

**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, March 1, 2016.**

The Meeting was called to order by the Agriculture Chairman, Craig Widmer, at 8:57 A.M.

**Members Present:** *Chantel Timmons  
Ronald Harty  
Joan Hughson  
Steven Wikkerink  
Craig Widmer  
Gerald Reimer*

**Members Absent:** *Bryne Lengyel*

**Also Present:** *Dale Brown, County Administrator  
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman  
Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant Agricultural  
Fieldman  
Paula Mueller, Executive Assistant*

**Minutes**

**MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 2, 2016.**

**CARRIED.**

**Amendments to the Agenda**

**MOVED that the March 1, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as amended.**

- **Environmental Farm Plan**

**CARRIED.**

**Treasurer's Report**

No 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 worked primarily in the office on budget items, project tracking, and some capital planning. Mr. Matz conducted another Farm Pesticide Course in Bow Island with seven local farmers in early February.
- Mr. Matz attended a meeting with the Milk River Watershed Research and Monitoring Team. The main topic of particular interest was the project that used aerial drones to map out the river and identify invasive weeds. A trial was performed last summer but was a bit late in the season and the results have not been very good. The project will go ahead again this summer and if weed infestations can be identified then it will make it much easier to go in and perform control work without having to drive the area. If this project is successful, the Agricultural Fieldman would like to look into having some areas along the South Saskatchewan River mapped.
- Another project Mr. Matz has volunteered to provide some assistance with is the Alberta Conservation Association's attempt to find ways of controlling Downy and Japanese Brome in native grass. The Agricultural Fieldman and the Alberta Conservation Association have been working in conjunction with several local landowners in running test plots where the weed is spreading and taking over grassland.

- The Agricultural Fieldman attended a meeting with our South Region Weed Coordinator to finalize this year's contract and provide direction for this year's activities. The County of Warner has requested a weed tour be set up for this summer to provide educational opportunities on issues in other municipalities and possibly in Montana.
- Agricultural Staff had to fill in for the Utility Operator for the first two weeks of February and has been working on the lids for dumpsters at the Park as materials come in. The hitch and castor wheels from the no till drill were repaired and cracks in the frame were fixed and a wear plate replaced. Agricultural Staff utilized time in the Shop removing radiators from the mowers to have them cleaned.
- Mr. Matz took a week of vacation over the Family Day week and plans to take another week over the Easter Break in March. There is not much planned for meetings in March so repair projects in the shop can commence. If this nice weather holds, there are trees to trim in Burdett and spraying for foxtail could possibly start and soil sterilant in bare ground areas. Gopher poison has been sold to those farmers who want to get an early start.

### **2016 Proposed Budget**

- A draft budget for 2016 with previous year comparisons was provided to Council.
- Council discussed budget issues and requirements for 2016.

### **2015 Project Tracking**

An expense summary for the main projects undertaken by the Agriculture Department was presented to Council.

### **2016 Rental Rates**

The current Rental Agreement was provided to Council for review.

- Grass Drill: \$10.00 price per acre should be increased; drill should be kept moving if there is someone on a waiting list or charge a per day fee to justify the amount read on the acre counter.
- Minimum rental charge of \$350.00 per day should increase to \$400.00. Eliminate the per acre charge and change to a daily rate.

**MOVED approval to increase the rental fee of the grass drill to a flat rate of \$400.00 per day.**

**CARRIED.**

Council discussed the Tractor and Implements rental fee for farm operators and that the rental fee should increase from \$95.00 per hour to \$100.00 per hour.

**MOVED approval to increase the rental cost of tractor and implement fees for Farm Operators from \$95.00 per hour to \$100.00 per hour.**

**CARRIED.**

### **Equipment Review**

A summary of the current fleet of Agricultural Equipment was provided to Council for review.

Council discussed various uses of the Agricultural Equipment and the hours or mileage per unit.

### **2016/2017 Capital Replacement**

A list of items that should be considered for Capital Replacement of the next couple of years was provided to the Board for their review.

- Spray equipment purchase new injection pump for 3 ton
- Ten foot width Roadside Grass Seeder for construction use
- Half Ton Truck

- Three Ton Spray Truck
- Handi Hitch: Offset Hitch for Mower
- Replace John Deere 6420 Tractor

Board consensus was to budget for a half ton truck quad cab for 2016.

Councillor Reimer left the meeting.

### **Environmental Farm Plan**

Environmental Farm Plan course inquiries; there was only several people interested and was set up in Bow Island.

**MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:00 A. M.**

**CARRIED.**