the irrigation system, TRLS Policy is drafted and with Minister awaiting decision/approval.

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

Commented on:

- 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 DSL4 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
- Director of Municipal Services – Owen Francis has retired and Shaune Kovitch has replaced him

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
- 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
- Sheerness Industrial Park
- Lease Conversion Policy now allows for a maximum of four quarters to be converted

New Business and Discussion:

- Pricing of Tax Recovery Land Sale, one to one exchange Tax Recovery to Crown quarters, breaking restrictions will reduce the purchase price by one third
- River flat cultivation lease quarters not part of land sale, same conditions as last sale
- Oil and gas lease arrears
- Chemical Jugs and Cardboard box disposal, Clean Farms now wanting direct through the retailers
- Big Country Waste requirements for all bagged garbage at transfer sites unrealistic for farms
- Lease Rental Rate Formula and costs of production
- Details on proposal for coyote bounty
- Water line moving east from Bullpound
- Snow plowing last winter and especially over the holidays

Motions:

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Murray Rooke moves lease rental rate formula should reflect costs of production and not only cattle price. Seconded by Greg Gordon. **CARRIED.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2: Randy Landis moves to cap the daily pumping rate at \$200/day due to drought conditions. Seconded by Kate Horner. **CARRIED.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Randy Landis moves to pursue a waterline from the canal east as far as practical. Seconded by Greg Gordon. **CARRIED.**

Paul Klassen moved to adjourn at 4:44 p.m.

Brett Richards, Administrator
Special Area No. 2

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