

RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on July 13th at the Piapot Legion Hall. Present were Councillors, Travis Harlick, Lorne Kusler, Clay Moorhead, Anita Wasilow, Kelly Bertram, Derek Moorhead, Doug Casey, Keith Winzer, Road Foreman, Marc Beaupre, Administrator, Jenny Robinson, incoming Administrator, Tammy Sloan and myself, Reeve John Wagner.

We started our meeting with greetings from Cypress Credit Union. Shelly Kay from CCU stopped to bring signing authority documents for Tammy, our new administrator. She also brought snacks and rain gauges for the Council. In mentioning Tammy, it was her first meeting and she did excellent. Council had to amend our 2020 appointments and appoint Tammy as the head of LAFOIP (freedom of information), administrator for the stray animals, returning officer, signing authority, development officer, pound keeper and management safety representative.

The division reports highlighted missing signs, rocks left on roadways, culverts, areas needing gravel, etc; nothing major. Marc reported that they were recommending an emissions delete on the Kenworth. The other option was to keep spending more and more money on the emissions system that is not required. Council agreed to have AJ Mechanical in Swift Current do the delete for approx. \$4000. I can report the truck is back and running better than ever. Graders are all up and running, a few minor issues on one Sidearm. The RM has 3/4 ton trucks for moving crew, fuel and other supplies around. The 2001 truck needs a transmission and has over 320,000 km on it the other 2013 has 210,000 km and a few minor problems, like no door handle, which is ordered. Keith Winzer rode with Marc and couldn't believe he had to roll down the window to get out of the truck. Keith is pricing a new 3/4 ton truck for the RM at the local Chev and Ford dealers. Marc reported that the crush at the Kriwokon Pit was almost done and the product looks good. At the time of writing this report the crush is complete and we have had a drone fly the pit but haven't received the measurements yet.

Sergeant John Phipps from the Maple Creek RCMP attended the meeting to review the quarterly stats for the RM. The majority of the report deals with the #1 Highway and violations there. It has been relatively quiet in regard to thefts in the RM or at least ones reported to the RCMP. I did notice a Crime watch alert about a suspicious vehicle in the rural area around Maple Creek

We have received repeated complaints in regards to pets and animals in Piapot. The RM will be looking into implementing a bylaw to enforce a remedy to the issues raised.

Ryan Herbert, representing Western Infrastructure, attended the meeting to discuss bridge maintenance. They have crews that do bridge maintenance and he will give us quotes on repairing the Portz bridge. He said in some cases they can actually jack the top up enough to repair timbers underneath. They have a system for repairing rotten or broken timbers where they can essentially splice in a new section. He is giving us prices.

I mentioned a few months ago that we had Lana Bavlé reviewing our bylaws to get rid of the outdated ones. It's a long process, however Lana has it done and we repealed the old bylaws such as bylaws allowing plastic pipe for sewers, grasshopper control, warble control, etc.

Council did implement one new bylaw. Every four years your property is revalued to keep prices more current. Assessment notices are sent out and you can appeal your assessment. The following three years after a revaluation, the notices were being sent out with the values staying the same. Under the new bylaw assessment notices on each property will not be sent out unless there is a change of over \$1000 or 1% of the value of the previous years assessment.

Council reviewed policies on new business tax exemption, which is a five year exemption when businesses are starting up, and fencing policy, which did change. The RM will pay to have the fence removed and rebuilt. If temporary fencing is required, the RM will cover that cost also. Council realizes that a lot of you moved fence for next to nothing for compensation, however times are changing. In some cases we are asking people to move fence for the second or third time. Farm and ranch units are getting bigger and it can involve a lot of fencing for one operator.

SARM sent out a survey asking if we would like the option of an on-line mid term convention or option two, which was to postpone the convention. We went with option two.

The RM crew has everything current on grading and they are just about done the first round of mowing. They will be doing more signs, pavement patching, incorporating gravel, etc. The RM is short on moisture, especially areas north of the #1 Highway. Hearing that good hay crops are half of normal and some of the grain crops are suffering. The year started off all right but the rains didn't keep coming. When it is hot and dry we cut back on grading and mowing. The crew will be doing other things.

With this hot weather you can get thirsty. A Texan walks into a pub in Ireland and clears his voice to the crowd of drinkers. He says, "I hear you Irish are a bunch of hard drinkers. I'll give \$500 American dollars to anybody in here who can drink 10 pints of Guinness back-to-back." The room is quiet and no one takes up the Texan's offer. One man even leaves. Thirty minutes later the same gentleman who left shows back up and taps the Texan on the shoulder. "Is your bet still good?", asks the Irishman. The Texan says yes and asks the bartender to line up 10 pints of Guinness. Immediately the Irishman tears into all 10 of the pint glasses drinking them all back-to-back. The other pub patrons cheer as the Texan sits in amazement. The Texan gives the Irishman the \$500 and says, "If ya don't mind me askin', where did you go for that 30 minutes you were gone?" The Irishman replies, "Oh...I had to go to the pub down the street to see if I could do it first".

As always "onward and upward". Our next meeting is August 12th at Piapot.