

Newsletter



RM of Birch Hills No. 460

July 2022

COUNCIL

Reeve: Brent Fenner
Cell: 306-749-7262

Division 1: Mitch Soyland
Cell: 306-749-7978

Division 2: Kyle Jensen
Cell: 306-749-7536

Division 3: Brad Mitchell
Cell: 306-749-7667

Division 4: Ted Boutin
Cell: 306-961-7603

Division 5: Steve Tomtene
Cell: 306-930-6013

Division 6: Leyton Elsaesser
Cell: 306-749-7744

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00

OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Administrator:
Cherie Opseth

Office Assistant:
Joanne Bzdel

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

Foreman:
Todd Devenis

Grader Operator:
Pat Lepine

Seasonal Grader Operator:
Don Morrow

Seasonal Equipment
Operators:
Brian Evans
Vic Doderai

CONTACT US:

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

Council's Message

What can we say about the past year ... I'm sure we'll all be saying for years to come 'remember the winter of 2022'. On that note, we would like to acknowledge our public works staff who worked tirelessly all winter and commend them on the great job they did. Between the strong winds and the snow there was no gap in the snow clearing schedule. If you've ever wondered how long it takes to clear all the roads in the RM, it is roughly 2 full days which is done in sequence to ensure no roads are missed.

Last year the siding, shingles, fascia and eavestroughs were replaced at the office through funding received from MEEP. We also received funding from the Canada Community Building Program to replace the windows at the office at the same time.

Between the RM and the Town we received \$107,150 in donations towards the purchase of the new fire truck in addition to \$33,000 raised by the Fire Department for a total of \$140,150 raised as of June 21, 2022. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation.

All of us are dealing with cost increases this year and the RM is no different. When levying the taxes we took into consideration the increase in costs to fuel, equipment, culverts, materials, policing, etc. along with a reduction in Revenue Sharing from the Province. Unfortunately, all things combined resulted in a tax increase of approximately 4%.

This year is an election year for Divisions 2, 4 & 6. Election Day is set for November 9, 2022.

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

**We've updated our website.
Please check it out at
rmbirchhills460.ca.**

CRIMESTOPPERS

Please contact the RCMP
for crimes in progress:

Dial 911 or 306-765-5500 or 306-752-6420

for crimes that have already taken place:

Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477(TIPS)

Or email www.saskcrimestoppers.com

Or text TIP206 with your tip to CRIMES (274637)

Or call Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods

Investigation Unit at 1-866-51-SAFER.

Any information can help lead to an arrest
so please report all suspicious activity.

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

Items of Interest



2022 TAX LEVY

Municipal Mill Rate: 7.02
Brancepeth Mill Rate: 5.5
Hagen Mill Rate: 9.4
- with a minimum tax of \$600 in Hagen
The Mill Rate Factor is:
Agricultural Land: 0.938
Residential: 1.435
Commercial: 2.85

TAXATION DISCOUNT PERIODS

Discounts **only** apply to the municipal portion of your taxes as per below:

- Aug. 31 – 6%
- Sept. 30 – 5%
- Oct. 31 – 4%
- Nov. 30 – 2%
- Dec. 31 – no discount

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The audited 2021 Financial Statement is available at the RM office, on the RM website and a condensed version has been included with your 2022 Tax Notice.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

The methods of payment received by the RM are cash, cheques, Telpay & etransfers.

RECEIPTS

If you wish to have your receipts emailed rather than mailed, contact the office by phone or email at: rm460@sasktel.net.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2022 is an election year for Divisions 2, 4 & 6. Dates to remember:

Nomination Period
September 22 – October 5

Municipal Election Day
November 9
At the RM Office located at 279 Bellamy Avenue Birch Hills, SK.

SAMA

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

FIRE PROTECTION

The RM and Town of Birch Hills jointly own the Birch Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. This only provides for the costs associated with having the Fire Department trained and equipped to respond to calls 24/7.

It is important to note that all property owners in the RM and Hamlets of Brancepeth and Hagen are encouraged to carry additional fire insurance as all costs associated with the Fire Department responding to calls is the responsibility of the property owner.

When talking to your insurance broker make sure to provide them with a copy of the fire fighting rates in effect to ensure you have enough coverage. The rates are as per below:

FIRE DEPARTMENT RATES

- Pumper Unit - \$800/hr includes one firefighter
- Snuffer Unit - \$800/hr includes one firefighter
- Tanker Unit - \$800/hr includes one firefighter
- Command Unit - \$800/hr includes one firefighter
- Firefighter - \$50/FF/hr
- Mileage - \$5/km/unit
- Jaws of Life - \$800/hr
- Restocking supplies at cost
- Minimum Charge \$1,000 (reference False Alarm Bylaw when applicable)

CONTROL BURNS

Prior to starting a control burn make sure to call the burn control hotline at

1-866-404-4911.

Failure to do so will result in Fire Fighting charges if the Fire Department is called to respond as per the False Alarm Bylaw in effect.

RCMP JURISDICTION

The RCMP detachments of Prince Albert, Wakaw and Melfort have made changes to the areas of service. A map of the new boundaries can be found on the RM website. The changes should decrease wait times, and improve service.

INTERSECTIONS

Please notify the office of any sightline or visibility issues near or around intersections, as well as any damaged, missing, or fallen traffic signs.

SPEED LIMITS

The maximum speed limit is 60 km/hr when approaching and/or passing municipal equipment with flashing lights on.

CARBON MONOXIDE & SMOKE DETECTORS

Effective July 1, 2022, all buildings with sleeping quarters are required to have carbon monoxide detectors and all sleeping quarters are required to have smoke detectors regardless of when the buildings were built. For more information visit the RM website.

ASSESSMENT EXEMPTIONS

Please contact the RM Office if you own or lease agricultural land in an adjoining RM as you may be eligible for a 293 tax exemption in 2023.

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 waste disposal containers. Contact the RM office for more information.

WEED CONTROL

Barry Swanson is the appointed Weed Inspector for the RM. Please contact the RM Office if you have issues with any prohibited, noxious, or nuisance weeds.

CLUBROOT TIPS FOR PREVENTION

- 1) Rotate crops every 3yrs.
- 2) Plant clubroot resistant varieties.
- 3) Designate a different exit and entrance in each field.
- 4) Remove soil and debris off equipment prior to entering and exiting a field.
- 5) Disinfect equipment with a 2% bleach solution.

PEST CONTROL

Vern Holland is the appointed Pest Control Officer for the RM. Please contact the RM Office if you find evidence of a rat infestation.

Rat and mouse bait is available at the RM Office free of charge to all RM ratepayers.

WATER TRUCK-FILL

To purchase water at the truck-fill stations in the Hamlets of Brancepeth and Hagen you need a key fob. Contact the RM Office for more details.

WILD BOAR

All Wild Boar sightings should be reported to the Wild Pigs Hotline at 1-833-744-7768 or SCIC at 1-888-935-0018 immediately.

In addition, we ask that you notify the RM Office of the location of the sighting at 306-749-2233.

