

**ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETING
SPECIAL AREA NO. 3, SUB-DIVISION NO. 4, 5 and 6
Cereal Community Centre, Cereal
June 25, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m., with approximately 11 ratepayers in attendance.

SA3Div456 Motion 1:

Moved by Liz Roberts to nominate Kevin Wilson as the meeting Chair. Seconded by Elaine Micheals. **CARRIED.**

SA3Div456 Motion 2:

Moved by Gordon Woods to adopt the 2025 minutes as read. Seconded by Kevin Barr. **CARRIED.**

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Erika Tessier:

Commented on:

- Medical Dental Board: Construction of the new medical clinic, physician recruitment, housing initiatives, and permitting updates.
- Palliser Economic Partnership: Veterinarian recruitment bursary, the Eastern Trade Corridor, Agri-Food Trade initiatives, and Canada Infrastructure Bank funding opportunities.
- Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission: Water sales, infrastructure upgrades, procurement, and communications.

John Kimber:

Commented on:

- Agriculture Service Board: Weed control program, coyote management, summer staffing, and gopher control.
- Chinook Applied Research Association: Research plots, federal funding, and staffing.
- Palliser Regional Municipal Services: Permitting and provincial inspection requirements.

Kevin Wilson:

Commented on:

- Municipal Planning Commission: Development activity.
- Big Country Waste Management Commission: Waste transfer sites, roll-off bin program, and waste site concerns.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REPORTS

Shaune Kovitch, Chair of the Special Areas Board:

Commented on:

- Introduction of the new Director of Municipal Services and Director of Regional Initiatives.
- Board governance and appointments.
- Strategic Planning.
- Village of Empress Viability Review.
- Municipal partnerships.
- Tax Recovery Land Sale.
- Resident Satisfaction Survey results.

Ryley Girletz, Director of Municipal Services:

Commented on:

- 2026 Road Program.
- Secondary highway surfacing strategy.
- Regional water projects.
- Emergency services.
- Parks and campground improvements.
- Facility management.
- Dam safety projects.

Trent Caskey, Director of Property Administration:

Commented on:

- Grazing lease rental rates.
- Community pastures.
- Tax Recovery Land Sale applications and progress.
- Sheerness Industrial Park development.

Jordan Christianson, Director of Regional Initiatives:

Commented on:

- Regional medical clinic support.
- Consort Nurse Practitioner program.
- Oyen Assisted Living/Dementia care facility.
- MD of Acadia and SA Joint Irrigation project.
- Palliser Economic Partnership.
- Special Areas Board economic development projects.

Darren Jones, Director of Finance and Administration:

Commented on:

- 2026 assessment and taxation.
- Assessment trends.
- Mill rates.
- 2025 audited financial statements.
- Revenue and expenditures.
- 2026 budget.
- Long-term financial planning.

DISCUSSION

Items discussed included:

- Recruitment and housing for physicians and healthcare professionals.
- Medical clinic construction.
- Strychnine.
- Secondary highway paving standards and road shoulder widths.
- Roll-off bins and the future of rural waste transfer sites.
- Cardboard recycling at transfer stations.
- Walleye stocking at Blood Indian.
- Community pasture patron numbers.
- Data Centres.
- Oyen housing projects.
- Oyen rail yard investment.
- Recreation grant funding.
- Renewable energy assessment revenue.
- Timing of Annual Ratepayer Meetings.

MOTIONS

SA3Div456 Motion 3:

Moved by Liz Roberts that the Special Areas Board increase recreation grant funding to all recreation facilities within the Special Areas, with emphasis on operational needs. Seconded by Elaine Micheals. **CARRIED.**

SA3Div456 Motion 4:

Moved by David McKinstry that the Special Areas Board study options to change the dates and times of the annual ratepayer meetings to improve attendance. Seconded by Brenda Barr. **CARRIED.**

SA3Div456 Motion 5:

Moved by Erika Tessier that the Special Areas Board request a meeting with multiple Ministers to discuss remote rural issues and the impacts of provincial policies. Seconded by David McKinstry. **CARRIED.**

SA3Div456 Motion 6:

Moved by David McKinstry that the Special Areas Board revisit the setback for wind towers and adjust the minimum setback from 800 metres to 1,600 metres from a residence within the Special Areas. Seconded by Ben Tateson. **CARRIED.**

David McKinstry moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Administrator
Special Area No. 3, Oyen

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