

RM 220 NEWSLETTER

July 2020

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HIGHLIGHTS

Sun Dale Water Plant

The R.M. has taken ownership of the water treatment plant located at Sun Dale. We are currently working on the installation of residential water meters, making improvements to the water plant, and planning for a waste-water upgrade to reduce the operational costs of the RO water system.

New RM Shop Lease

We entered into a 3 year lease starting Nov 1, 2020 with a purchase option for a shop centrally located along Highway 220. The land location is SW 27 23 22.

Water Well Decommissioning

If any country residential ratepayer has an abandoned water well that they would like decommissioned, the RM has access to FRWIP funding that would cover 90% of eligible costs to a max of \$10,000. Contact us for info.

Dust Control Policy

A new policy was adopted that allowed for the provision of some dust control treatment for Ag, CR, and Unorganized Hamlet residents. The RM provided for up to 60 X 3 meters of treatment. More could be requested under user pay.

RV Trailer Permits

The RV trailer bylaw was adopted allowing for ratepayers to use a RV trailer on their lot for up to 5 years as temporary accommodation prior to building a permanent residence. The yearly fee is \$250 plus a garbage fee.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic continues with infections in Saskatchewan increasing, and we all have a responsibility to help minimize the spread of the disease. It is vital to continue to take precautions to protect yourself, your families and everyone who lives in the community. This includes wearing masks in public settings, maintaining physical distancing at a 2-metre separation, frequent hand washing, and self-isolating if you are sick.

Council and R.M. administration will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will post updates regarding R.M. operations on our website.

OCP (OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN) AND ZONING BYLAW

Community Planning has approved our new OCP and Zoning bylaw. For further information, please refer to our website or call our municipal planner/development officer @ (306) 725-3258.

There are important steps to follow when considering building development and lot development. Development Permits and Building Permits are required when: new construction is contemplated; building renovations or changes are necessary; and when buildings are moved into the municipality.

RM FINANCIALS

Council set a 2020 budget that held the current tax levels despite significant financial challenges due to the depletion of R.M. reserve accounts including the Organized Hamlet accounts, before 2019. Through careful attention and sound fiscal management, Council was able to start rebuilding the R.M.'s financial position by funding reserve accounts while also maintaining service.

2020 RM PROPERTY TAXES

There will be no increase in property taxes for this year. Also, Council has re-instated the 6% early tax payment discount. The due date for property taxes is December 31st, 2020. Payments can be made in person, by mail, or electronically. See our website for details on the various payment options.

RM COUNCIL MEETINGS

As we continue to catch up on resolving past issues and obstacles, Council will try to resolve these matters in a fiscally responsible approach by scheduling only two regular Council meetings per month. These meetings will also be used to hold the required public meetings for the various amendments needed for the planning and development matters related to

the new zoning bylaw. Furthermore, Council committees have been streamlined to allow for maximum productivity while optimizing costs to ratepayers. Rates set for meetings generally work out to around \$30 per hour.

ATV Operation

ATVs include all unregistered all-terrain motorized (gas or electric) cycles, motorcycles, minibikes, quads, side by sides, go-carts and dune buggies. The provincial All-Terrain Vehicles Act regulates the operation of ATVs.

In this R.M. we have bylaw 293-2015 which further regulates these vehicles. ATVs can only be operated on municipal lands, road, and ditches for agricultural purposes and snow clearing or civic maintenance as long as the R.M. registers them and the operator has a valid driver's license. Otherwise, they are prohibited from all municipal lands, road, lanes, ditches, road allowances, parking lots, municipal building grounds, and all other properties owned by the R.M. ATVs are also prohibited from all private lands unless prior consent of the landowner has been given.

Golf carts are not considered to be an ATV. SGI regulates these vehicles, and they are only permitted on municipal lands and roads if an R.M. passes a bylaw allowing them and SGI further approves that bylaw. We do not have a golf cart bylaw, so in this R.M., golf carts are only permitted on golf courses. Contact the R.M. office to register your ATV, if applicable.

WASTE COLLECTION

This year, the garbage collection tax levy has been changed to a yearly utility bill of \$250 for all hamlet residents. Ag and C.R. (Country Residential) residents will receive an invoice per each tip which will include an administrative fee of \$5.00. There is one important item that has changed for all those ratepayers who received multiple \$250 garbage levies in the past. This year there will be only one \$250 utility bill per residence regardless of how many lots you have with improvements. Council decided that this was the only fair solution for this matter.

Because of the prohibitive costs of building new landfill cells, please remember that the red bin garbage containers located around the R.M. are only for household waste. Please refrain from disposing of yard and garden waste materials, grass clippings, tree branches, etc. into the red bins as these items are not separated at the landfill. Yard waste should be hauled to the regional landfill where it placed onto a pile that is then mulched or burnt. Council doesn't want to raise taxes to pay for the development of million-dollar landfill cells to bury large amounts of yard waste mixed with household garbage.

VEHICLE AND TRAILER PARKING

As a friendly reminder to Hamlet residents, vehicles and trailers that are not used regularly shouldn't be parked on the road allowances. They must be parked entirely on your own property, and these items must be in good repair and licensed. Otherwise, they are considered a nuisance by R.M. bylaws. Also, the road allowances are not campgrounds or R.V. trailer parks, so if guests are staying for more than a weekend, other arrangements are required.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide the R.M. office with any updated contact information for where you wish to receive both surface mailed documents and electronic mailed items. To save costs, we would like to make more use of emails to send notices, announcements, surveys, updates, etc. to our ratepayers. Please provide your email address this year while paying taxes or utility bills. All information collected is considered confidential.

MAIL-IN BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS FALL'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Provincial election regulations were changed to allow ratepayers to request a mail-in ballot and then vote by mail, all without the need to come to the R.M. office to have declaration forms witnessed. Details will be on our website soon.