

April 2020 Reeves report.

RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on April 8th at Piapot. Present was Councillor Kelly Bertram, Road Foreman, Marc Beaupre, Administrator, Jenny Robinson and myself, Reeve John Wagner. Councillors Travis Harlick, Lorne Kusler, Clay Moorhead, Anita Wasilow, Derek Moorhead, Doug Casey and Keith Winzer were via a conference call.

The conference call was difficult for a lot of the council to hear and understand what people were saying. Therefore the meeting essentially covered some of the basics. In-depth issues like budget, road building and gravelling were postponed until next month when we can come up with an alternative meeting space.

There wasn't anything major with the division reports. We have a late spring happening again so it is limited as to what can be done. Council removed the road bans as the roads in the majority of the RM had no snow in the ditches and were relatively dry. Up in the hills the thaw didn't happen for another two weeks when the creeks started running in late April. Marc reported that the majority of the crew are back. Anyone with underlying health concerns is waiting until the Coronavirus has run its course.

Marc said they are out pulling gravel up off the shoulders, mulching it and spreading. There are situations where there is too much sod or frozen chunks that they have to leave a windrow on the side to breakdown to be spread later. The other alternative is spread the chunks on the road and let the traffic beat them apart. We have done that before and most people don't like it.

Kal Tire, Kamloops plant can remanufacture grader tires. It is not a glue on cap, they grind the tire down to the cords and then rebuild it. They will do it for \$1070 per tire including freight versus \$1900 for new. We agreed to send out six casings for retreading.

The pavement south of Piapot is an 80,000 pound road with the exception of road bans at 10,000 pounds. It is generally ignored by truckers, especially the 138,000 pound super B's. It is almost impossible to police it and as a result the pavement is really being damaged. The extra weight also impacts the bridge at Bob and Peggy Needham's. In order to preserve the bridge, council decided to lower the weight limit on the bridge to 80,000 pounds the same as the road. Hopefully this will deter some of the heavy loads.

Strychnine sales have been brisk, especially since availability will be questionable next year. We are limiting sales to five cases per unit at this time as we have a list and are currently waiting for another shipment. The cost is \$307 per case for the new shipment that is held up due to border closures.

Unfortunately the RM council had to accept Jenny Robinson's letter of resignation. Alex and Jenny had an opportunity to purchase the 144 Mile Ranch south of Williams Lake, BC. It used to be the old stage coach stop on the Caribou Trail. Jenny told council that it was a very difficult decision as she loves her job and the community. One of the councillors jokingly said "No we are not accepting it (the resignation); next item." You all know that Jenny has been amazing in this office and we are certainly going to miss her here and in the community. However as one door closes another opens, and I think they have acquired a really nice ranch in BC with a lot of opportunity. Jenny will be working with us until a new administrator is hired and up and going. Alex is

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out in BC calving cows already. We wish them all the best and we know they will do well.

Lana Bavle, who was our former administrator, has started a business where she will review RM Bylaws and advise what needs to be changed to bring them up to date. No one wants this job as it is tedious to say the least. We hired Lana as we know she is good and is efficient. The bylaws have already been sent to her to review.

Next month we have to get into the budget. On a up note the provincial revenue sharing grant increased from \$322,050 to \$405,997 this year, which is quite significant in an overall 2 million dollar budget.

We are running a month late weather wise this year. The weather we are getting now should have happened in March. Usually the creek comes down in mid March, not late April. Last year was the same with a two foot snow storm on April 27, 2019. Thankful that hasn't happened this year. It was moisture but a tough way to get it. Frost in the hills is just coming out of the ground. A neighbour was trying to pull posts and lots were still frozen. Not a lot greening up yet, but it will happen. Hopefully we get some rain to jumpstart everything.

It's income tax season, I thought this story was appropriate. A large engineering company is interviewing applicants for an accountancy position, and the three finalists have been chosen. The first one is called in, and asked, "What is two plus two?" She answers, "Four," and is asked to leave. The second finalist is called in, and asked the same question, "What is two plus two?" He also answers, "Four," and is also asked to leave. The third and final applicant is called in, and yet again asked, "What is two plus two?" He answers, "What do you want it to be?"

With the ongoing quarantine: An older, tired-looking dog wandered into a lady's yard; she could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to her, she gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed her into her house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and she let him out. The next day he was back, greeted her in her yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks. Curious she pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.' The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

Our next meeting is May 13th at 1PM at Piapot. Probably at the hall with an option of teleconferencing.