

The RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on March 10th 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.

Before the meeting started we had a tour of the RM yard to look at different equipment and what was stored in the buildings. We found a lot of treasures from years gone by that there is not a chance we will ever use. Items like the air conditioning unit off the Wheel Inn, that was too good to throw away but of no use to the RM. There are numerous items that fit equipment that we no longer have and the list goes on. We will be making a list of items that we will be putting up for tender later this year. It seems that if you don't houseclean every once in a while, things seem to accumulate.

In looking at equipment, Dennis showed us the damaged fuel tank on the Cat packer. The plastic tank is open underneath and a piece of metal flipped up and cracked the tank. The repair is \$8213, so we put it through insurance for a \$2500 deductible. We also noted that the payloader needed a couple tires. Council has decided to leave the graders out in areas where they are working if they are further away and have the crew drive from the shop and haul fuel with them. We looked at the older 1998 Chev one ton truck and decided it wasn't reliable enough for travelling out to graders and mowers. What we consider the newer 2013 truck, has over 226,000 kms on it. We do have the new 2020 crew cab. We decided to look around for another used 3/4 ton truck. Dennis says they will be doing quite a bit of road work this year, weather permitting.

Back at the meeting, division reports consisted primarily of a few soft spots and some less traveled roads that the snow had been cleared to allow the roads to dry better. There was some discussion as to areas where some backsloping could be done to improve roads from drifting in.

Council signed off on a SaskPower line construction for the Rylan and Amy Schneider's irrigation project. Also a SaskEnergy utility easement for the alley by the former Piapot School and a SaskPower underground service for JJ and Rori Burgess. Council also agreed to put in an approach and culvert and to cost share 50/50 building a road into JJ and Rori's new yard site just north of Cameron and Deb Eccleston's. It's always nice to welcome a young couple to the neighbourhood.

Our garbage dumpster is leased from Dynamic Disposal from Swift Current. We currently pay \$300 each time it is picked up and then pay a tipping fee based on the weight at the Swift Current landfill. The rate is going up to \$400 so we are going to get quotes from the area.

Road bans were put on March 5th and restrict trucks to 350 lbs. per inch of tire width. We recognize that it is a problem when there is feed or other commodities coming in on a regular schedule. Council decided to adopt an annual primary weight permit that is available to ratepayer in the RM. This annual permit would allow trucks to run primary weight on secondary roads when bringing in product from the primary system and when shipping loads out onto the primary system. It would also allow loads to be permitted in when road bans are on providing the road is solid. The permit is \$25 annually and the ratepayer is assigned a number that is valid for the calendar year that can be used with the trucking companies. If the trucking company needs a copy of the permit it can be provided by the office.

Our other permits for single trips through the RM are still available as well as the ones issued to bale trucks, tub grinders, etc that are working for ratepayers who might not have the annual permit.

Council agreed to purchase the Text2Car Grader GPS package that will allow GPS tracking of all four graders and one truck for \$7281. We already have this on the mowers and it works well for not only tracking but for liability purposes also. A lot of RM's are going to this system.

Western Infrastructure called to give quotes on bridge repairs. This is the firm that did the work at Portz's and Bowyer's. The three bridges we got quotes on are the bridge east of formerly Alex and Jenny Robinson's at \$90,840, the bridge by Bob and Peggy Needham's at \$48,470 and the bridge by Shay and Sharmon Wilson's at \$59,325. We will see what grants are available and how much money we have in the budget.

We have a concerning year shaping up as there is not a lot of moisture around in the RM. There are small pockets but those are few and far between. We had major snow in November and not a lot after that. Considering the stack yards are depleted because of the long feeding period everyone is holding their breath waiting for rain. This blizzard we are enduring as I write this report is moisture but at a high cost if you are calving. Hopefully we get lots of rain this spring.

While a man was dying, his wife was maintaining a candlelight vigil by his side. She held his fragile hand, tears running down her face. Her praying wakes him from his slumber. He looked up, and his pale lips began to move slightly. "My Darling, " he whispered. "Hush, my love." she said "Rest. Don't talk. He was insistent. "I have something that I must confess," he said in a tired voice. There isn't anything to confess." replied his weeping wife. "Everything is okay, go to sleep." The man blurted out, "No, no I must die in peace. I...I Slept with your sister and your best friend, and her best friend." "I know dear," whispered his wife, "that's why I poisoned you."

Our next meeting is April 14th at 1PM.