

The RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on April 14th at Piapot. Present were Councillors, Dryden Schulze, Lorne Kusler, Clay Moorhead, Anita Wasilow, Kelly Bertram, Derek Moorhead, Warren McNary, Keith Winzer, RM Manager, Dennis Germain, Administrator, Tammy Sloan and myself, Reeve John Wagner.

The division reports mentioned very few problems. A few signs blown down and maintenance on several roads. No major problems. Dennis Germain, our RM Manager, gave us an update on the work they were undertaking and the general condition of the roads. It's been so dry that it is mostly shoulder pulls and washboard fixes.

We introduced something new to the meeting in a quarterly equipment report. Marc Beaupre, our foreman, does this report outlining all the service and repairs done to the equipment. It is interesting as it gives you an update on the condition of the equipment, plus the problems. For example, we used to trade graders at 10,000 hours as there were generally no major problems prior to that and the graders had good resale value. Now with all the electronics we have the 2019 Cat 160M3 with 3000 hours on it getting a new wiring harness for the front wheel assist. The 2012 Cat 140M AWD with 7800 hours on had to have a new ECM for \$6,000. It quit working and Finning replaced the ECM under warranty but now say the sensors are all off so we should replace the complete wiring harness for \$9,500. If that doesn't work you keep buying electrical components until it is fixed, at your cost. What happens when all the electronics are not in sync is that it goes into a limp mode, which is just that, enough power to limp it back to the shop. Regardless the equipment report is very good as it gives you an instant snapshot of what is there. We also have monthly fuel reports that are generated every by the computerized fuel system that actually works.

Last month I mentioned that we were looking for a used truck to replace the 1994 GMC. We found a 2017 GMC 3/4 ton, 4X4, 4 door, with 82,000 kilometers at Murray Chev in Maple Creek. The RM purchased it for \$44,520. Dennis will primarily use this truck as we made a deal where he can use the truck to commute from Maple Creek.

We have a list of items that we will be putting up for tender. Some of the items are a Farmking finishing 3-PTH mower, a John Deere riding mower, 2 Handi hitches, a large commercial air conditioning unit, a drag chain, a sand spreader, a garage door opener, a welder and a BMI 1250 water tank. Also, the 1994 GMC 1 ton truck will be going up for tender. Watch for a list in the newspaper or on the RM website www.myrm.info/110.

We received notification that the RM revenue sharing grant from the provincial government will be \$408,000 this year, that is up a bit from last

year's \$406,125. This is significant as our entire revenue for 2020 was \$1,962,700 of which \$1,122,300 is property taxes.

Sgt. John Phipps from the Maple Creek RCMP attended the meeting to give the quarterly update. Nothing major to report, as the most activity crime wise is on the #1 Highway. Fairly quiet in the rest of the RM, which is good.

The provincial education mill rates are set at agriculture 1.36 mills, residential at 4.46 mills, commercial / industrial at 6.75 mills and resource (oil, gas, mines and pipelines) at 9.79 mills. There is also a list of 8 separate school divisions that set their own mill rates for property taxes.

The cost of hauling the garbage bin to Swift Current went from \$300 to \$400 so we looked into other firms to see if there was a better deal out there. In the end we decided to continue with Dynamic Disposal from Swift Current. We have a 40 cubic yard dumpster that costs \$100 per month to rent. The cost for hauling it to the Swift Current Landfill is \$400 and once at the landfill there is a \$110 per metric tonne tipping fee. Generally, 2.3 tonnes per dump, which is another \$253 plus taxes. Last year there were 19 trips, which cost a total of \$11,844 and this year we are looking at \$13,745 for the same amount of garbage.

There is a new website being launched in the southwest. It is www.shopsouthwest.ca. This site is being set up by the Swift Current Chamber of Commerce to promote online shopping in the entire southwest Saskatchewan area. You can contact Karla Wiens at 306-773-7268 to sign up as a vendor or to get further information.

I saw this the other day and can relate to it: 1. My goal in 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go. 2. Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce and cheese. Fine, it was a pizza... 3. A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it. 4. Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel. 5. Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school? Yeah, Me neither. 6. I may not be good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this. 7. I love aging, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

On a serious note, we are experiencing a very dry spring with little to no moisture. It's getting to the point where we are considering a fraction of one tenth as rain. Probably the only saving grace is that it has been so cold at night. Regardless things are starting to go backwards and we desperately need moisture. As always "onward and upward, stay the course."

Our next meeting is May 12th at 1PM.