

Minutes of a meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Peace No. 135, Province of Alberta, held July 18, 2016 at the Municipal Office, Berwyn, Alberta.

Present

Chairman Veronica Bliska
Councillor Member Sandra Eastman
Members at Large Rick Keillor
Brian Grant

Agricultural Fieldman Nasar Iqbal
Recording Secretary Barbara Johnson

Regrets

George Leger
Bernadette Wearden
Nigel Thorne
Paul Kinnee

Call to Order

Chairman Bliska called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that the agenda for the July 18, 2016 ASB meeting be adopted with the addition of the following:

H.5. Guide for Declaring Municipal Disasters in Alberta
Carried

Approval of Minutes

1. February 10, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Meeting

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that the minutes of the February 10, 2016 ASB meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising Out of Minutes

1. 2017 Shelterbelt Program

Nasar informed the Board that some ornamental trees would not be available to order from Woodmere Nursery for 2017 planting: saskatoons, birch, chokecherries, cranberries.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the Agricultural Fieldman be authorized to order a \$500 supply of shelterbelt/ornamental trees in 2017 for distribution to interested ratepayers in order to promote environmental stewardship.

Carried

Reports

1. Agricultural Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman reviewed his written report, outlining his activities from February 10 - July 18, 2016.

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

New Business

1. Rock Picking From Ditches/Purchase of Quicker Picker/Awareness Notice

Nasar informed the Board that he has been having high staff turnover this year, partially due to the manual rock picking work. The Board directed him to research various rock picking or fork type attachments for equipment that would automate some of the work.

The Board also recommended that Council direct Administration to research GPS tools for Public Works equipment that would pinpoint locations for culverts, problem spots, large rocks, obstructions, etc while operators are blading roads.

Nasar informed the Board of Council's direction to advertise an awareness notice regarding rocks being dumped into road ditches. Rick Keillor noted that no dumping of "other debris" should also be included in the notice and requested that Council consider adding those words to the awareness notice.

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2. Farmer's Appreciation Night 2016

Nasar advised the Board that the Appreciation Night was well advertised and fairly well attended. He requested that the Board provide him with ideas or other suggestions in order to improve the 2018 Appreciation Night:

- more visual in PowerPoint presentation with regards to problems or issues (e.g. take photos of rocks being dumped in ditches).

3. Summer Staff Turnover

Nasar reported that 4 staff have left their jobs and had to be replaced since May. The Board discussed various options for hiring and retaining employees.

4. Agriculture Education - Field Signage - What's In the Field?

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board support the "What's in the Field" signage program and further, that Administration advertise the program to their ratepayers.

Carried

5. Scentless Chamomile Control/Weed Notices

Nasar informed the Board of the various weed issues he has encountered throughout the Municipality. The Board requested that Council be given more information in order to better understand the various categories of weed status and types of control each status requires.

Brian Grant: MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that Scentless Chamomile be upgraded from Noxious weed status to Prohibited Noxious weed status.

Carried

Members' Business

Rick Keillor has noticed more toadflax growing in his area along the road ditches and wondered if anything would be done. Types of chemical suitable for toadflax were discussed.

Rick Keillor asked if there has been any further information circulated regarding the formation of a solar co-op. He also asked if linear assessment of rural electrification lines is being proposed in the MGA review.

Sandra Eastman noted the quantity of thistle along RR244 and wondered when the road was going to be sprayed. Nasar advised that spraying has begun and all roads south of Highway 2 will be sprayed this year.

Information

The Board discussed the information items and requested that the advisory regarding the selling of surface leases be advertised in the paper and on the website.


The Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 in Dixonville.

Next Meeting

The next Agricultural Service Board meeting is to be tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Being that the agenda matters have been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.


Chairman


Agricultural Fieldman

These minutes approved by Council the 13th day of December, 2016.


Reeve


Chief Administrative Officer