

Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting of the County of Forty Mile No. 8 of the Province of Alberta held in the Board Room of the County Office, Foremost, Alberta on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Joan Hughson, at 9:05 A.M.

Members Present:

*Bruce Robertson
Ronald Harty
Ronald Lane
Tom Thacker
Craig Widmer
Bryne Lengyel*

Also Present:

*Sharon Burgess, Director of Finance
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
Sandra Reid, Secretary to the County Administrator*

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on July 3, 2012.

CARRIED.

Items Added to the Agenda

Several items were added to the Agenda by the Members present.

Agricultural Service Board Program Review

Mr. Matz provided Council with an update of the Grant Review Meeting held in Airdrie, Alberta. The Board is considering providing a pre-determined amount for Municipalities, rather than the current grant writing process.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2012.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman's Report was presented by Dave Matz and is attached as Addendum 'A' to the Minutes.

Items Discussed:

- Volker Stevin completed more of their own mowing as Agricultural Equipment was being repaired. Volker also reduced the amount of spraying originally planned.
- No-till drills were not utilized as frequently as in previous years, due to the wet spring.
- Project Tracking has been increased to provide a clearer breakdown of monetary allocation.
- Flooded areas may require additional spraying for weeds.
- Looking at different products for resistant Kochia.
- Second pass of Roadside Spraying has begun as well as the second cut of Mowing.
- ATV Crew completed initial weed inspection and performed spraying of Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, and Baby's Breath.
- Maintenance was required on most of the Agricultural equipment.
- Staff projects have included watering, seeding ditches and construction projects.
- Cemetery Crew completed two cuts along with tree trimming, grasshopper survey, Hamlet maintenance, painting the irrigation pivot and signs at Burdett.

- Cenotaph in Burdett will be completed by the end of September. Sponsored benches have been ordered and grass seeding will be complete in the next few weeks. Grant funding has been received for this project.
- Two staff members have taken full time employment elsewhere.

MOVED approval of the Agricultural Fieldman's Report.

CARRIED.

Trees

Mr. Tom Droog has offered trees to the County. There would be no charge for the trees, other than to hire a tree mover as the County tree mover is not large enough to handle these large trees. The Committee discussed which Hamlets have County property to plant trees as well as access to water. 40 Mile Park will be receiving trees as well.

Alberta Farm Safety

Mr. Matz received a request for funding assistance for the *Safety Smarts* Program. The Committee discussed whether a duplication of farm safety is occurring with this Program and one conducted by Family and Community Support Services.

Mr. Matz will inquire if a representative from the *Safety Smarts* program would be willing to give a presentation to the Committee. Sharon Burgess with contact Family and Community Support Services and inquire if a presentation could be made at the next County Council Meeting.

Alberta Invasive Plants Council

Mr. Matz received a request for funding assistance for weed awareness.

No action was taken by the Committee.

Bursary Application

Mr. Matz received a bursary application from Matthew Seitz who is currently enrolled in Power Engineering.

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Committee decline the application as it does not meet the current requirements for the bursary.

CARRIED.

The Committee suggested the need to review the requirements for the Agricultural Service Board bursary.

Rat Inspections

Mr. Matz gave an update on the rat findings in Medicine Hat and Bow Island. Mr. Matz inquired if the Committee would be in favour of him conducting an Inspection should a landowner believe they have observed rat activity. The Committee agreed this would be advisable and suggested a notice or information article be submitted to the paper.

Mr. Matz will be inspecting the North Forty Landfill this week.

South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

The South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held at the Hall in Champion, Alberta on November 1, 2012. Mr. Matz will forward the Committee the Resolutions and Agenda when they are received.

The Committee discussed requesting the grant / flat rate requirements as a Resolution item.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Thank You Cards

- Thank you cards have been received from the Meeks family, Orion Community Hall Association and Manyberries Agricultural Society.

Power Lines

Councillor Lengyel brought forward information received from a ratepayer who discovered his combine would only clear the 'drop zone' of a power line by two to three inches. The ratepayer contacted Fortis who confirmed the drop area was within the allowable limits.

Landfill Spraying

Mr. Matz indicated how difficult it is to spray at the North Forty Landfill due to the high volume of product. A spray truck is too large and spraying with a quad is too dangerous. As it would be too large of a job with a back-pack sprayer, Staff has been weed-whipping the area.

Budget

Items Discussed:

- A preliminary budget for Agricultural Grant purposes will be completed by the end of this year.
- Trading the tractor and mower as it has acquired high usage.
- Tendering process for the various equipment / vehicle businesses.
- Employment insurance changes and the effect on Seasonal Employees.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:15 A. M.

CARRIED.