

Box 220, Hyas, SK S0A 1K0
Ph: 594-2832 Fax: 594-2944
Email: rm333@sasktel.net

OFFICE HOURS

The office hours are: 9 – 4 Monday – Friday except
Statutory Holidays, I do not close for lunch I am here all

day. Sometimes I do need to close 15 minutes early so that I can take the deposit to the bank, and I do close the office occasionally for training but it is always posted. Also if you need to receive a fax you can have it sent here and I will contact you when it arrives, the same for courier service, our street address is: 113 1st Ave. N Hyas, SK.

REVALUATION YEAR

This year is a revaluation year. You have in this envelope received the assessment valuation for your properties. Please do not panic, on average the assessment of land in our RM has gone up 49%. This DOES NOT mean that your taxes are going up 49%. This simply means that the value of your land has gone up. Also if you will notice that

houses are now assessed on most farm properties, so please take a moment and review your notice. There are so many rules I cannot cover them all in this newsletter, if you have a question do not hesitate to call the office for clarification as there could also be a mistake, since with such a large undertaking that is a real possibility. In Rural

Saskatchewan there is an exemption for farm buildings and houses, I have tried to find them all but your cooperation is going to be needed to have it absolutely correct. You can only have one exemption per family, so multi house properties may be taxed on the second house, please call for more information if this is your situation.

PUBLIC MEETING

Council is going to hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Hyas Community Center at 7:00 pm. The meeting will start with a representative from SAMA to discuss the revaluation, followed by a discussion on Municipal assets, and taxation. There will be time for questions and answers.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT !!!

TAX ARREARS

As of December 31, 2012 the municipal share of arrears was \$198,481.83, this is just the municipalities' portion and does not include the school or hail share of arrears. Council is working hard to get these arrears under control and would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who is helping in this effort. Arrears on December 2009 were \$518,456.79. This is great news, it is coming down and will continue to do so!!

Don't forget the 10% discount on your July paid and Prepaid Taxes! You can prepay your taxes for next year by postdated cheques, even monthly payments are acceptable, and by doing so you qualify for the discount.

ROADS

Since we have gotten a lot of snow so far this year, way more than last year, hopefully the spring is not to wet. We have already received the word that the snow that has fallen has high moisture content; this is not good news when you think of spring runoff. We have to prepare for a wet spring and council is requesting that everyone using the roads uses caution and care, if the road is really wet try not to use it. We really do

not want to have a rerun of 2011 and those road conditions.

GRAVEL

We are no longer going to offer gravel to ratepayers. Unfortunately our gravel reserves are getting smaller and we are not in the business of competing with local contractors. If you require gravel for your yard you need to contact a private contractor. The RM gravel will be reserved for our roads and municipal property.

Taxes

The council introduced a minimum tax. This means that no matter how small the assessment is on your land the minimum amount of taxes levied will be \$125.00. This applies also to Danbury, since Danbury is a hamlet and not an Organized Hamlet it falls under the same jurisdiction as the rest of the RM. The reason for this minimum tax is that no matter the size of the lot that you own you still get the same services as anyone else.

If you are building, we do not have building permits but we do need a Data Building Form filled out so that when it does come time to assess it makes the process easier.

SPEEDING PAST EQUIPMENT

We are still having issues with vehicles passing our workers and equipment at high rates of speed. **The speed limit passing equipment and workers is 60 kms/hr.** The equipment also has the right of way when working on a road so if you see the grader or any piece of machinery on the road up ahead, SLOW DOWN, they maybe in the middle of something and unable to move off the road at the time.

ALSO the little orange flags that have been put out all over the RM mean that there is an issue with the road and you should slow down for your own safety and so that your vehicle does not get damaged. We are trying our best to get the roads repaired, graded or plowed but if we are busy worrying about other vehicles it will only take longer.

The Municipal Chain of Command

Contrary to popular belief, the administrator does not run the RM, it is council who make policies and decisions, it is the administrators' job to carry out these directives, and advise council on correct procedures. The first call for almost anything should be to your councillor. He is the only one with the authority to make a decision, such as having a grader change route. It still takes a majority of council to make a resolution when it comes to most decisions. If your councillor cannot help you he will direct you to either the office or the shop. They cannot answer all your questions especially procedural ones, but they do know policies and budgets. Also be patient with new councillors, there is a lot to learn and it takes time. If they don't know they will find out for you or direct you to someone who can help.

SNOW PLOWING

When the plow goes by a driveway, they will go by as fast as they can, this spreads the snow out instead of leaving a ridge. The plows do this to every approach. No exceptions. They will not back up and plow it out, it would take to much time so we try to go fast so that the snow is minimized. Also when they do the road they do put the moldboard down so that could leave a ridge at the end of your driveway. We will not lift the wing or moldboard for certain driveways. The plowing policy is the same for everyone.

Calling us to tell us it snowed does not get your road done faster, we have a route that we follow and this has been planned for the best coverage of the municipality. You are not the only one with snow on your road, we are doing our best and everyone needs to be patient.

CUSTOM WORK

We really don't have the time or staff to do custom work anymore. We also do not want to compete with the private sector contractors. We are restricting our custom work to snow plowing and if you have a neighbor who would be willing to do that for you it would be a great help allowing our machinery to concentrate on the roads.

GARBAGE BINS & DUMPS

Our garbage bins have been placed in Norquay, Swan Plain, Danbury, Hyas and along the west boarder in the RM of Preeceville. Our ratepayers can use any of these bins. The bins say "Household Garbage Only" on them, this means only garbage from your house. Oil containers and "stuff" can still be hauled to our dump at Swan Plain. All garbage must be bagged.

NO PAPER in the garbage bins, NO GARBAGE in the paper bins PLEASE!

Boxes put in the paper bins also need to be flattened or they fill up too fast. You can now rinse your milk and plastic containers place them in a plastic bag and put them into the paper recycle bins and they will be recycled that way. Please remember they must be rinsed.

Hours of operation for the Dumps:

Danbury Tuesday 10-5 Sat 1-4 Winter 1-3

Swan Plain Monday 10-5 Sat 9-12 Winter 10-12

Our permit to run the Danbury dump will not be renewed. This means that the Danbury dump will be closed this year. We are shooting to have the reclamation done by about June. Once the snow melts, we shall start the clean up and the dump will no longer be accepting garbage. All garbage will then have to be hauled to the Swan Plain pit.

CLOSED ROADS

Remember with the coming of spring you will start to see ROAD CLOSED SIGNS. Please when you see a sign, do not cross it and continue down the road, find another route. This also applies to a wet road, just because the sign is not up doesn't mean it is good driving conditions, exercising common sense is best. Roads belong to all of us and we should all be responsible for keeping them in good condition. Wrecking a road will only, in the end, cost you money, because in order to fix them we need revenue and our major source of revenue is taxes. Driving on a closed road can also carry a fine, if the road is closed by the road committee the fine can be up to \$10000. These are your roads, so if you see someone doing damage please record a license plate number, a picture is best, and let us know, there are steps we can take to stop the careless destruction of the roads and recover some of the costs to doing the repairs.

PRIMARY WEIGHT PERMITS

All of the roads that are in the RM are secondary weight roads. With the exception of the 753 and the Dyck Memorial Road (Alfalfa Road), these two roads are primary weight roads.

This means that every vehicle travelling on our roads can only haul secondary weights, ***EVEN FARMERS***. We do have overweight permits that cost \$5.00 per trip or \$100.00 per year and it is available thru the office. The truck must be permitted to haul primary weights; these permits are only good on dry road conditions and are not valid during spring road restrictions.