

NEWSLETTER

RM of Birch Hills No. 460

July 2019

279 Bellamy Ave.
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

Office Staff:

Cherie Opseth,

Administrator

Joanne Bzdel,

Office Assistant

Public Works Staff:

Todd Devenis,

Acting Foreman

Pat Lepine,

Public Works

Brian Evans, Vic Doderai,

Scott Njaa, Seasonal

REEVE'S MESSAGE:

The RM has experienced a few changes this year. To highlight a few; Government revenue sharing has been increased; the RM has purchased a new office building; and the RM has been approached by a developer to build a state of the art, non-hazardous solid waste facility within our RM. Please continue reading below for more information regarding these and other things happening in the RM this year.

The Government of Saskatchewan has increased the 2019-2020 unconditional Revenue Sharing to \$268,876.00 for the RM, \$5,500.00 for the Hamlet of Brancepeth and \$5,133 for the Hamlet of Hagen.

The RM has purchased the office building located at 279 Bellamy Avenue, which was previously occupied by the Credit Union loans department. We will be moved into the new office on August 19, 2019. This new space offers us room to grow, more storage for permanent records, and a Council Chamber large enough to accommodate seating for both delegates and the public. The RM will be hosting an open house later this fall, please watch for this date.

The RM has been approached by a developer to obtain approval to establish a state of the art, non-hazardous solid waste facility within our RM. The proposed location is located at NE 5-46-23-W2 subject to meeting the regulatory approval through the Province of Saskatchewan. For further information, please attend the public meeting scheduled for August 21 at 7:00 pm at the Birch Hills Civic Centre located at 126 McCallum Avenue in Birch Hills.

As of May 2018, a Trapper's License and approval by Council resolution is required to hunt beavers within the RM. Please contact the RM office for more information.

SAMA did a physical assessment of the entire RM in 2018. A physical assessment had not been done since 1980. Your 2019 Tax Notice will reflect the new assessment obtained through the data collection last year. The total taxes levied for 2019 is comparable to the 2018 taxes levied however due to the assessment values changing you may have an increase or decrease in your taxes for 2019.

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. 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

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 2019 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: 1.068
Residential: 1.071
Commercial: 1.9

Items of Interest**Clubroot**

To prevent the spread of clubroot there are a few things you can do.

- 1) 3 year crop rotation
- 2) Plant clubroot resistant varieties
- 3) Designate a different exit than entrance when exiting a field.
- 4) Remove soil and crop debris off equipment prior to entering & exiting a field.
- 5) Disinfect equipment with a bleach solution in the ratio of 1/3 bleach and 2/3 water.

Further information is available at
www.clubroot.ca
www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
www.saskcanola.com

**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 2018 Financial Statement is available at the RM office for viewing and a condensed version is on the RM website.

APAS:**Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan**

The RM became members of APAS in 2019. APAS is an agricultural organization that represents the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders including you. They lobby the government on your behalf. As a rate payer in the RM of Birch Hills, you are eligible to use the APAS member benefits program. For a full list of benefits visit:

APAS.ca/my-rewards

Licensed AMHL Agent:

Cherie Opseth is a licensed AMHL agent for Additional Municipal Hail Insurance. The deadline to purchase AMHL is August 1 each year. Please contact the RM office for more information @ 306-749-2233.

SAMA:

Visit SAMAView www.sama.sk.ca to view your property details.

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.

Assessment Exemptions:

Please contact the RM if you own land in an adjoining RM as you may be eligible for a tax exemption in 2020.

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.

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 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.

**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.

Intersections:

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