

**2023 ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 3, SUB-DIVISION NO. 4, 5, and 6
CEREAL CJ PEACOCK CENTER
June 28, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., with approximately 17 ratepayers in attendance.

Moved by Kevin Wilson to nominate Erika Tessier as Chairperson for the meeting. Seconded by Wanda Diakow. John Kimber moved nominations cease. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Dale Stammers to adopt the 2022 minutes as read. Seconded by Kirby Laughlin. **CARRIED.**

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Erika Tessier:

Commented on;

- Medical Dental Board, Doctor's Clinic, Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission, Acadia Foundation, Palliser Economic Partnership, and the Prairie Conservation Forum.

Kevin Wilson:

Commented on;

- Medical Dental Board, Oyen hospital staff shortages and closure, Big Country Waste Management Commission, the Municipal Planning Commission and the Land Use Order amendment, and the Agricultural Service Board.

John Kimber:

Commented on;

- The Chinook Applied Research Association soil lab and expansion, Palliser Regional Municipal Services, and the Agricultural Service Board will be hosting the Regional Conference this fall.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas Board:

Commented on a number of items including;

- Board governance and appointments,
- Municipal partnerships through; recreation grants, tax transfer, in kind equipment, etc.,
- Acadia Foundation working on construction to add assisted living and dementia care,
- Big Country Hospital staffing, closure, and medical air transport,
- Irrigation,
- TRLS breaking restriction infractions,
- Road Use Agreements managing 24-hour trucking, and
- Lease conversion is available, however regrassing permits are held to 6 years.

Darcy Ferguson, Director, Finance and Administration and

Darren Jones, Coordinator of Financial Services:

Commented on;

- Financial status, a clean audit,
- Arrears collection,
- Revenue and expenses, and
- pandemic impacts to the budget.

Shaune Kovitch, Director, Municipal Services:

Commented on;

- Secondary highway agreement,
- Road construction and surfacing projects,
- Water distribution systems,
- Emergency Services,
- Staff shortages and limited parts and equipment availability,
- Community Peace Officers, and
- Parks.

Trent Caskey, Director, Property Administration:

Commented on;

- TRLS,
- Assessment,
- Lease Rental rates,
- Renewable energy projects,
- Community Pastures,
- Land Use Order review,
- Cultivation Lease policy changes,
- Sheerness industrial park, and
- The Oyen rail yard.

DISCUSSION:

There was discussion on a number of items including;

- Issues with Acadia Foundation during the pandemic.
- Nursing shortages are wide spread;
 - Comments on attracting and retaining nurses,
 - Nursing incentives, and
 - Scholarships for nursing students.
- Oyen airport and Oyen hospital.
- Irrigation.
- Cereal weigh scale.
- Youngstown waste site concerns;
 - Garbage blowing through the adjacent lands, and
 - Why bring garbage in from other areas as we are struggling to keep up with cell construction.
- Can ranchers get water for cattle out of Carolside and Bigstone reservoirs?
- Cleanup of the hamlets should be undertaken.
- Railway West of Oyen.
- Special Areas spraying road allowances for grasshoppers or compensating farmers for spraying road allowances was discussed. The ratepayers felt this wasn't something the Special Areas needs to be involved with.
- Busing limited to one hour each way and contracts were better when held by locals.
- Truck plows to open snowed in roads were more effective than graders.
- Community Pasture road construction.
- Elizabeth Roberts commended the SAB for backing the CJ Peacock Center through contributions and operations. It is important for Cereal to have a community center.
- Thanks and encouragement for the SAB to continue addressing the hospital issues.

MOTIONS:

Moved by Glen Rosenau that Big Country Waste Management Commission hire additional staff and obtain additional equipment to increase clean up efforts at the Youngstown Waste Site. Seconded by Kirby Laughlin. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Tamara Shadlock that School Divisions find a way to limit a child's time on a school bus to a maximum of one hour per one way. Seconded by Dawn Beaudoin. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Darcy Miller that School Divisions go back to hiring local private contractors to operate school buses in Special Areas. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Glen Rosenau that Special Areas Emergency Services look into acquiring side-by-sides and look into used self-propelled sprayers with turrets for fighting prairie fires. Seconded by Darcy Miller. **CARRIED.**

Mike Hart moved for adjournment at 6:53 pm.

Darran Dick, Administrator
Special Area No. 3, Oyen

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