

RM of Pleasantdale #398

Box 70, Naicam, SK. S0K 2Z0

Phone (306) 874-5732 Fax (306) 874-2225 rm398@sasktel.net

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Annual Ratepayer Letter

July 2020

❖ The RM of Pleasantdale's Mill Rate for 2020 will remain at 10 mills which is the same as 2019. No Mill Rate Factors have been applied which ensures that all of the Ratepayers in the Municipality are being taxed equally. In regards to the **School Tax** portion on the tax notices, this portion is legislated by the Provincial Government to be added, collected & then remitted by the municipality.

❖ I am often asked, where does my **tax** money go? In addition to maintaining RM roads, regular municipal business costs include, but are not limited to, wages & benefits, building utilities, property insurance, property assessments, membership fees and council indemnities. There are also many mandatory costs based on per capita which include REACT (Humboldt & LeRoy), policing, 911 Dispatch Fees, & Wapiti library fees. Fire protection is provided for the RM of Pleasantdale residents through contracted services with the Town of Naicam, City of Melfort, and the Town of Tisdale. These costs are based on a population of 596 from the last census which works out to \$1122.88 per capita. The RM has also committed donations to the Melfort Wellness Centre (10yrs) and the Melfort Heliport (4yrs) to ensure access to health services are available. The RM of Pleasantdale, RM of Spalding, and the RM of Lake Lenore have jointly purchased a used Inter-Municipal Water Tanker Truck to provide efficient fire protection services for our surrounding area.

❖ **Over the past 3 years**, council has been working hard to better serve the ratepayers of the municipality. In 2019, the Municipality was able to rebuild sections of road on mile 316-318, south of Lac Vert west, mile 301, Anderson Road west, mile 341 south, mile 337, Lake Charron Road east, mile 607, and the Kip Road West. Culverts were replaced on the south access into the Town of Naicam from the south, as well as, willows cleared and pit run deposited on the road. Holes in the roads were fixed at mile 522, mile 537, and mile 341. To help the RM maintain the roads, please do not use the seasonal roads when it rains to avoid creating large ruts in the roads. The RM extracted rocks from 58 miles of road and 80.5 miles of ditches within the 6 divisions of the Municipality. Pit run was put on miles 242 & 243 and the RM of Pleasantdale was able to gravel our own municipal roads in 2018 and 2019. Work was completed at miles 534 & 604 low level crossings. 30 miles of shoulders were pulled and mulched on the Kip Road and the Pleasantdale East road. The RM of Pleasantdale has also installed Township and Range Road signs in 2/3 of the Municipality.

❖ **In 2020**, Council will continue to fix roads, change culverts, pull shoulders, and gravel the roads. A contractor has been hired and started work in late May to repair all the bridges within the RM. Township/Range Road signage will be completed. Civic addressing for residence locations as well as other pertinent locations should be reflected on ratepayers 2020 Tax Notices. Please contact the RM office to confirm your address prior to ordering personal signage. A Community Plan and a Zoning Bylaw should be completed soon for public approval.

❖ An **Election** will be held on November 9, 2020 for Reeve and Councilors in Division 1, 3 and 5. In 2020, the Government made changes to the Election Act which will apply to the Election in November and with the current COVID-19 situation in the Province, we will be following the Public Health Guidelines when it comes to the election. To see which Division you are eligible to vote in please refer to the "Division" indicated on your Tax Notice. If you have questions, please contact the RM office. All Ratepayers are eligible to vote for the Reeve.

For each Division, your eligibility to vote is determined in this order:

1. In the Division you reside;

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2. If you do not reside in the Municipality, the Division in which you can vote is determined by the division in which you have the highest land assessed value.

❖ Due to the continual **harassment** of Municipal Workers by a few select ratepayers & a non-ratepayer, the RM's Zero – Tolerance Policy will be enforced.

❖ **Payments** are preferred via Affinity Credit Union bill payment services, e-transfer or cheque. Please allow 5 days for Canada Post or online payments. Use rm398@sasktel.net for e-transfer. Discounts are offered for early payment. Post-dated cheques are accepted at any time. A penalty is applicable for arrears if payment is not received in hand prior to the last day of the month. If payment for the current year taxes is not received by the RM office by 4:00pm on Dec 31, 2020, the payment will be considered late and an interest penalty will apply.

❖ It is the property owner's responsibility to notify the RM of any **changes in address**, as this affects any mailings from the RM including taxes. If the RM is unaware of any changes and cannot find your new address, you may not receive your tax notice and eventually go into tax arrears and quite possible Tax Enforcement. An **EMAIL CONSENT FORM** is attached for you to complete if you prefer to receive notices, assessments & receipts via email. This provides efficiency and saves on RM administrative fees & costs.

❖ **Tansy Weeds** – the RM would like to work in collaboration with the farming community to clean up properties. Some funding is available from the Provincial Government for the farming community to help offset the costs of applicable chemical. Please contact the RM office for information.

❖ **Clubroot** has been identified in surrounding municipalities. Informational pamphlets are available in the office or Canola Council website at www.canolacouncil.org It is the landowner's responsibility to inform the RM Office if Clubroot is found on your property (Clubroot Bylaw 9-2019).

❖ **Rats** are always a concern! The RM's Pest Control Officer (PCO), checks properties within the RM annually and upon request. Once again, we recommend that you burn/dispose of all old vacant buildings no longer being used or if in abandoned yard sites and spread out old grain piles. It costs very little to practice good pest control management compared to 'out of control' issues. "Destroy Orders" can become very costly with all costs incurred to the ratepayer and can be added to the land taxes on December 31st. **Deer Mice** populations are also on the rise in the Province. Educate yourself on **Hantavirus, as it can be fatal**.

❖ **Grain bag disposal** - burning is prohibited and letting them blow away is unacceptable. The nearest collection sites are the Humboldt REACT Landfill & the Leroy React Landfill. The bags need to be rolled tightly. For information/ please contact REACT 306-682-1955 or Clean Farms website at www.cleanfarms.ca

❖ **Beavers** cause problems for maintenance workers and landowners. We ask that if you see a culvert that is blocked or a small dam that you please take a few minutes to remove the debris, so that the water can continue to drain. The RM Beaver Bounty Program is in effect but you must register with the Division Councillor prior to extraction. In order to receive the bounty of \$35.00 per beaver tail through the SARM program you must have a valid Trappers License and a copy must be provided to the RM Office.

❖ **Power Lines** - check the power lines on your properties. If any lines are near or touching trees, you should contact SaskPower at 1-888-757-6937 or online at www.saskpower.com and follow the prompts and request tree trimming. If you do not contact SaskPower and a fire occurs, you could be liable.

❖ Permission for **Controlled Burns** must be obtained via the **Provincial Control Burn Line at 1-866-404-4911**. This municipality does not provide burning permits. Any fires reported via 911 that have not been reported to the Controlled Burn Line and the fire department responds to, **the land owner will be liable for all costs**. Fire Bans prohibit any burning in the specified municipality and non-compliance could result in a fine. Keep in mind that it is the responsibility of the RM to provide Fire Protection Services, however; the property owner is responsible for all firefighting costs. Review personal/business insurance policies periodically to

determine adequate coverage. For more information check out: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/fire-safety/controlled-burns-and-grass-fires#controlled-burns>

❖ The **Town of Naicam** has adopted a **False Alarm Policy for calls**. For out of town false alarms the following charges will apply:

- i) \$1500 if the Fire Department responds to the call and travels to the scene or travels more than 5 km Out of Town in response to the call
- ii) \$500 if the Fire Department responds to the call but does not leave the Fire Hall or travels less than 5 km Out of Town without having arrived at the scene.

❖ **Road Allowances** are to be kept clear of debris. All road allowances are minimum 66 feet unless the road is a RM boughten road in which the road allowance may differ.

❖ We have noticed a large amount of **rocks** being left on road allowances or in ditches. Please ensure you are not placing or pushing rocks onto road allowances or into ditches as this causes damage to our mowers when cutting grass and can delay work projects.

❖ **Garbage** in RM ditches! If anyone sees garbage, either in or being disposed of in the ditches please contact the Ministry of Environment's Office in Melfort (306-752-6214) and give them the information as to the location.

❖ **Snow Clearing** - refrain from **pushing snow** from ratepayer property across and onto municipal roads. Snow ridges are dangerous to the patrol operators and to the travelling public. Anyone caught doing this will be responsible for the cost of cleanup or could be held liable if someone is injured.

❖ In the event of a **major snow fall**, please note that the main grids and heavily travelled roads are cleared first. Operators will then clean the remaining grids as efficiently and quickly as possible. In the event of a heavy snowfall, it can take up to 5 days before roads are cleared. Please prepare accordingly. We appreciate everyone's patience & co-operation.

❖ The **speed limit** on the RM grid roads is 80 km/hr, unless posted otherwise. On certain roads, the speed limit is reduced to 60 km/hr for trucks over 4 tonnes reflected on posted signage. **Notice: RM Employees/Equipment = Orange Zone**. The speed limit is reduced to 60 km/hr when passing RM employees and equipment. We remind travelers to be aware that the equipment is maintaining the roads for your use and that courtesy towards our operators is expected. Be patient and drive with care when meeting or passing municipal equipment.

❖ Every year, thousands of agricultural producers and landowners experience crop hail damage. In many cases, the loss is devastating. The **Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (SMHI)** and its subsidiary, **Additional Municipal Hail Limited (AMHL)**, are 100% owned and operated by Saskatchewan farmers and operate on a non-profit basis with the sole purpose of providing spot loss hail insurance coverage. Consider SMHI or AMHL for your spot loss hail insurance coverage and contact the RM office for your insurance needs.

❖ **Dust Control** - any ratepayer who is considering applying dust control on the road adjacent to their property is required to contact their Division Councillor or the Municipal Office **prior** to commencing any work to obtain permission, awareness and allow road maintenance to occur prior to application.

❖ **RM maps** are frequently updated and are available for purchase through RM office. If there are any changes required, please notify the office. The office also offers for sale: Sock-it, grid road maps and a small selection of signs.

❖ **Water Test sample bottles** are available free of charge at the RM office for testing your well water. Anyone interested in collecting a sample can send it in to the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory along with payment. Testing may include Coliform/E.coli, MPN, HPC, Pseudomonas, Fecal Streptococci, and Nitrate and Fluoride testing of drinking water.

❖ **SaskAlert** - public alerting program that provides critical information on emergencies in real time, so you can take action of protection. An alert issued through SaskAlert will let you know what the emergency is; where it is happening; instructions for you to follow to stay safe, and advise you when the incident is over. The RM has been using this to broadcast alerts about local emergency events to the public. The SaskAlert mobile app will alert users through their smart phones of tornadoes, blizzards, boil water advisories or evacuation orders to name a few. To sign up on your mobile phone, just download the SaskAlert App.

❖ **Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network'** - when a detachment becomes aware of an incident or crime, they can issue an advisory via the system, and anyone who has signed up for the program will become aware of what happened within minutes! The system will send the advisory to your smartphone or landline, via text message, email, or text to voice. **SIGN UP** - network is free and only takes a few minutes. You choose which RCMP detachment area(s) you want to receive notifications from (1 or multiple), and how you want to receive them - whether it be via text message, email, a text to voice phone call or the app. Note, an app is available, but it is not required. Even residents who only have a landline can sign up and receive the advisories. Visit www.saskcrimewatch.ca to sign up! We encourage anyone and **EVERYONE** to join the network – residents, corporations and organizations could all benefit from receiving these advisories. You do not need to be part of an existing crime prevention group to sign up. **EVERYONE** should sign up for this system, including those people who are already part of a group. *The concept of the program is simple: sign up to receive advisories from your local RCMP and assist us by serving as the 'eyes and ears' of your community.*

RM 398 Vision Statement: We are the municipal government of an independent and resilient rural population. We recognize that the quality of life in our communities, economic growth, and new jobs are vital to our future. We will provide cost effective primary infrastructure and services to allow our constituents to develop their businesses and communities.

Council of the RM of Pleasantdale #398 Res# 157/17

Council:

Reeve	Fred Graham	306-874-5423
Div 1	Ernest Pederson	306-874-7432
Div 2	Helen Obrigewitch	306-874-8052
Div 3	Robin Parry	306-874-2102
Div 4	Doug Hardy	306-921-1054
Div 5	Margaret Leigh	306-921-6227
Div 6	Bruce Willett	306-874-8205

Council & Administration wishes you a safe & enjoyable summer & bountiful harvest.