

RM of Birch Hills No. 460

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Website

rmbirchhills460.ca

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday
9:00-12:00

&

1:00-4:00

Control Burn Number
1-866-404-4911

Locate Requests
Sask 1st Call
1-866-828-4888
www: sask1stcall.com

Council

Reeve: Alan Evans

Div 1: Brent Fenner
Div 2: Kyle Jensen
Div 3: Mathew Njaa
Div 4: Ted Boutin
Div 5: Matt Robertson
Div 6: Leyton Elsaesser

Administrator:
Lois Lange

Office Assistant:
Cherie Opseth

Reeve's Message:

This is an overview as to changes in the RM between July 2016 – July 2017.

Last fall, Council passed a bylaw pertaining to buildings and building permits in regards to new buildings, demolition or removal of old buildings, etc. Please contact the RM office for the process of obtaining the appropriate permit and we would be happy to assist you with the new requirements.

This year is an assessment revaluation year province wide. As many of you have noticed the property assessments have increased drastically. As a result, **council chose to lower the mill rate to balance out the assessment increase.** Our goal in setting the mill rate, was to keep the tax levy as close as possible to what it was last year and as such the tax levy isn't an increase but

may fluctuate on an individual basis due to improvements made to your property.

This summer the Public Works staff is addressing concerns on the back roads as time permits. They are using the scraper to improve accesses and filling pot holes and hollows in low lying areas.

Once again we are asking for your assistance in a few areas. First of all, please notify the RM office if there are intersections with sightline issues as we would like to address these problems with maintenance and/or proper signage. Secondly, we appreciate being notified of any washouts, pot holes, and frozen culverts in the spring or any other issues requiring maintenance on the RM roads.

In case you didn't know, any resident is welcome to attend

RM council meetings as they are open to the public. However, an appointment is required to be made at least two business days prior to the meeting if you wish to address Council on any matter. Please contact the RM office if you would like to make these arrangements.

We would like to thank everyone who notified the office in regards to frozen culverts and concerns with the roads over this past year as it reduces and helps prevent costly damage to the infrastructure. We appreciate all feedback whether it be positive or negative.

Finally, we hope for plentiful crops and a safe summer and harvest for everyone.

Alan Evans

Municipal Council and Employees

Council Changes:

The 2016 Election results were as follows for Reeve, Divisions 1, 3 and 5.

Reeve: Alan Evans
Division 1: Brent Fenner
Division 3: Mathew Njaa
Division 5: Matt Robertson

The RM would like to sincerely thank Dean Manson, Chris Hovdebo and Steve Adams for their many years of service.

Public Works Staff:

Todd Devenis, Pat Lepine, Brian Evans and Vic Doderai all continue to provide excellent service to the RM in the Public Works Department. Todd & Pat work full-time year round, Brian & Vic continue working full-time on a seasonal basis and Gaylen Torgunrud continues to help out on a casual basis.

Office Staff:

Lois Lange was appointed as the RM Administrator effective April 1, 2016 and Cherie Opseth continues to be the Office Assistant.

Licensed AMHI Agent:

Lois Lange, RM Administrator is now an authorized agent to sell Additional Municipal Hail Insurance. Thank you for your patience in the transition process as she is now the only local agent.

PEST CONTROL

Please contact the RM office if you find evidence of a rat infestation and the information will be passed onto the PCO. Rat bait is available from the RM office free of charge to RM ratepayers.

WEED CONTROL

Barry Swanson continues to serve as Weed Inspector for the RM. Please contact the RM office if you are having issues with prohibited, noxious or nuisance weeds.



Please report any suspicious activity to the RCMP; even the smallest tip can help an investigation.

Tax Assessment/Levy

Thank you for your calls and concerns upon receipt of your Tax Assessment Notice.

Council lowered the mill rate from 13.5 to 7.38 for the RM, Brancepeth from 7 to 5.5 and Hagen from 10.5 to 9.4 in an effort to keep the tax levy as close to last year as possible.

Items of Interest:**Speed Limit of 60 km/hr:**

The speed limit of 60 km/hr when approaching all police/emergency vehicles, tow trucks and road construction areas **also applies to when approaching municipal employees when their lights are flashing as well as any municipal infrastructure equipment with orange flashing lights, such as, graders, tractors, gravel trucks, back hoe, mower, etc.**

For your safety and that of the Municipal Staff, we ask that you follow the maximum speed of 60 km/hr.

For Your Information ...**Methods of Payment:**

The RM can receive Cash, cheque, Telpay and e-transfers for methods of payment. We cannot receive payments by interac or credit card.

Financial Statement:

The 2016 audited Financial Statement is available at the RM office or on the RM's website.

Waste Disposal:

A reminder that a \$150 one-time payment per site is available to ratepayers who have entered into a contract with a waste removal company for a waste disposal container – contact the RM office for further details.

SAMA: Questions about the assessment of your property? Visit SAMAVIEW at www.sama.sk.ca to view your property details.

Crime Stoppers

We all wish to live in a safe community. Let's all do our part by reporting suspicious activity. Please contact the RCMP for crimes in progress at 911. Any information you have for crimes that have already taken place, contact Crime Stoppers call 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or email www.saskcrimestoppers.com text TIP206 with your tip to CRIMES (274637) or call Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods Investigation Unit at 1-866-51-SAFER or visit the Sask Justice website www.saskjustice.gov.sk.ca/safercommunities.

Fire Protection:

The RM jointly owns the Volunteer Fire Department with the Town of Birch Hills. This only provides for the costs associated with having the Fire Department trained and equipped to respond to calls 24/7. **RM residents are responsible for the charges associated with the Fire Department responding to a call and are encouraged to carry firefighting insurance.**

Please remember to call the Control Burn number prior to starting all control burns @ 1-866-404-4911 to avoid unnecessary charges*

Assessment Exemptions:

Please contact the RM if you own land in an adjoining RM as you may be eligible for a tax exemption in 2018.

Gravel:

No one is authorized to remove the municipal gravel from the roads. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Saskatchewan Budget:

Provincial Transfer Payments were decreased this year and as such will have an impact of the municipal budget.

Contact Information:

We are updating our contact information. For emergency purposes it is essential that we have a way to contact each rate payer. Please supply us with your current email address, land line and cell phone numbers.

Thank you!

Taxation Discount Periods

August 31 – 6%
September 30 – 5%
October 31 – 4%
November 30 – 2%
December 31 – no discount ****Please**

Note the discount applies only to the municipal portion of your taxes.**