

RM #254 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2007

Something New

The purpose of the municipality developing a newsletter is to keep our landowners informed as to what your municipal council is doing on their behalf. Numerous landowners have requested information as to some of the issues council is having to address, whether it be on an annual or one time basis.

We are hoping to use this forum to address many of the issues which may be of interest to landowners in our municipality. We are hoping to get feedback on this newsletter and see if we are providing relevant information to our landowners.

January

Councilor Brian Brown was elected to serve for Division 2. This election became necessary as Kevin Vollmer successfully won the election in November 2006 for Reeve. This left the position in Division 2 vacant.

Council, by resolution, reappointed Bruce Book, Ron Bartel, Greg Bristow, Keith Forrest and Murray Friend to act as board members for the municipality's Board of Revision. Rosalie Bender was appointed to act as

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Something New
- 1** SARM Convention Highlights
- 3** Calendar of Events

SARM Convention Highlights

Reeve Kevin Vollmer and Councillors Brian Brown and Garry Book attended SARM Convention. Councilors Brown and Book were the municipality's official voting delegates. Councillor Donald Chernick also attended as the representative to the Sask Municipal Hail Insurance official delegate. The Administrator was also in attendance.

SARM Convention was held in Saskatoon starting on March 12. There were 1700 delegates in attendance. Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Doctor Gordon Barnhart opened convention. He talked about the history of our province and the importance of agriculture and the rural lifestyle to Saskatchewan. He stressed the significance of serving in public life and commended the reeves and councilors for their contributions.

President Dave Marit addressed the Association and commented on rural issues such as infrastructure and agriculture. He focused on the importance of maintaining and growing partnerships with other organizations and governments. He pointed to successes such as Clearing the Path and challenges such as potential school closures.

President Marit highlighted the potential biofuels industry as an opportunity for the agriculture sector and disasters such as flooding and drought as challenges for producers, industry and governments.

Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue addressed delegates and brought greetings from the federal government.

The Honourable Harry Van Mulligen Minister of Government Relations touched on many challenges that municipalities face in the many areas of the province.

continued on page 3

Secretary for the Board.

Council chose to renew membership in SARM for 2007. We chose not to take out membership in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

A motion was made whereby council decided to send out a quarterly newsletter to the ratepayers and obtain information on developing a web site for the municipality.

Council contacted MRIF Management Committee, Government Relations, to request permission to self tender on our MRIF project. The municipality has received a Municipal Road Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) grant to reconstruct and clay cap 9 miles of Heavy Haul Road running west from Highway 19 past the Gardiner Dam Terminal.

February

Council passed a motion to enter into an agreement with the Mid Sask REDA to contract them to design and manage a web site for the municipality.

The Community Development Committee met with Tom and Rick Jukes from the Lakeside R.V. Trailer Park Ltd. to discuss future development at their site.

Council requested a meeting with Enbridge Pipelines Ltd. to discuss concerns raised by landowners in our municipality who have pipeline on their land. The meeting was set for later this month.

Council appointed Kevin Vollmer to vote the municipality's shares at the GDT Annual General Meeting.

The municipality agreed to donate a gift certificate for custom work to the Strongfield Rec Board/Strongfield Elks for their Snowmobile Rally.

Council appointed Julie Duket as the municipality's weed inspector for 2007.

A motion was passed giving the Administrator authority to apply all outstanding custom work bills to the municipal taxes of the individuals receiving the work.

Membership was renewed in the Central Area Transportation Planning Committee for 2007.

Alma Martens was appointed to act as the municipality's representative on the Elbow Library Board.

A 167 gallon tank was purchased from Flaman Industries. This tank will be used for spraying the ditches with chemical this spring.

March

Kevin Vollmer, Garry Book and Rod Vollmer were appointed to form the Road Committee for 2007. They will determine if it is possible to remove the spring road bans at an earlier date than the mandatory 6 week period. The spring road bans were applied to the roads on March 19, 2007.

A motion was made requesting tenders for our fuel needs for the 2007 season.

Log maps were ordered from Bradley Directories for all operators. These will be used in conjunction with their time sheets as a record of which roads were maintained and received snow removal.

We entered into an agreement with P & N Construction Ltd to have them assist our road building crew with the MRIF project if the municipality obtains the tender on this project. We will be renting two 621B Cat Scrapers and one D7G Dozer. The equipment will come with three operators and includes fuel. We also agreed to pay the land owners along the MRIF road project fair market value (2007 land assessment times 1) on all disturbed acres of land plus crop damage.

That we purchase two computer workstations, software, training and set up, plus one 19" flat panel monitors from Munisoft. We also purchase a plain paper fax and new chair for the office.

We amended our Safety Policy Manual to reflect the new policy stating that the municipality will allocate a maximum of \$200.00 every other year for the purchase of safety coded steel toed boots for our operators. Employees are required to wear this equipment as per the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Council formulated a response to the annexation and regional planning recommendations in the Development Plan submitted by the Village of Elbow. Council is not in favour of annexation but see the advantages to a regional planning committee.

Council accepted with the 2006 audit as completed by Robert Tiede.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE: ELBOW
DATE: JULY 21 & 22
Lakeshore Rodeo.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE: LOREBURN
TIME: JULY 11
Loreburn Lions Farmers' Golf Tournament.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE: LOREBURN CENTRAL SCHOOL
DATE: JUNE 1 – 2, 2007
Lake Diefenbaker RELAY FOR LIFE

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE
TIME
Your event could be here.

Cathy Jo Noble, Account Director for Hill and Knowlton, SARM's lobbyist address the delegates.

Brad Wall, Leader of Sask Party closed the program for Tuesday.

Wednesday saw 1923 reeves, councilors, administrators, visitors and guests from 293 RMs registered. The day opened with Honourable Lorne Calvert addressing delegates. He commended SARM for being the voice of rural Saskatchewan and commented that it has been a good year for rural Saskatchewan. The Bear-pit session followed with much discussion on education tax, drought relief, vehicle rescue fund and school closures.

The South East Cornerstone School Division participated in a panel discussion regarding challenges facing the future of K-12 education in rural communities.

Richard Porter, Chairman of the Clearing the Path Transportation subcommittee gave an update on the CTP primary weight corridor.

Workshops were held on the following issues. The Trans Canada Trails, Current Legal Issues of Interest to RMs and Workplace Safety.

Thursday was our closing day. David Marit was elected President of SARM and Jim Hallick won the Vice-Presidency, both by acclamation. Resolutions were finished up and each division held meetings.

It was a very quiet Convention as opposed to some years. The biggest issue seemed to be school closures.

