

February 2020 Reeves report.

RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on February 12th at Piapot. Present were Councillors, Lorne Kusler, Clay Moorhead, Anita Wasilow, Kelly Bertram, Derek Moorhead, Doug Casey, Road Foreman, Marc Beaupre, Administrator, Jenny Robinson and myself, Reeve John Wagner.

Keith Winzer will be our new councillor for Division 8, Keith sat in on the meeting. He doesn't officially start until next month, however came to the meeting to get up to speed on what the current issues are. We welcome Keith to the Council and look forward to working with him. We are trying to convince Keith to come to the SARM Annual Convention in Regina on March 9 - 12th. This is the meeting that has the large trade show with everything to do with municipalities from equipment, office supplies, software, tools, service providers, government agencies, new inventions, etc. We also have an election coming up for our SARM Director for Division 3, which is us. Larry Grant, the Reeve from Val Marie is our current director. Mark Hughes, who is the Reeve for Miry Creek announced that he will be running for the position. The election takes place on the last day of the convention when we break out for the SARM Division meetings. There are six divisions for the province in SARM. So far Clay Moorhead, Marc Beaupre, Jenny Robinson and myself will be going, however the offer is open to the entire council.

Not a lot happening with the division reports. The usual snowplowing, some ridging out in fields to stop drifting and ruts in a few places. Marc reported that he had made a deal with the RM of Maple Creek for their older Sandvik blades. The older blades used a 5/8 bolt and you have to use a spacer to mount them on the current 3/4 inch machines, which is a pain if you are taking them on and off. Ours will remain on so that is not a problem as once you get them torqued up they are good to go. Marc will be running 3 of the 4 graders with Sandvik rotary tip blades this year. Lyle Roode, our newest operator, uses these exclusively as you always have a straight cutting edge and you replace only the wear areas. He will be training the other operators as to how to get the most out of them. You might have noticed Lyle working on the shoulders of some roads that don't have any snow on them. He is cutting the trough out of the shoulder plus pulling gravel up while the sod is frozen so it doesn't all end up on the top of the road. Marc and Jenny reported that the new fuel monitoring system is working excellent. The system tells you what equipment the fuel is going into, monitors who is using it and sends reports right to the office. They used to spend a lot of time getting the fuel logs to balance, not a problem any more. We had a break-in at the water plant and they stole our 11,000 watt power plant, which we will have to replace.

Marc and Lyle will be attending a power mobile equipment operator evaluator course so that we can certify our employees to operate the different types of equipment.

Probably 20% of Marc's job is paperwork regarding safety policies, certification, employee handbooks, job descriptions, incident reports, etc. If you don't do all of this then you are liable for anything that goes wrong. Marc would rather be doing other things but that is the environment we work in as employers.

Jenny and Nancy applied for a community future southwest grant for the Piapot skating rink boards, that the Piapot Lions Club is overseeing. We got \$1500 and turned that over to the Lions club.

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Our beaver program in the RM is \$10 paid by the landowner, \$15 paid by the RM and \$15 paid by the province. There were 35 beaver caught last year that the RM paid the \$15 on. We sent in for the matching provincial grant, however the provincial grant that used to match ours now requires a trappers license. As a result only 27 of the beaver are eligible for the provincial grant. The province was wondering why the numbers were dropping. All they have to do is look in the mirror, they are the ones adding regulations and taking people out of the program.

Council sent out letters of support for two projects. The City of Swift Current is applying for a grant for a Southwest Integrated Facility, which is an aquatic centre and field house consisting of an 8 lane 50 metre competing pool, a warm water 25 metre lap pool, a leisure pool with waterslides, a lazy river, wave area, steam room, children's play area and a hot water whirlpool. The field house has a fitness centre, track, climbing wall, wellness centre, offices, food service and lease space.

The second project deals with an incinerator project in Fox Valley. If you remember last year the Southwest Saskatchewan Incinerator Project Group was granted a pilot project for an incinerator in Fox Valley to do further testing. The incinerator was built in Albany, Georgia by EcoConcepts. The \$50,000 incinerator was a 4 cubic yard batch incinerator with a two stage burner. The incinerator group had already paid for furan and dioxin testing in Albany, however the results were close but did not meet Canadian standards. Some modifications were done to the incinerator and the pilot project allowed us to bring the incinerator to Fox Valley and do test burns here, which we did. The group hired an environmental engineer and we did some testing of the ash from the burns. The results came back that we needed to do more changes to bring the incinerator closer to guidelines even though it burns with no smoke and no smell. We did not do the furan and dioxin testing here that costs approximately \$50,000. The manufacturer has not yet been able to come to Fox Valley to do changes, so the committee decided to look at different options. Sean Checkley and myself from the group met with representatives from the Ketek Group from Edmonton on November 5th at the Fox Valley town office. They showed us the CY100CA incinerator that they build. This is a 3.58 cubic yard incinerator that would come assembled on a 10ft x 40ft skid. The incinerator is operational in Canada and Ketek has been doing this around the world for years. Ketek worked with the Saskatchewan Research Council and the Alberta Government in the 1980s on incinerators, however the politics changed and "superdumps" were the answer. The downfall to the unit is that it is much larger than the EcoConcept unit and it costs \$390,000. The upside is that it is a proven unit and has the resources of a long term established Canadian, Alberta company behind it. Ketek is willing to work with communities and even look at rental programs. Following the meeting in Fox Valley another meeting on November 25th was set up with the Ministry of Environment by our MLA, Doug Steele. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ketek, Doug Steele MLA, Sean Checkley and myself were at the meeting. The ministry agreed to look into what guidelines would be required to license the unit for use in existing landfills. On February 4th, 2020 during the SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) Convention we met with the Ministry of Environment. Ketek representatives were there along with Doug Steele MLA plus representation from Fox Valley, Maple Creek and myself. The ministry has decided that they want testing done on the unit on location in Fox Valley incinerating household waste. Their argument is the

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other testing was not done on that type of waste. Ketek are confident that the unit will have no problem passing the furan and dioxin tests. The goal is to have a unit there in July for testing. The letter of support comes in an application from Fox Valley for a grant to pay for the further testing as we feel that it is time for assistance vs. the incinerator group paying all the costs, which has happened to date.

Just a reminder that the RMAA curling is at Maple Creek on Friday, February 28th. RM of Piapot will have two teams there to curl against RM's from the southwest. The public is welcome and it is a fun time.

Got a little different winter going on in the RM. Temperatures are all over the place from freezing cold to a melt in just days and this is happening repeatedly. We have a few snow problems up in the hills as they have had a few wicked storms. Other than that not a lot of snow cover in the RM. Hopefully it settles down and we get rain this spring.

Heard a couple husband and wife stories I thought you might like. A middle aged man goes into the doctor's office for a check-up with a litany of complaints. The doctor speaks to the man's wife alone and says, "There is nothing the matter with your husband. If you make a couple of meals for him a day, let him watch his sports. Do not complain at him too much and require him to listen. Limit his exposure to in-laws and make love to him once a week. Then, he'll probably live another 20 years." She returns to her husband's side in the waiting room. He asks, "What did the doctor tell you?" "You are going to be dying soon, my dear."

A wife got so mad at her husband she packed his bags and told him to get out. As he walked to the door she yelled, 'I hope you die a long, slow, painful death.' He turned around and said, 'So, you want me to stay?'

Our next meeting is moved up to March 5th at 1PM due to the SARM Convention on our regular day.