

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISIONS NO. 3 & 4
Hardgrass Hub, Pollockville
May 24, 2024**

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

Justin Griffith volunteered to Chair.

Bruce Beasley moved the 2023 minutes be adopted as presented. **Carried**

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Brad Slorstad – Subdivision 3:

- Irrigation project work and development
- TRLS ongoing.

Justin Griffith – Subdivision 4:

- New Board member Kevin Wilson replaces Daryl Swenson.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:

Commented on the following:

- 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 – double industrial tax transfer, intermunicipal collaboration frameworks, Town of Drumheller request for greater funding support from rural neighbors
- 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.
- Previous years motions – lease rental formula was discussed at council and did not go further, capping daily pumping rate at \$200/day for 2023 was passed at the board directly after the ratepayer meeting. Pipeline to the east still working on potential schemes.

Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance and Administration:

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

- 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
- Wind Energy Projects have come on, future projects may result in 1.5 million in additional tax revenue
- Combined Assessment and Taxation Notice just mailed – Deadline to appeal July 22, 2024
- Community Pasture: rates 2024- \$1.05/head/day, reductions for drought, Nolan Ball handling administration
- Grazing Lease Rental 2024 – May be a 44% increase over 2023 rentals
- Cultivation Lease rate 2024 - no change from 2023
- 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.

New Business and Discussion:

- Coyote bounty program
- Special Areas governance, when the board does not take the advice of the advisory council
- Assessment on renewable energy and speed of depreciation
- State of the carp invasion at Blood Indian
- TRLS Restrictions and the legality of them.

Motions:

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Bruce Beasley moved that the Special Areas Board act on the coyote control incentive program. Seconded by Shaylee. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2: Bruce Beasley moved that a water project expansion from the Henry Kroeger line south to the Wind River colony move forward as fast as possible. Seconded by Wade Christianson. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Wade Christianson moved that Special Areas engage with Canada Post to provide parcel delivery boxes at rural mailboxes. Seconded by Shaylee Christianson. **Carried.**

Wade Christianson moved to adjourn at 3:33 p.m.

Brett Richards, Administrator
Special Area No. 2

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

UNADOPTED