

**ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING  
SPECIAL AREA NO. 3, SUB-DIVISION NO. 4, 5 and 6  
Cereal CJ Peacock Center,  
June 29, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m., with approximately 22 ratepayers in attendance.

Moved by Dave McKinstry to nominate Kevin Wilson as Chairperson for the meeting. Mike Hart moved nominations cease. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Dale Stammers to adopt the 2019 minutes as read. Seconded by Kyle Christianson. **CARRIED.**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Erica Tessier:**

Commented on;

- Big Country Medical Dental Board, Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission, Palliser Economic Partnership, new Doctor expected, and new Doctor clinic.

**Kevin Wilson:**

Commented on;

- Big Country Waste Management Commission, Big Country Medical Dental Board, Municipal Planning Commission, updating the Land Use Order, Ag. Service Board, and discontinuation of strychnine.

**John Kimber:**

Was unavailable at the start of the meeting.

**SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS**

**Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:**

Commented on a number of items including;

- New Councillors and Board appointments,
- Cereal transition,
- Red tape reduction,
- Regional irrigation,
- Tax Recovery Land Sale,
- Supportive living units in Oyen.

**Darren Jones presented for Darcy Ferguson, Director, Finance and Administration:**

Commented on;

- Financial status, a clean audit, Cereal mill rate, and that there have been a number of impacts on operations over the past few years; COVID, oil & gas price fluctuations, inflation and supply chain issues. Collecting from oil and gas companies occurring now that oil is up to \$100/barrel. Loan repayments for Acadia Foundation and Oyen Rail Corp. were discussed.

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

Commented on;

- Secondary highway agreement,
- Road construction and surfacing projects, in particular the re-crowning brings the top road geometry back to design standards. This is efficient and effective with crews completing 800 meters a day.
- Water truckfills added at Chinook and near highway 862,
- Water and sewer in Cereal is a larger system than Special Areas is used to but handling well,
- Supply chain issues,
- Many open jobs,
- By-law enforcement contract on a trial basis with the Town of Hanna. Increased presence of CPO's to deter high speeds.
- Emergency services, Regional Emergency Management, Bigstone firehall, rapid attack truck in Oyen, Glen Durand retiring, and
- Parks.

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

Commented on;

- TRLS,
- Assessment,
- Lease rental rates,
- Renewable energy projects,
- Community Pasture rates and monitoring water and grass conditions,
- Land Use Order review,
- CL policy changes,
- Oyen rail yard.

**DISCUSSION:**

There was discussion on a number of items including;

- Tax Recovery Land Sale:
  - Breaking restrictions,
  - 'Closed sale' to ratepayers who do not have leases.
- Cereal grant status,
- Oyen railyard loan status,
- Renewable energy assessment for taxation,
- S.A. parks were critical during COVID; please continue with Park investment,
- Recrowning program,
- Issues with certain patrol operators and road foreman; training, performance reviews, spot checks.
- Travis Foot wants to see the "road use agreement" on the road by his yard,
- Shane Hertz commented on wind projects pouring 24 hours a day, and speed of trucks is an issue.
  - Jordon indicated Special Areas will make sure speeds are monitored.
- Roger McKenzie indicated backtrails are narrow and can't get down them (28-2 from 5-4 to 5-2),
- Dave McKinstry indicated ditches should be seeded after repairs are completed, Kotia is a big issue,
- Unmanned waste sites at Sedalia and New Brigden continually have loose garbage everywhere,
- How much imported garbage comes into Youngstown,
- Burn permits issued during drought in May is an issue,
- Shane Hertz would like to see dust control from the wind company along his whole quarter, and
- Cereal past financial audits, grants, challenges.

**MOTIONS:**

Moved by Kirby Laughlin that due to changing farming practices, to increase regrassing permit terms from 6 years to 10 years. Seconded by Mike Hart. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Dave McKinstry that due to the increasing size and scope of wind towers and projects, to increase setbacks for WECS to 800m from adjacent parcels and 1,600m from residences; with the changes brought to the Special Areas Board and ratepayers for discussion during the Land Use Order review. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Shane Hertz to stop nighttime traffic past farmyards and acreages from midnight to 6:00 am for those projects requiring Road Use Agreements in Special Areas. Seconded by Dave McKinstry. **CARRIED.**

Mike Hart moved for adjournment at 5:03 pm.

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Darran Dick, Administrator  
Special Area No. 3, Oyen

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