

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, February 4, 2014.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Craig Widmer, at 9:00 A.M.

*Members Present:* Steven Wikkerink  
Bryne Lengyel  
Chantel Timmons  
Joan Hughson

*Also Present:* Dale Brown, County Administrator  
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman  
Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman  
Sandra Reid, Secretary to the County Administrator

*Absent:* Ronald Harty  
Gerald Reimer

### Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on December 10, 2013.

CARRIED.

### Amendment to the Agenda

MOVED that the February 4, 2014 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved and adopted with the following amendment:

- Fusarium – Pest Act

CARRIED.

### STAFF REPORT

#### Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

- The Agricultural Fieldman hosted a *Farm Pesticide Course* in December.
- Time was spent organizing the *Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference*, finalizing the 2013 Budget, summarizing Project Costs, reviewing Rental Rates, completing Inventory and creating additional Project Tracking numbers for the upcoming season.
- Meetings / Conferences Attended: Regional Meeting at County of Newell, One day of the Irrigated Crop Production Conference, Meeting in Cypress County regarding Youth Range Days. Youth Range Days is a three-day camp for youth aged 13-18 and this year will be held at the Aden Grain Hall from July 14 – 17, 2014. The Committee suggested the Schools be informed of this event.
- Agricultural Staff spent time clearing snow from parking lots, working on equipment, organizing parts, and began preparing unit 601 for repainting. Staff also spent extra time working in the Utilities Department in addition to the weekly water run.
- The Dodge 1-ton has been delivered and is being fitted with spray tanks, boom mounts and the installation of the electronics and GPS system.
- Public Works has requested assistance from the Agricultural Staff for a few weeks this winter. Mr. Matz will discuss this with the Municipal Supervisor.

#### February Projects:

- Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV): Install GPS and radio; plumbing upgrades.
- Tree Sprayer: Modifications.
- Work will continue with the review of Safety Manual changes, preparation of the Spring Newsletter, finalization of the Budget and establishment of new Project Tracking numbers.

Mr. Matz will provide the Committee with a list of items for Auction at the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting. The Committee discussed combining equipment with Public Works and holding a local Auction and suggested Mr. Matz to contact the Municipal Supervisor.

### Budget

The Committee reviewed a draft Budget as prepared by Mr. Matz.

The Committee discussed increasing the Spray Program funding. One option is to increase the amount for Krovar, a soil sterility spray applied along the roadsides which provides approximately two years of residual control. The residual control assists with rotating the areas treated enabling progress through the County every two years. There are some issues spraying with residual chemicals alongside cereals or potatoes, however fall spraying is safer.

Mr. Matz explained he is able to view the Grader Operator maps that pinpoint the problem areas. The consensus of Council was to retain the current Krovar applied and continue with the rotation schedule.

The Committee discussed lighting modifications to the Agricultural Shop. Mr. Matz will provide cost estimates for the next Meeting.

### Project Costing

The Agricultural Fieldman provided a breakdown of costs (repairs, fuel, capital and labour) of the main programs / services carried out by the Agricultural Department.

Mowing: The Committee discussed repair costs to the mower and tractor. Mr. Matz will inquire of Cypress County as to the success of the side-mount mower / tractor operation.

Tree Moving: County Staff discussed care of the Tree Nursery north on Highway No. 61 and the installation of a drip line watering system along the Public Works fence line.

No-Till Drills: The drills will require major maintenance work this year.

Tree Spraying: Repairs to the spray truck have been quite high.

Roadside Spraying: Mr. Matz explained the repair costs required on the trucks as well as the different chemicals used.

ATV Spraying – noxious weed sites: Hours spent ATV spraying were reduced due to one less seasonal labourer and time spent in Burdett.

Hamlets and Cemeteries: Due to the 2013 Burdett Centennial Celebration the amount of time spent in Burdett will be reduced this year. The Committee discussed spraying the Landfills earlier in the season.

The Committee discussed adding a Summer Student for the months of July and August.

### Rental Rates

The Committee reviewed the current rates charged for the services provided by the Agricultural Department and Mr. Matz presented proposed rates for 2014.

The Committee discussed charging one rate, rather than one for industry and one for a ratepayer.

Chantel Timmons left the Meeting.

MOVED approval to accept the Proposed Rates for Agricultural Services attached as Addendum 'B' to the Minutes.

CARRIED.

Chantel Timmons present.

## Water Tank

Mr. Matz presented quotes for a water tank for the Committee's review. The water tanks will be used for storing water for Spraying operations. The previous filling station was removed due to the sale of property to the Village. The Committee discussed using the overhead fill station at the Campground. The installation will require pex-pipe, a float valve, wiring costs and cam locks.

Steven Wikkerink left the Meeting.

- Flaman                 \$3,550
- Agro-Plus             \$2,500
- Promold               \$4,340

MOVED approval to purchase a 3700 imperial gallon, heavy-duty water tank from Agro-Plus for \$2,500.00.

CARRIED.

## Safety Smarts

Safety Smarts, a farm safety awareness program, has requested financial support in the amount of \$847.00 based on the 2013 delivery of the program to 242 children (\$3.50 per child).

Steven Wikkerink present.

Councillor Timmons suggested follow-up be made with the Teachers as to how the Program was received. The Committee also suggested requesting the Program be delivered to the Burdett School and the Colonies as priorities.

MOVED approval to provide financial support to the 2013 Safety Smarts Program in the amount of \$847.00.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

The Committee requested Mr. Matz to contact the Safety Smarts Co-ordinator for more information to determine how the schools are chosen for the next Meeting.

## Training Course

The Agricultural Fieldman requested the Committee's approval to attend a one-day seminar, *The Supervisory Role*, at the Lethbridge College.

Mr. Van Arragon also requested to attend a one-day seminar, *Hiring For Success*, at the Lethbridge College.

MOVED approval for Dave Matz and Darrell Van Arragon to each attend a one-day seminar at the Lethbridge College at a cost of \$215.00 per course.

CARRIED.

## Weed Control Policy

The Committee reviewed the current *Weed Control Policy*.

The Committee suggested a review of agriculture-related policies at each Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

## Fusarium – Pest Act

Councillor Lengyel brought forth concerns from a local Seed Grower regarding the Fusarium issue. Fusarium Graminearum is a declared pest under the Pest Act. Currently, it is illegal for a farmer to plant seed that is infected with Fusarium Graminearum. If a field is infected the County Agricultural Department can issue a notice to destroy the crop. Currently, the

Province has issued a zero tolerance. One solution is to breed a tolerant variety however with the zero tolerance policy this is not possible. Seed Growers must send in a sample to receive certification to sell the seed, and are not able to receive certification with the current zero tolerance policy.

Mr. Matz will draft a letter to the Minister to relay the Committee's concerns and will bring it to the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting for review.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 12:10 P. M.

CARRIED.