



Newsletter

RM of Birch Hills No. 460

July 2018

126 McCallum Avenue
Box 369
Birch Hills, SK
S0J 0G0

Phone: 306-749-2233
Fax: 306-749-2220
Shop: 306-749-2911
Email: rm460@sasktel.net

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
Cell: 306-961-4342
Div 1: Brent Fenner
Cell: 306-749-7262
Div 2: Kyle Jensen
Cell: 306-749-7536
Div 3: Mathew Njaa
Cell: 306-749-7010
Div 4: Ted Boutin
Cell: 306-961-7603
Div 5: Matt Robertson
Cell: 306-864-8040
Div 6: Leyton Elsaesser
Cell: 306-749-7744

Administrator:
Cherie Opseth

Office Assistant:
Joanne Bzdel

REEVE'S MESSAGE:

We hope 2018 has been a good year so far for everyone. This past winter we experienced winter storms back to back. Due to the circumstance of the storms falling within days of each other, the Public Works staff had not completed the first round of snow plowing the municipal roads before they could address the second heavy snowfall. We appreciated your patience as the Public Works staff struggled with the weather to give you access to the municipal roads as quickly as possible.

As of May 2018 it became a requirement to have a Trappers Licence in addition to being on the list of approved people to hunt beavers within the RM. Please contact the RM Office for more information.

SAMA is doing a physical assessment of the entire RM between May and September of this year. They will be measuring every house, building and land throughout this time period. The last physical assessment for the entire RM took place in 1980. If you have any questions pertaining to this please contact the RM office or SAMA at 306-752-6152.

The reduction of transfer payments from the Province of Saskatchewan in 2017 (\$16,356) and 2018 (\$13,070) had a negative impact on the municipal budget. As a result of the reduction of government funding, the RM Council found it necessary to increase the municipal taxes by approximately 2.3% (\$23,910.72) in 2018. We hope that no future down loading occurs in order to maintain reasonable taxes for our ratepayers.

If you have any questions or concerns about the maintenance of the roads or anything else pertaining to the RM you can contact me personally, contact the RM Office, or your Division Councillor. Once we know your concern it is our responsibility to rectify the issue. We ask that you refrain from using social media as a method of communicating your concerns, but rather that you contact us directly as we want the opportunity to address issues we are not aware of.

In closing, we wish you all a great summer, plentiful crops, and safety throughout the harvest season.

Alan Evans

Municipal Council and Employees

Municipal Election:

An Election will be held **October 24, 2018** for the following divisions:

Division 2
Division 4
Division 6

Nomination forms will be accepted from **Sept. 4-19, 2018**.



Public Works Staff:

Todd Devenis (Acting Foreman), 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. This year the RM is employing Dallas McNabb as a Summer Student to assist in the Public Works Department.

Office Staff:

Cherie Opseth was appointed Acting Administrator effective Sept. 15, 2017 and Joanne Bzdel is the new Office Assistant.

Licensed AMHL Agent:

Cherie Opseth, Acting Administrator is now an authorized agent to sell Additional Municipal Hail Insurance. The deadline to purchase AMHL is August 1 each year.

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 Levy

The 2018 Tax Levy is as follows:

Municipal Mill Rate: 7.39
Brancepeth Mill Rate: 5.5
Hagen Mill Rate: 9.4

The Millrate Factor is as follows:

Agricultural Land: 1.028
Residential: 1.24
Commercial: 1.90

Items of Interest**Speed Limit:**

The speed limit of **60km/hr** when approaching police/emergency vehicles, and road construction also applies to tow trucks, municipal employees or equipment with flashing lights. This includes graders, tractors, gravel trucks, back hoes, or mowers.

For your safety and that of the Municipal Staff, we ask that you follow the maximum speed limit 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 audited 2017 Financial Statement is available at the RM office for viewing and a condensed version is on the RM website.

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 or 306-765-5500. Any information you have in regards to 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. Any information you have could be the piece of the puzzle needed to make an arrest so please do your part by reporting all suspicious activity.

Gravel:

Just a reminder no one is authorized to remove municipal gravel from any road in the RM. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Intersections:

Please notify the RM Office of any visibility issues at intersections.

Contact Information:

We are updating our contact information for emergency purposes. Please supply us with your current email address, land line and cell phone numbers as it is essential we have methods to contact all rate payers in the event of an emergency. Thank you!

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.

Please Note:

RM residents are responsible for the charges associated with the Fire Department responding to calls and are encouraged to carry firefighting insurance.

Burn Control Number

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

Waste Disposal:

A one-time payment of \$150 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:

Sama is re-inspecting and measuring the entire RM from May to September 2018. Visit SAMAView www.sama.sk.ca to view your property details.

Taxation Discount Periods

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

****Please Note****

Discounts only apply to the municipal portion of your taxes.

Assessment Exemptions:

Please contact the RM if you own land in an adjoining RM as you may be eligible for a tax exemption in 2019.