

# RM of Usborne No. 310 2016

## Newsletter

**Budget** – the 2016 budget was passed at our July meeting setting the simple mill rate at 13; which makes for an overall increase of 8.33%. The school mill rates are set by the province and vary by property class; the early payment discount no longer applies to school taxes.

Construction plans for this year had included a joint municipal heavy-haul re-surfacing project (3 miles of 668 past the Philadelphia Church & 2.5 miles east of Watrous; cost \$3 million less 50% grant) However SARM is working on a new program (PIPP) that may enable re-surfacing of the entire length from Watrous to the PCS minesite as early as 2017, so this year's project was dropped. The new program requires at least 25% cost sharing from private partners and discussions to date have been positive; 25% each comes from the Federal, Provincial and municipal governments. Projected cost is \$10-12 million.

Many of our culverts have reached their lifespan and you may have noticed the number of new pipes that crews have already installed. We will be replacing the culverts at the Dellwood Creek/668 crossing this fall at an estimated cost of \$297,000 less a 35% grant.

**Guernsey** – The Hamlet Board raised the mill rate by 1 to 12 and set the minimum tax on buildings at \$525; the minimum tax on all lots is calculated at \$1 per frontage foot, land with a building will get an exemption on the first 100 feet.

The water & sewer utility deficit averaged \$15,000 over the past 3 years. This short fall comes out the hamlet tax levy. We may have to find a new source for water if Lanigan proceeds with their RO plant as the already poor Dellwood water will become stagnant in the pipeline. Options include a pipeline to Lanigan or drill a well.



**New Shop** – The new shop is almost finished and moved into. Council will be having a

celebration sometime this fall so watch for notices. Ryan spent a lot of time on this project and total costs were lower than expected; approx. \$900,000 including the street.

**Tax Payments** – Those that bank with RBC can pay their taxes (and water & sewer) online; your billing account number is your owner number (shown after your name, upper right corner) followed by zeros. This option will be expanded to the other banks as the demand grows. We do not offer credit card or interact at this time.

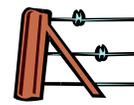
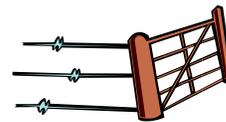
**Dust control** –It is available to anyone at cost; to calculate use: \$0.31/litre x 1.8 l/m<sup>2</sup> x road width 7m x length 200 m. That is a heavy application and the rate can be reduced as it accumulates over time. If you want an application, please call early in the year. To get the preferred rate we need to order full trucks.



### **Development & Building Permits** –

If you are building, you must apply for both development and building permits and our building official will ensure that the building is built to code. Ag buildings and ag residences are exempt; however having your new house inspected is good insurance.

**Gravel** –To ensure a supply for future municipal use, council will no longer sell any aggregate product. There are quite a few private suppliers in the area that can meet demand.



**Fencing** – the new zoning bylaw requires that all new

fences must be erected off of the road allowance at a minimum of **50 feet from road centre**. For Grid roads it could be 60 to 70 feet from the center; call the office if you are not sure. While we encourage the use of undeveloped road allowances, the office **must** be contacted before any road allowances are fenced off and all adjoining landowners must be in agreement. From this point on, any fence erected within the road allowance will have to be moved. Temporary single wire electric fences may be allowed, but call first.



**Mowing** - If you want to cut the ditch for hay next year, **please call me before June 1st** so we can delete

it from the summer mowing map. We do a summer top cut followed by a fall complete cut where dry. There are not many who cut ditch hay, so if you want to cut more road than what adjoins your land, please feel free to do so. (Contact the adjoining landowner first though) We have adopted the Highway's Hay Salvage policy so after July 8<sup>th</sup> you can cut any road allowance without permission.



**Office Hours** – Hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday & 9:00-4:00 on Friday. **The office will be closed August 1.** If you have any questions on any of the above, give the office a call at 365-2924, or email [rm310@sasktel.net](mailto:rm310@sasktel.net)



**Noxious weeds** – We no longer have a weed control applicator and are looking for someone with a commercial applicator's license for public lands. Scentless chamomile has been seen on the west side, Hwy 16 and Poundmaker Road; Leafy Spurge has been found at the Dellwood spillway and on Bloomfield Road; Common Tansy is almost everywhere and Diffuse Knapweed is next door. If you have some left over broad leaf herbicide you need to dump and there is bush or **noxious weeds** growing in the ditch adjoining your land, go ahead and spray it.



**Municipal Hail** - Crop Exemption Forms must be received before **April 30th. Remember!** If you want to withdraw from the hail plan, you must notify the office by **March 31st**. If you have a **Hail Claim** when the office is closed, fax or mail the claim form directly to the hail company.



**REACT** - You can take your garbage (for a fee) to the transfer sites at Lanigan, Watrous or Drake or a farmer or group can rent or purchase a bin that will be emptied on a regular basis. Recycle centres are set up and are free. **Used oil & filters** can be taken to the transfer sites at Watrous (12-7 p.m. Tues & Thurs, 9-5 Sat) and Lanigan (1-7 p.m. Tues & 10-4 Sat)



If you are planning on burning an old building or haystack be sure to call in a Controlled Burn at 1866-404-4911 otherwise you may be looking at a Fire Department bill. You will be asked for the land description, reason for fire and to call back when finished. Then call your insurance provider to make sure your insurance covers fire fighting fees.

When the office is closed, you can call the reeve or your councillor at:

REEVE	Ken Bartel	365-4726
DIV 1	Ryan Morningstar	528-2014
DIV 2	Jack Gibney	363-4749
DIV 3	Howard Toews	946-2490
DIV 4	Lance Gunther	365-4231
DIV 5	Fred Toman	365-4215
DIV 6	Don Shantz	946-4119

Other important numbers:

Controlled Burn	1-866-404-4911
CP Emergency	1-800-716-9132
CN Emergency	1-800-465-9239

(Dangerous Rail Crossing)

**Final Word** - This will be my last newsletter as I am moving on effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a tribute to the folks in this municipality that there has only been 3 administrators in 110 years! Anna Rintoul will be the 4<sup>th</sup>, officially taking over January 1<sup>st</sup> but she has already joined Lanette and myself in the office. Be sure to say hello when you stop in to pay your taxes!

Have a good summer and a great harvest!