

**Questions from the Cereal Community Centre's March 2026 AGM**

**Q: Would the Special Areas Board maintain insurance on the building after they turn it over to the community?**

- No, Special Areas does not provide insurance for community groups. Community groups are responsible for providing their own insurance.
- Special Areas does provide access to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Insurance program for community groups for coverage for community halls; currently insurance is managed by Special Areas as the property is owned by Special Areas.

**Q: What does the Cereal millrate / taxes pay for compared to other hamlets in the Special Areas region?**

- When Cereal became a hamlet, the complex municipal infrastructure present in the community was identified as needing a full-time employee to effectively manage and maintain it. As a result, a full-time public works employee was employed to maintain the level of service the community was used to receiving when it was a village.
- Currently, Special Areas continues to staff this full-time public works position in Cereal. Therefore, there are increased costs to operate Cereal compared to other hamlets in the Special Areas. The millrate levied in Cereal is intended to cover these additional costs.

**Q: What happened to the provincial funding received by the Special Areas Board when the Village of Cereal dissolved?**

- The Province provided \$822,000 in transition funds to Special Areas as a part of Cereal's dissolution process, repairs and other critical work was completed using these funds.

<b>GOA Transition grant funds (revenue in)</b>	<b>\$ 822,000.00</b>
<i>Severance &amp; transitional staffing</i>	\$ 158,837.00
<i>Final financial audit (Village)</i>	\$ 5,500.00
<i>Payment of ATB Line of Credit (Village)</i>	\$ 142,131.33
<i>Repayment of SAB advance to Village (pumphouse)</i>	\$ 150,000.00
<i>Water infrastructure work</i>	\$ 39,519.21
<i>Village building repairs</i>	\$ 22,993.67
<i>Curling rink abatement &amp; removal</i>	\$ 77,297.34
<i>Repair work on Cereal scale</i>	\$ 11,781.61
<i>Equipment Repairs (Village equipment)</i>	\$ 50,043.26
<i>New equipment purchases (mower, skid steer, dump trailer)</i>	\$ 117,395.56
<i>Truck for Public Works Employee (Hamlet of Cereal)</i>	\$ 63,527.00
<b>Grant Fund Expenditures (post amalgamation)</b>	<b>\$ 839,025.98</b>

**Q: If the Special Areas Board maintains ownership of the building, who would be responsible for obtaining the policy - Special Areas Board or the community group? Could Special Areas provide insurance for the structure or the shell, and the community group insure the contents, as well as liability for inside?**

- Special Areas would not maintain ownership of the facility.
- The community group taking on ownership/operation of the CJ Peacock Centre would be responsible for getting adequate insurance coverage.

**Q: Will the sidewalk surrounding the facility be repaired or replaced in 2026? It is in poor condition and presents a safety concern.**

- The sidewalk surrounding the facility would be the responsibility of the property owner.
- Special Areas plans to complete this work in 2026 ahead of transferring ownership of the building to the community.

**Q: Will the Special Areas Board address existing maintenance concerns prior to transferring operational responsibility to the community group, such as the front door repair/ replacement and the leaking water lines in the gym washrooms?**

- Outstanding facility repairs which are currently planned in the 2026 Special Areas budget will be completed by Special Areas prior to any community group taking over operations at the end of 2026.
  - These include the front entrance / sidewalk concrete repairs and basement clean-up work.
- Moving forward, once the facility is operated by the community, any maintenance or facility issues would be the responsibility of the community.
  - Some repairs have been identified which are recommended to be completed at the facility; however, they are not included in Special Areas' 2026 planned work.
  - *The community group responsible for the facility would need to discuss a shared approach to addressing these issues with Special Areas.*

**Q: If something major went wrong with the building in the next five years, would the community be responsible for the costs and/or would Special Areas cover or help with the costs.**

- If the community group was the owner of the facility, the community group would be responsible for the costs.
- Special Areas does partner with communities for recreation projects through a variety of ways including cost-sharing, matching funds raised by the community, recreation advances, etc.
  - Usually requests for these types of projects are brought forward to the local District Office. The local Area Administrator works with community groups to understand requests and puts together a recommendation for the Board to consider.

**Q: The Special Areas Board has previously discussed making the building more energy efficient. What work has been done to decrease energy use / utility costs?**

- No work has been done. The boilers were replaced; however, this has not resulted in significant utility savings.

**Q: As the Cereal Community Centre is the designated community building in an emergency, would the Special Areas Board provide additional funding toward its maintenance and upkeep?**

- Special Areas would treat this as any other community facility; funds are provided through the recreation board funding program.
- In the past, Special Areas has done work at community halls to ensure they can be powered by emergency generators (e.g. hook-ups / transfer switches).