

May 2020 Reeves report.

RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on May 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 and myself, Reeve John Wagner.

The meeting was held at the hall so we could have a larger meeting area. Nothing major in the division reports. The crew is doing a lot of gravel pulling off the road shoulders so there are windrows in a lot of areas. There were some concerns regarding bigger rocks being left on the roads. We have a problem on the Murrydale road with water going over and washing the road. We will look into installing a four foot diameter culvert, which should fix it. There is a problem with the low level crossing at Harvey and Carol Wasilow's, trucks went through there when the flood was coming down and did damage on the ramps. We are looking into jack hammering it out and replacing the cement on the ramps and over the culverts. There is a problem with the pavement breaking out past Joe and Bernadette Dowkes. One problem area could be an old water line that crosses under the road. The water line is no longer required and we have permission to dig it up and plug it. We are looking into breaking up the pavement and using magnesium chloride as a dust proof alternative. The section we are looking at is basically from Joe's shop entrance south to the intersection. There were concerns about the bridge at Shay and Sharmon Wilson's. It has a hole near the edge, which we have to dig out and see what is happening. The bridge is not rated for heavy weights so we will be posting signs at the Sidewood Grid and the intersection of the road going south to Edith Braniff's limiting the weight to 36.5 tonnes. Hopefully this will extend the life of the bridge.

Marc reported that the electrical problems with the Kenworth seem to be solved. Anymore you just keep replacing sensors or computers until everything works again. Especially when there doesn't appear to be anything wrong with it in the first place. Minor electrical problems with a couple graders, fuel gauges not reading right, etc. Generally we set up a number of miles of road for incorporation, however with the work Lyle Roode and our grading crew have been doing getting crown in the roads and retrieving gravel we are going to wait. The roads are looking good with no big rocks showing. Lyle has been working with Cody, Marvin and Mason teaching them different grading and road shaping techniques. Seems to be working out well. Marc said there were a number of signs vandalized in the RM and we are replacing them. The signs are being pushed down with a vehicle, then taken. In some cases they are just knocked over.

We approved the draft 2019 audit report and financial statements from Stark and Marsh, Swift Current. There were no irregularities. At the end of the year we have a \$56,575 surplus. We did overspend in a number of areas and Council is aware of that. The financial reporting is not easy to follow. At first glance it appears we have a \$310,320 deficit. Then you subtract an amortization cost of \$366,895, which is not a real physical cost and you end up with the \$56,575 surplus. We haven't done the budget and mill rates for this year, however is doubtful they will change a lot.

There was a discussion regarding water rates in Piapot, which are currently \$35 per month. There will be a public meeting for any proposed rate increases. The water has been running a consistent deficit for a number of years. One problem we have in

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collecting water fees is that many residences do not have valves at the street to turn off the service. The RM will be installing some more shutoffs this summer.

Last month we advertised for the position of administrator as Jenny is moving to the Williams Lake, BC area. We had 22 applications, some from foreign countries, some local. One candidate rose to the top very quickly. She has all the required training and has worked in administration for over 13 years. She has trained with Jenny, is good at her job and everyone knows her. That candidate is Tammy Sloan from Tompkins. It was decided to offer her the position, which she has accepted. Tammy will be starting July 1st. Jenny will work with Tammy for the month of July and as Jenny said she is only a phone call away. Lana Bavlle, our former administrator said she will also be there for Tammy. It sounds like our office crew has it all worked out and we are looking forward to working with Tammy.

In mentioning Lana, we have hired her to go through our bylaws. She has already completed that and is sending us a report of suggested changes. Basically this is a major housecleaning effort to bring everything up to date and get rid of obsolete or irrelevant bylaws.

Council sent out an invitational tender to crush 20,000 cu. yards of 3/4 inch gravel at Kevin and Beth Kriwokon's pit. This is to be done either this fall or the spring of 2021. Council also sent a letter of support for the Piapot Curling Club Facelift project application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. This project involves work in redoing the basement washrooms and meeting area.

We have had a fairly general rain throughout the entire RM. Reports range from 1 inch to 1.5 inches, overall a very timely rain although we will take it anytime. As I mentioned earlier the graders are out doing road work. All of the equipment has been gone through, so hopefully no surprises there. Rob Haig, our gravel contractor has equipment on site, however there is not a lot of gravel moving right now. Should be some after this rain. Country is greening up and looking good. Off to a way better start than last year.

A father passing by his son's bedroom, was astonished to see the bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then, he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow. It was addressed, "Dad." With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope and read the letter.
"Dear Dad,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I have decided to elope with my new girlfriend, because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I've been finding real passion with Judy, and she is so nice, but I knew you would not approve of her because of her piercings, tattoos, motorcycle gang friends, and because she is so much older than I am. But it's not just that, Dad. She's pregnant. Judy says that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods, and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children. Judy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves, and trading it with the other people in the commune for all the other drugs we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for HIV, so Judy can get better. She sure deserves it! Don't worry, Dad. I'm 15, and I know how to take care of myself. Someday, I'm sure we'll be back to visit, so you can get to know your many grandchildren. With love, your son Joshua.

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P.S. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Jason's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than the school report that's on the kitchen table. Call when it's safe for me to come home!"

Our next meeting is June 10th starting at 9AM for a road tour. The meeting will be at the Piapot Legion Hall and Toni Shea will have her Mama T mobile catering service in town that day from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The food truck is there for everyone to enjoy.