

NEWSLETTER

RM of Birch Hills No. 460

279 Bellamy 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

EMPLOYEES

Office Employees:
Administrator:
Cherie Opseth
Office Assistant:
Joanne Bzdel
Public Works Employees
Acting Foreman:
Todd Devenis,
Grader Operator:
Pat Lepine
Seasonal Grader Operator:
Don Morrow
Seasonal Equip. Operators:
Brian Evans
Vic Doderai

REEVE'S MESSAGE:

July 2020

What can we say about 2020! This has been an interesting year due to COVID-19 globally, the plough wind on June 14 and continued stormy weather.

Due to COVID-19 the RM office was closed to the public from March 18 – June 10. The office has since reopened to the public, however we continue to encourage everyone to do as much RM business over the phone or via email. Payments can be received by e-transfer to rm460@sasktel.net, telpay or mailed in by cheque. If you need to attend to the office, no more than 2 members of the public can be in the office at one time, upon entry you must use the hand sanitizer provided and if you have travelled within the past 14 days you will not be permitted to enter the building.

Council has tabled all discussions regarding the proposed privately-owned landfill until a later date due to COVID-19.

2020 is an election year for the Reeve and Divisions 1, 3 and 5. The current election plan is for the election to take place in the Council Chambers at the new RM Office located at 279 Bellamy Avenue in Birch Hills. The process for voting is still undetermined due to COVID-19 and regulations set out by the Saskatchewan Health Authority accordingly. We will keep you informed as the election date of November 9, 2020 approaches.

The RM has purchased the keyfob payment system for the truckfill water filling stations located in the hamlets of Brancepeth and Hagen. These systems should be up and running mid to late August. As we transition to the keyfobs we will continue using both the coin payment method and the keyfob systems simultaneously for a period of time to allow time for everyone to switch over to the new system. More information will be made available once the systems are operational.

The plough wind on June 14, 2020 created significant damage in Divisions 1, 5 & 6. As a result, the RM declared a state of emergency and applied to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) for designation to make the program available to the affected ratepayers in the RM enabling them to make private claims as per the regulations set out by PDAP. These application forms are still available at the RM Office if you haven't already picked one up.

The RM appointed Lyle Evans to be the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) Coordinator at the May 6, 2020 regular meeting of Council, which we are thankful was in place prior to the plough wind of June 14, 2020.

With all the rain this year it has posed many challenges with maintaining our roads. We are getting caught up and are planning to work on the dirt roads yet this year. 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, 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 appreciate the opportunity to address issues we are not aware of.

In closing, continue to follow the mandate set out by the Saskatchewan Health Authority as we all hope to get through this pandemic safely and healthy. We wish you all a great summer, plentiful crops and safety through 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 2020 Tax Levy is as follows:
Municipal Mill Rate: 7.39
Brancepeth Mill Rate: 5.5
Hagen Mill Rate: 9.4

- with a minimum Tax of \$600 in Hagen

The Millrate Factor is as follows:
Agricultural Land: 1.068
Residential: 1.071
Commercial: 1.9

Items of Interest**Clubroot**

If you are concerned you may have clubroot, the RM has ordered soil testing bags which should be available in August. The cost for testing is \$100 and is the responsibility of the person submitting the sample.

Prevention of Clubroot tips:

- 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 2% bleach solution.

Methods of Payment:

The RM can receive cash, cheque, Telpay and etransfers for methods of payment but we don't accept payments by interac or credit card.

Financial Statement:

The audited 2019 Financial Statement is available at the RM office for viewing and a condensed version has been included with your 2020 Tax Notice.

Intersections:

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

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.

Brancepeth & Hagen Truckfill

The RM has purchased a keyfob payment system for purchasing water at the truckfill water stations in the hamlets of Brancepeth & Hagen. Stay tuned for more information in August.

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 information.

Municipal Election

2020 is an election year for Reeve, Division 1, Division 3 and Division 5.

Important dates to remember:

-Nomination Period

- September 22 – October 7

-Municipal Election - November 9

SAMA:

Visit SAMAView www.sama.sk.ca to view your property 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 2021.

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.

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.

Dust Control Agreement

The RM Council recently approved a Dust Control Agreement which must be set up at the RM Office prior to using dust control products, such as calcium chloride, on the RM roads. Some key points are that it is the responsibility of the property owner to contact the RM Foreman prior to applying dust control products on the municipal road in front of their property as this allows the RM to maintain/grade the road prior to the application. In addition, the area must be marked with orange stakes. Please contact the RM Office for more information.