

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING

October 27, 1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen:

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It is my privilege and pleasure to present to you, my 12th Annual Report on the finances of the municipality.

As is my usual practise, I will go back to 1957 for a moment and give you the final figures on the tax collections. There was a total of \$98,377.00 paid in taxes in 1957 which represented 110.4% of one year's levy. Of this amount, \$79,243.00 was current taxes and represented 89% of the levy being paid. However, regardless of these fine tax collections, the municipality operated on a deficit of \$4,657.00 in 1957, made up chiefly by over-spending on public works. You are to be congratulated on the fine effort you are putting forth to keep your taxes paid up and the council does appreciate it.

To the end of September this year, a total of \$94,689.00 was received in taxes which is 89.8% of one year's levy and of this amount, \$83,252.00 was current taxes or 79% of the current levy. These figures are again very encouraging and exceed the percentage figures for a great many years. It is quite conceivable that another \$15,000.00 will be paid in taxes before the end of the year, which will give us slightly more than one year's levy.

At the end of September this year, there was \$13,830.00 owing in arrears of taxes and \$22,158.00 in current taxes or a total of \$35,988.00 and if we can manage to collect another \$15,000.00 this year, we will be able to report approximately \$20,000.00 owing in taxes at December 31st, which will be nearly \$4,000.00 less than one year ago. I am still looking confidently ahead to the year when we can report less than \$10,000.00 owing in taxes on our financial statement and if crop conditions do not let us down, that time should not be too far in the future.

Last April 28th, the council called a vote on Bylaw 85, to determine the feeling of the different parts of the municipality as to whether we should participate in the Grid System of road building with Provincial Government grants. The result of that referendum was 103 voted in favour of the Bylaw and 161 voted against the bylaw. Due to varying circumstances, your council voted 5 - 2 in favour of proceeding with the Grid Road as previously planned. As the Provincial Government would only approve of a grant for 5.5 miles of grid road this year, the council decided to build only the 5.5 miles in 1958 and we have just completed this mileage at a total cost of approximately \$38,350.00. This qualifies us for Provincial Government grants of approximately \$21,680.00 or 56.5% of the cost, leaving \$16,670.00 to be borne by the municipality or an average of \$3,100.00 per mile. You will realize the costs in future years will not be so great as the type of terrain through which we expect to build from now on is quite different and the yards of earth to be moved will be considerably less than this year.

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breakdown of the cost of \$38,350.00 is as follows:

Grade Construction	\$26,943.53	
Engineering Services	2,665.00	
Culverts	2,026.94	
Moving Telephone Lines	211.95	
Moving Fences	682.50	
Gravelling including spreading	5,600.00	
Miscellaneous Items	<u>220.08</u>	\$38,350.00

We have received government grants totalling \$12,720.00 to date leaving approximately \$3,960.00 due us in grants. There is one or two accounts amounting to about \$500.00 that have not been filed with us as yet and for that reason we cannot give you the exact figures on the 1958 Grid Road Expenditures. All accounts submitted to us have been paid in full.

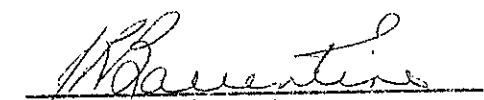
There was a slight infestation of grasshoppers in the municipality this year and the council ordered Aldrin and Dieldrin spray chemicals which was sold to farmers at cost price. There was 20 gallons of Aldrin and 40 gallons of Dieldrin sold through the office which was sufficient to spray 1680 acres. The preliminary forecast maps indicate we will again have a mild outbreak in the south-east part of the municipality in 1959.

During the year, 150 gallons of 2,4-D Weed Spray were sold to the farmers at a cost of \$3.60 per gallon and we expect to receive a dividend again this year of about 5¢ per gallon, which will be passed on to the purchasers and which will reduce the cost of 2,4-D to \$3.35 per gallon. Rat poison is still being subsidized by the municipality and several farmers are taking advantage of this reduction to rid their farms of this pest.

The council authorized the purchase of a Gestetner duplicating machine for the office this year and it has enabled us to supply you with a copy of the financial statement as well as this report and also that of the Reeve. It also will enable us to circularize the ratepayers on any subject at any time. Various standard forms used in the office are being made up on the machine which has already meant a considerable saving to you for stationery.

The books and records of the municipality were audited by your auditors on May 26th 1958 and found correct.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

  
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J. R. Ballentine,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

REEVE'S REPORT TO ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING

October 27, 1958

r. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen:

This is the fourth annual report I have presented to you as Reeve of the municipality and again, I wish to thank all members of the council and our Secretary for their advice and support during the past year.

As in the past years, I wish to touch briefly on the various Boards on which I serve as your representative.

I am very pleased to say that the Shaunavon Union Hospital is in very good financial condition. The Nurse's Residence is completed and the nursing staff is very pleased with the accommodations we have provided them. When the new addition was attached to the old residence, the Board found it necessary to provide some extra funds to replace the roof, passage ways and some ceilings which is the main reason there is only a small reduction in the hospital mill rate for this year. Then again, the food and drug costs remained high in 1957 which was also a factor in preventing the mill rate from being lower. It is the hope of the Board that the mill rate might be lower in 1959.

The Swift Current Health Region No. 1 had a successful year in 1957 and you notice there is no difference in the tax rates for 1959. The Executive of the Board, however, will have to open negotiations with the Medical Staff for a new contract for 1960. We instructed the negotiations committee to do their utmost to keep all costs of the Health Region within the ability of the residents to pay. From time to time, the council has difficulty in registering a few individuals whom are working as farm labourers in the municipality and it is your responsibility as employers, to see that everyone you employ has a valid Health Region and Hospitalization card. You are required to register them within two weeks after commencement of employment and if this is not done, you may be held liable for any hospital or medical accounts which they may incur.

Prior to 1955, all hospitals in South Western Saskatchewan had a Hospital Association, which actually was only a paper organization and was of little real value to the community. The Federal and Provincial Governments asked the Hospital Boards to consider something different in order that the small hospitals could give a much larger degree of service on a comparison basis with the larger hospitals. The Hospital Council was duly formed and has been functioning for the last  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years and has provided a service to all hospitals and in some ways co-operating with the Health Region to provide better x-rays, diets, laboratory, accounting, pathology, etc. and has also been of great help in the annual negotiations with the Shaunavon Hospital Staff Union discussions.

The South West Community Lodge was officially opened on Wednesday, September 24, 1958. The Board actually began to take people in to the Lodge during the last week of March. The Hostel is fully occupied and has a waiting list. The apartments have a

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few vacancies but the Board has hopes these will all be taken by the end of the year. It is interesting to note that this municipality has at least seven residents or relatives of residents in the Lodge. All the people residing in the Lodge seem to be happy and content but I appeal to you to please go and visit them when you are in Shaunavon; take them out for a ride in the country; let them see that we enjoy their company and they are still a part of the community. I might add that this municipality is represented on the Board that operates the Lodge by Mr. Delphis Gregoire and myself.

The Ag-Rep District is being well looked after by Mr. Archie Colton. I hope most of you have become acquainted with him, if not in person, then by his letters. I am sorry to say the Council did not have any requests to purchase a tree planting machine except from Mr. W. J. Shirley and I understand Bill is going to say a few words to-day about the value of Field Shelter Belts and Mr. Colton is also very interested in this project. The Brucellosis eradication project is beginning to take shape and the Council went on record during the year as being in favour of the municipality taking part in this eradication. There has been some discussion on joining the Veterinary Service District with the municipalities of White Valley, Grassy Creek and Bone Creek which should be discussed more fully during this meeting.

Our Weed Inspector, Mr. Art. Halliday, reports some success with the noxious weed problem found in the district. There have been many complaints about Canada and Sow Thistle, but the weed is so widespread, I am afraid it is a case for the individual farmer to take care of, however, information may be obtained from Mr. Colton, the Municipal Office, the Weed Inspector or The Guide to Farm Practise in Saskatchewan, which is available at the municipal office. I would like to make one more appeal to those interested in the 4-H movement. If you have a few boys and girls of the ages from 10 to 21, why not form a 4-H Club in your district?

We have no more information for you about the County or Larger Municipal District. The Continuing Committee expects to make their report to the Provincial Government sometime in 1959 and we shall have to wait and see what their recommendations are.

As you noticed on the financial statement mailed to you in August, we incurred a deficit of over \$4,000.00 at the end of 1957, due to the increase in roadwork and installation of culverts, etc. If it is your wish for the council to carry on this work as heretofore, we all must pay for it. The deficit of over \$4,000.00 is approximately 2 mills. The increase in salary and wages to the Secretary and Grader Operators in 1958 is around \$2,000.00 and represents 1 mill. The two graders each had a major overhaul in 1958 and the cost was approximately \$8,000.00, another 4 mills. That meant 7 mills had to be found for 1958. The council thought it best to raise this money by increased taxation rather than to take it out of the Savings Account.

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What I am trying to tell you is this, if you want the council to continue the road program as we have been trying to do up to now, we must find the money to do it. We should be able to do as much roadwork in 1959 as in 1958, without the cost of the overhaul, that means we should get by with a 20 mill municipal rate.

The roadwork completed is as follows:

- Division 6:- Three miles east and west of Antelope Lake School.
- Division 3:- Three miles on the Cattle Pass road. Both these roads join the Chimney Coulee road with the Southfork road.
- Division 1:- The main market road south from Fulton's corner to Dave Johnston's corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of which was completely re-built and the rest reconstructed. The Provincial Government Equalization Grant of \$1,114.00 was used here. One-half mile to Gordon Brown's; one-half mile north of Sicotte's; one mile at Keturakis' Farm and one-half mile reconstructed at Lorne Elliott's Farm.
- Division 5:- Two miles were built on the Middle Bench road and some reconstruction work done on the Stearns Hill.
- Division 4:- One mile built near Earl Hill's farm. One mile from George Larson's corner east and 2 miles near the Leitchville School.
- Division 2:- Three miles are planned if the weather permits.

During the dry part of the summer about 30 miles of ditch were cleaned out by both graders. Mostly in Divisions 1, 2, 3 & 4. Sickness caused both operators some loss of time and held up the works program.

The council agreed to "Red Brick" the Stearns' Hill, the Bock bridge hill, Don Golem's hill, Middle Bench bridge hill and, as an experiment, about 3 miles of the Main Market Road in Division 1.

This brings us to the Grid Road. The Grid Road built in 1958 will require approximately 8 mills and as I explained last year, we levied 4 mills on the 1958 taxes and borrowed the equivalent of 4 mills from our Savings Account or about \$8,000.00. This amount is to be put back into our Savings Account in 1959. The council has planned to build a part of the Grid Road system every two years so that when the 27 miles of Grid are finished, the Savings Account will be the same as when we started. In other words, we pay as we go.

When the council considered the 1958 budget and the necessary increase in costs, etc., the majority felt the municipality, in all fairness to everyone, could not turn down the Provincial Government's offer to participate in the Grid Road Program. That is why the majority of the council favored proceeding with the Grid regardless of the outcome of the referendum vote. That vote has been mentioned in the Secretary's report, but I would like to mention it again.

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	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	
Division 1	11	37	
" 2	6	42	
" 3	39	3	
" 4	4	54	
" 5	6	18	
" 6	37	7	
	<u>103</u>	<u>161</u>	= 274 voters

The 274 voters who cast their ballots in this vote represented 60% of those entitled to vote on the question. You will notice that in all divisions, there were some who voted in favour of the Grid and some who voted against the Grid.

In conclusion, I would like to give you the amount of money involved in the 1958 Grid Road Program:

Total cost of grade construction, including culverts, engineering services, etc.		\$32,750.00
Estimated Government Grant		<u>18,510.00</u>
Municipal Share		\$14,240.00
Total cost of gravelling	\$5,600.00	
Estimated Government Grant	<u>3,170.00</u>	
Municipal Share	\$2,430.00	<u>\$ 2,430.00</u>
Total Municipal Share of Grid		<u><u>\$16,670.00</u></u>

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen, I leave it to you to decide as to whether the council was right or wrong. Many decisions had to be made and I believe this Grid question has been the most important decision the council has been called upon to make since the municipality was first incorporated. I believe we did the right thing, not only for the present but also for the future.

I thank you.

F. A. E. Ward  
F. A. E. Ward, Reeve  
R. M. of Arlington No. 79