

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of the Ratepayers of the Rural Municipality of Arlington No. 79 held in the Dollard Community Hall on Monday October 19, 1987 at 1:10 p.m. (Central Standard Time) with 18 present.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Marchand who requested nominations for Chairman of the meeting.

Philip Lewans was nominated as Chairman by Lionel Audette.

D. Lundberg - J. Gregoire

That nominations for Chairman shall cease. Carried.

J. Gregoire - M. Bernadet

That the Agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

R. Marchand - R. Lester

That the minutes of the 1986 Annual Meeting be adopted as read. Carried.

R. Goulet - R. Marchand

That the Administrator's Annual Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

M. Billard - R. Thienes

That the reports of the representatives to the various boards be accepted. Carried.

The reports are herto attached as Exhibit 'A'.

NOMINATIONS - at 2 p.m. (Central Standard Time) the Returning Officer declared the meeting open to receive nominations for the office of Councillor for Divisions 2-4-6.

COUNCILLORS - Division 2 Maurice Billard was nominated for his second term.
- Division 4 Alan Stevenson was nominated for his third term.
- Division 6 Herman Kemper was nominated for his fifth term.

As a result of the above nominations, the Returning Officer declared all of the above elected by acclamation for a two year term and announced that there would be no elections this year.

J. McNabb - B. Lundy

That this municipality withdraw from the Shaunavon Veterinary Service Board. Carried.

Discussion:

It was suggested that future annual meetings begin at 1:30 p.m.

The SARM Self Insurance Plan was discussed, and it was suggested that perhaps council should take a second look at this plan.

Councillor Herman Kemper was complimented on his efforts to control Leafy Spurge. He informed the ratepayers of a new flea beetle which might be introduced to the municipality next summer on an experimental basis to control leafy spurge.

Discussion of the Rat Control Program led to a suggestion that if many of the old, useless buildings on farm sites were burned, this would reduce the cost of the rat control program by reducing the number of inspections that would have to be made by the Pest Control Officer.

The Grid Road North of Southfork was the topic of considerable discussion. Some felt the road is still dangerous at spots due to the width of the roadtop. The comment was made that the municipality should no longer attempt to rebuild grid and Main Farm Access Roads with municipal graders. Also it was suggested that a packer should be used when roads are constructed by municipal equipment.

There was some concern that the municipal road constructed past Harvey Mellor's to the East Boundary of the municipality might be eroded if no gravel was applied to it this fall.

Grader repair costs as well as the possibility of replacing the Champion Grader was discussed.

Lionel Audette-

That this meeting now adjourn. Carried.

Certified Correct

R. E. Goulet
Administrator

Chairman

HEALTH REGION - Rod Thienes - The Swift Current Office is being closed down this year. The turnout to annual meetings by appointed representatives has been very poor. A request by the Health Region that the drug plan not be changed to its current form was unsuccessful. A seminar will be held in November for elected representatives.

SHAUNAVON VETERINARY SERVICE BOARD - Maurice Billard - The municipality's grant to the Veterinary Services Board for this year was \$417.67. The grant is to help the veterinarian with maintenance costs and to equalize the mileage charges within the veterinary district. This year the Rural Municipality of Val Marie No. 17 and Lone Tree No. 18 have advised that they will be withdrawing from the District as of March 31, 1988 and White Valley withdrew approximately one half of their municipality last year. This municipality must decide whether to opt out or stay in this program since fewer members will mean higher costs to the municipality. Also, the District will no longer receive government funding which will also increase the cost of the program.

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY LODGE - Richard Lester - The lodge is operating at full capacity with a waiting list of people wanting to be admitted. I have now been nominated as a member of their board.

WOLF WILLOW LODGE - Don Lundberg - The lodge has been operating at a full capacity of 24 residents, with a good waiting list. The financial situation has changed dramatically in the past 3 years with the provincial government now supplying adequate funding to properly meet the health care needs of the residents.

In the past year, a new \$10,000. whirlpool bath was installed thanks to the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation. It was very much needed and appreciated.

Wolf Willow Lodge is to undergo a major expansion and renovation to 30 beds which is now scheduled for 1988-89. At the present time we are involved in a re-roofing project on the existing structure, which due to the age of the existing asphalt shingles must be replaced immediately.

EASTEND AMBULANCE BOARD - Don Lundberg - The ambulance has been running with a healthy surplus the last 3 years and as a result we have been able to set aside approximately \$20,000. for ambulance replacement. Our ambulance is now over 10 years old and due to provincial ambulance regulations regarding age of equipment it must be replaced shortly. A new ambulance will cost approximately \$35,000.

SHAUNAVON UNION HOSPITAL - Lionel Audette - Our hospital has been almost as busy as in the previous year with an average daily census (A.D.C.) of 23.49 compared to last year of 24.17 for the first six months of the year. Our budget from the Dept. of Health is currently based upon an A.D.C. of 20.5 which is a reduction from last year. The A.D.C. for Level III and IV care is now 2.58 compared to 4.56 last year. A number of vacancies have occurred at the Nursing Home which has reduced the hospital stay for Level III patients, however, we currently have two waiting for admission to the Nursing Home.

As most of you are aware our medical staff has undergone a number of changes since last year. Our current medical staff consists of Dr. Keshvara with Dr. Price of Eastend with courtesy medical staff privileges. The Economic Development Committee has been actively trying to recruit more physicians to our community. So far they have not had a great deal of success although there has been a lot of prospects. Problems with immigration and licensing has slowed the immediate acquisition of a physician.

We also have been actively trying to establish an association of rural medical practice with the communities of Eastend, Climax, and Shaunavon. Under our proposal physicians in Climax and Eastend would be able to become actively involved in the treatment of their patients on our hospital. This will possibly do two things: reduce the travel of people to larger areas for some of the simpler procedures and increase the volume of procedures in our hospital as well as allow physicians in these neighboring communities to maintain their skills.

Our plans for renovation of our heating and air handling system are currently on hold. No major projects have been approved lately. We have been successful in getting approval to update our fire alarm system and putting smoke detectors on all fire doors. The tenders have been opened and we are currently awaiting Ministerial approval to award the contract.

Another recent change has been the providing of Administrative Services to the Eastend Union Hospital. A trial period of four months ending January 31, 1988 has been established. This agreement calls for 1½ days of service by our Administrator in the Eastend Union Hospital.

The ambulance operation is in good financial position. We have been trying to purchase a new ambulance since June. We have decided to purchase a mini modular ambulance which allows us to change only the chassis when the mileage is getting to high. Our choice of vehicle was Ford since Chrysler do not have an engine large enough and the Chev. is typically very hard on fuel. Ford have since established a policy which eliminates gas engines in ambulances. Our best production date is still Ford but with a disel engine.

SHAUNAVON AND DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION - Lionel Audette

Attended a meeting in March, where it was decided to conduct a practice evacuation of people from the Nursing Home, but this practice has not yet come about.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT #4 AG-REP BOARD - Herman Kemper

Rat Control Program will no longer receive government funding. The Southern members of the district are not happy with the cost of inspections for the Pest Control Officer working in the Northern portion of the district. This municipality is very happy with the work done by our P.C.O, Mr. Francis Hayes as he does a thorough inspections of all buildings. Due to decreased funding, rat inspections are only to be done once this year in each municipality, but this municipality has decided to have two inspections completed even if the second one is at our cost. Next year, each municipality will likely have to hire their own P.C.O. directly and pay him directly as an employee.

CHINOOK REGIONAL LIBRARY - Eastend Branch - Gail Bock.

The Eastend Library Board has had only one meeting so far in 1987; I attended this annual meeting on March 24 at which long time Chairperson Edna Lajeunesse resigned, and I was elected chairperson. Two board members passed away this summer, Blanche Day, and Yvonne Nikish, and so far the Town of Eastend has not appointed anyone to replace them.

Our local librarian reports a marked increase in the number of High School Students using the library to order books for school essays, reports etc.

The Prairie Puppet Players entertained a large group of children at the library in July; cookies and juice were provided by board members.

On the Regional Level, I attended the fall budget meeting in Swift Current last November, but since there were not enough in attendance to form a quorum, we were unable to vote on acceptance of the budget.

The vote accepting the budget had to be postponed until the annual meeting in April, at which Gena McNabb represented Arlinton R.M.

I had been requested by the R.M. to question Regional Librarian Michael Keaschuk at the fall meeting concerning conference expenditures in the budget and I reported back at the next R.M. meeting.

This spring, the Hon. Lorne Hepworth announced that Provincial Government funding of regional libraries in 1987 would be reduced 10% from 1986 operating grants. This amounted to a loss of approximately \$60,000. and in order to avoid increasing municipal levies, about half of this amount was pared from the 1987 budget, and the rest of the deficit was covered by a transfer of funds from the Capital Trust Reserve. If forced into a similar deficit situation in 1988 due to cutbacks in government grants, a reassessment of library services will be necessary, with possible cutbacks in personnel and hours of operation.

There will be no increase in municipal levies in the proposed 1988 budget, which at present is \$2.09 per capita for a Rural Municipality such as Arlinton.

So as you can see, our Regional Library system is in some difficulty, endeavoring to maintain quality Library Services with severely reduced funding.

CHINOOK REGIONAL LIBRARY - Shaunavon Branch - Gena McNabb

I attended four Library Board meetings as RM. 79's representative to the Chinook Regional Library - three at Shaunavon Library and one in Swift Current for their April 11, 1987 spring meeting. The provincial government announced a 10% cut in funding for libraries. The Chinook Library Budget for 1987 was adjusted accordingly and passed at that April meeting. The executive stated they could get by without too many cutbacks on services. There is presently a review of population figures in both rural and urban areas and adjustments to the provincial grant will be made for the 1988 budget as these figures indicate. A micro computer network is now installed for the Chinook Region and VHS video cassettes have been added to the library system.

The Shaunavon Branch of the Chinook Library continues to be well utilized. The library sponsored a 'Travel Night', readings by Gertrude Story, Bill Robertson, and Peter Eyvindson and again invited Peter Meyer from Swift Current to speak on fall gardening. The Summer Puppet Players were enjoyed by 150 people on the lawn beside the library. Old books, especially non-fiction have been weeded out and new blocks of books now fill the shelves.

The annual fall meeting of the Chinook Regional Library Board will be November 14, 1987 in Swift Current. The Prov. Gov't announced ½ million dollars to be paid this fall to regional and Northern Libraries.