

2021 MARCH NEWSLETTER

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at the RM office in Francis on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00am. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, alternatives may be required.

		Primary	Email
Reeve	Richard Morley	(306)539-2028	rm127reeve@sasktel.net
Division 1 Councillor	Ernie Gutzke	(306)699-7082	rm127div1@sasktel.net
Deputy Reeve/Division 2 Councillor	Barret Gaetz	(306)533-2626	rm127div2@sasktel.net
Division 3 Councillor	Darren Solie	(306) 539-2410	rm127div3@sasktel.net
Division 4 Councillor	Patrick Poissant	(306)722-7607	rm127div4@sasktel.net
Division 5 Councillor	Daryl Hoffman	(306)537-0651	rm127div5@sasktel.net
Division 6 Councillor	David Schaeffer	(306)527-8911	rm127div6@sasktel.net

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

Regular RM office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm and we welcome your call, however with COVID-19 and changing restrictions, we urge you to call ahead as business continues but the door may be temporarily closed to the public at Council’s discretion. We will make every effort and assurance to look after your requests and continue operations.

Administrator	Shala Kanasevich	Foreman	Andrew Shooter
Admin. Assistant	Karen Anderson	Crew	Trent Deusterbeck Shane Chinski Cory Walter
Weed Inspector	Bob Baker		
Pest Control Officer	Dustin Lang	Seasonal	Joining the crew in April

FIRE PROTECTION & CONTROLLED BURNS

The RM owns two fire trucks that are housed and operated by the Odessa and Sedley Volunteer Fire Departments in addition to having fire protection service agreements with the communities of Francis, Odessa, Sedley, and Vibank. **Please consider the following fee structure and ensure that you have adequate insurance coverage with your provider:** Minimum call-out fee/First Hour = \$800.00

Additional Hours = \$350.00 per hour

Maximum Fire Call Charge = \$15,000.00

REPORT YOUR CONTROLLED BURNS! You run the risk of receiving a bill with a minimum charge of \$800.00 if your controlled burn hasn’t been registered and unbeknownst to you, someone has called 911 not knowing that it is under control. To register your controlled burn, please call **1-866-404-4911** with your information and call back when it is complete. **An unpaid fire call invoice will be added to your property taxes as per section 369 of *The Municipalities Act*.**

SETBACK DISTANCES

All buildings, dwellings, structures and shelterbelts are required to be set back a minimum of 150 feet from the center of any municipal road allowance and 300 feet from any intersection. It is understood that there are existing properties in this RM where the shelterbelt/tree-line or building is within the prescribed setback distances of *Zoning Bylaw 2012-03*; however, such properties are considered as legal non-conforming as they existed prior to the enactment of the bylaw and any **new development must conform with any current zoning bylaw** (section 89 of *The Planning & Development Act, 2007*).

DO YOU REQUIRE A PERMIT?

It is **important** that you contact the RM office to see if a **Development permit application and/or Building permit** is required for your project! Please allow sufficient time for your application and/or Building permits to be processed. It is the responsibility of the landowner/applicant to adhere to all Government department, Authority or Municipal bylaws. Visit our website www.rmoffrancis.ca for more information regarding;

SUBDIVISIONS – DEVELOPMENT PERMITS – BUILDING PERMITS

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM (IPCP)

The RM has adopted a **Weed Management Plan** in order for the RM and its ratepayers to have the ability to access funding for treating noxious and prohibited weeds through the **Invasive Plant Control Program**, funded through the federal Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. **We have valuable information on our website www.rmoffrancis.ca regarding the various weeds and permitted herbicides which qualify for the rebate program.** You should also visit www.sarm.ca for more information, terms and conditions. It is important to note the type of herbicides and rates that apply for rebate.

RODENTS

Did you know the RM provides rat and mouse poison at no-charge to its ratepayers? Should you require Warfarin, Weatherblok, or Ratak for bait please call ahead and plan a visit to the RM Office to pick up your supply. For gopher control, 2% Liquid Strychnine is also available at a charge of **\$13.00 per bottle and limited to supply** (contact the RM office for details). In order to purchase 2% Liquid Strychnine, **you must be an agricultural producer and complete the required documentation** for follow-up with the Ministry of Agriculture and Health Canada. (Note: Rat Poison, Mouse Poison and Strychnine is only available to the RM of Francis Ratepayers)

SMHI Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association

June 15- Last Day to file crop reports
June 30- Last day for new applicants to file for coverage
October 15 – Last day of Hail Insurance coverage
October 31 - Last day of Hail & Fire Insurance coverage
March 31 – Last day for owners to withdraw from Municipal Hail
April 30 – Last day to apply for crop Exemption

DUST CONTROL 2021-Forms must be received by May 1st

The Form for Dust Control 2021 is available on our website or by contacting the office. Please fill out and return to the office **no later than May 1st** as dust control application could be as early as mid-May. Your Division Councillor will contact you once your form is received by the RM office and arrangements for your site can be coordinated. Please ensure you read the form carefully and return to the RM office prior to May 1, 2021.

2021 ASSESSMENT REVALUATION

The provincial government mandates SAMA to conduct periodic revaluations of all Saskatchewan properties every four years to coincide with the change to a new base date. The current revaluation was completed in 2021 using the 2019 base date. The next revaluation is to be done in 2025 using a 2023 base date. When a revaluation is completed, SAMA provides new values to the municipalities. Provincial legislation requires municipalities to use these values when determining taxes. For additional information visit www.sama.sk.ca

Section 293 of *The Municipalities Act* allows for residential improvements to be exempted in part or fully from taxation based on the cumulative taxable assessment of agriculture lands owned, rented or leased in the RM of Francis and in neighbouring RM's (*conditions apply*), additional information and forms on RM website.

Assessment notices will be mailed in the spring of 2021 with a 60-day appeal period starting from the date of mailing.

SAVE TIME AND POSTAGE, PAY YOUR TAXES ONLINE

- E-transfer to rm127@sasktel.net
- Online only with Affinity, Conexus, Plainsview and Weyburn Credit Unions
- In order to pay taxes online, please look for FRANCIS NO. 127 (RM) – TAXES as a payee and use your customer number located at the top of your tax notice as the account number. If your customer number is shorter than 4 digits, use zeros to prefix your account number—for example, if your account number is 127, you will enter 0127 as your account number. Sorry we do not accept credit or debit cards at the office. You can still mail a cheque or make arrangements with staff if paying by cash.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF A REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE?

The RM Council and Administration is seeking those interested in being a part of the needed Regional Emergency Planning Committee which is to govern;

- The provision of necessary services during an emergency; and
- The procedures under and the manner in which persons will respond to an emergency
- Collaborate with the surrounding Urban Municipalities within the RM.

Please contact the RM office and speak with the Administrator Shala Kanasevich or send an email to rm127@sasktel.net by **March 30th, 2021** if this is something of interest. It's an exciting opportunity to gain knowledge, training and assist in an Emergency when the situation arises and be a part of an organized Emergency Management Team within the region. We look forward to hearing from you!

RM GRAVEL available for Ratepayers 2021

This year GRAVEL will be available for purchase from the RM at \$25/yard (25 yards limit/1 load) per ratepayer. Please contact your Division Councillor for details and to fill out the custom work order required. **Orders for gravel must be placed by June 1, 2021.**

www.rmoffrancis.ca