

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, SUB-DIVISION NO. 7 & 8
Buffalo Hall
May 17, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. with approximately 7 ratepayers in attendance.

Debbie Ross nominated Daryl Swenson for Chairperson. Seconded by Carol Hern.
CARRIED.

Vernard White moved the 2019 minutes be adopted as presented. Seconded by Jim Hern.
CARRIED.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Daryl Swenson – Subdivision 7:

Commented on:

- Oyen rail yard up and running, now sold, three wind farms moving components through it.
- Acadia Foundations – vacancies, new project 10 dementia and 10 long term beds in Oyen.

Brad Osadczuk – Subdivision 8: Absent.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:

Commented on the following:

- 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
- 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
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Update – drafted a policy which is being reviewed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs office
- Village of Cereal voted to dissolve, became a Hamlet of SA on Jan 1, 2021

Darcy Ferguson, Director of Finance and Administration:

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, reductions for drought
- Cultivation Lease rate 2022 – 0.070
- Grazing Lease Rental 2022 – \$45.17
- Land Use Order Review ongoing
- Wind Energy Projects – Six permitted in SA
- Tax Recovery Land Sale – Board has engaged Municipal Affairs to move policy forward. 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.
- Dinosaur Provincial Park Grazing Leases have been renewed.
- Oil well drilling tax discontinued and no assessment for three years on oil and gas.

Discussion:

- Cost recovery of water services, in Cereal and beyond.
- Split mill rate for Hamlet of Cereal
- Security of the Special Areas Trust Account
- Staffing and potential to contract locals
- Highway 570 patches are speedbumps – Alberta Transportation
- Surfacing on 886 south of 570 scheduled for pavement 2026, will surface last that long, will require maintenance.
- Maintenance on 555 – Alberta Transportation.
- Regrass power pole mounds and straighten fence, wash in ditch on Rge Rd 7-5
- Bar Diamond road to yard rock piles in ditch left by TransCanada

Chair moved for adjournment at 3:39 p.m.

Brett Richards, Administrator
Special Area No. 2

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