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Road Crew
 Foreman – Andy Shooter
 Trent Deusterbeck
 Cory Walter
 Allan Moffat
 Danny Trautman

Weed Inspector – Bob Baker
Pest Control Officer – Dustin Lang

Admin. Assistant– Karen Anderson
Administrator – Shala Kanasevich

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

The RM office is open Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm. Every effort is made to have the office open during all regular business hours, but there are times when training, conventions or scheduled vacation time may mean that the office may be closed—*please ensure to call ahead if you're planning a visit.*

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 unless otherwise posted in office or the RM website www.rmoffrancis.ca.

2022 MILL RATES

Property Class	Municipal	Education
Agricultural	0.80 MRF	1.42 Mill Rate
Residential	0.65 MRF	4.54 Mill Rate
Commercial/Industrial	1.90 MRF	6.86 Mill Rate
Resource	1.90 MRF	9.88 Mill Rate

Taxable Assessment x Mill Rate ÷ 1,000 x MRF = Taxes

Discount periods are offered in August, September, October and November for early payment that applies to both Municipal taxes and your Hail levy (if applicable).

SAVE POSTAGE AND PAY YOUR TAXES ONLINE!

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. Affinity, Conexus, Plainsview and Weyburn Credit Unions are able to provide this service. You are also able to pay taxes by E-Transfer where you can email your payment to rm127@sasktel.net, or continue with paying by cheque or cash. Sorry, we do not accept debit or credit card payments at the office.

BEFORE YOU BUILD, RENO, MOVE-IN/MOVE-OUT A BUILDING OR DEMOLISH!

It is important that you check with the RM office to see if a development permit and/or Building permit is required before you build any structure. Additional information regarding **Development, Building, and Subdivision** can be found at www.rmoffrancis.ca.



A Development Permit is always required and your first step, a building permit may not be!

FARM BUILDINGS MAY NOT REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT, BUT AN AG EXEMPTION FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT, please inquire with the office or download it from the website and return it with your development permit if you are applying for the AG Building Exemption. Additional information is on our website.

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*).

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 is added to your property taxes at December 31st of the same year.

Please note that fees may change with any updates to the BYLAWS and Fire service agreements.

RCMP – NON-EMERGENCY REPORTING LINE

To report non-emergencies across the province, you can call **310-RCMP (7267)**. This will still direct you to your local police agency, but leaves 911 free for people in emergencies.



Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network www.saskcrimewatch.ca

This network, along with existing crime prevention programs and strategies, helps to create an environment where all of us contribute to community safety. Crime prevention is the most effective when we all work together.

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 that qualify for the rebate program. You should also visit <https://sarm.ca/programs/invasive-plant-control-program/> for more information, terms and conditions. Please be sure to read the guidelines carefully to ensure reimbursement.

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 visit the RM Office to pick up your supply. Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has **canceled the use of strychnine** and

producers with leftover inventory have until March 4, 2023 to use their stock. Proper disposal of all unsold existing stock is the responsibility of the registrant of 2% Liquid Strychnine and is to be done in accordance with the label directions and any applicable provincial laws. Furthermore, the registrant is responsible for providing information to members of the distribution and retail chain regarding the above-specified last dates. The RM has replaced strychnine with ROZOL for a pail of 9kg at a cost of \$126.14/pail. We recommend undertaking the gopher problem in early spring to have a more advantageous effect.

RM COMPLEX PT NE 32-14-14 W2 The new RM Complex is underway and Council would like to remind folks to stay clear of the site area for safety reasons. Construction will continue into the fall and internal work to be completed during the winter months. We look forward to a visit from our ratepayers upon completion and although there are many details yet to be finalized, Council is hopeful for a grand opening come spring!



Municipal Elections 2022

Elections 2022 are for the positions of Councillor for even numbered Divisions 2, 4, and 6. Please ensure to check the Quad Town Forum newspaper, RM office and/or Website for notices regarding call for nominations, notice of poll, etc. this fall.

Should a vote be required for any of the above positions, Election Day will be held on **Wednesday November 9th, 2022** with polling places announced in the Quad Town Forum.

Government-issued ID is required when voting just like in provincial and federal elections.

Your voting division # is located in the bottom right-hand corner of your tax notice and voting eligibility can be found on the RM website or Government websites. Contact the RM office or visit www.rmofffrancis.ca for more information if you would like to run for Council.

The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2019, and The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2019 came into force on January 1, 2022. This legislation clarifies existing laws and ensures consistency in the rules regarding trespassing. Most notably, it moves the onus of responsibility from rural landowners to individuals seeking to access their property. Under the new legislation, those wishing to access a rural landowner's property for recreational purposes will need to gain consent from the owner. Consent can be provided in writing, electronically online, orally or through signage. The legislation provides legal protection to landowners and occupiers against property damage and the risk of agricultural diseases and limits any liability that may arise from a trespasser's presence on their property. Police and provincial enforcement officers will continue to be responsible for laying charges related to trespassing. Anyone who believes someone is trespassing on their property is urged to contact their local police service.



Download the apps **Ihunter** and **Sasklander** for your convenience when needing access to land.



GRAVEL FOR RATEPAYERS 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.

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

PERMITS—OVERWEIGHT & PRIMARY

All roads but the 708 (Francis) Grid are classed as **secondary weight** throughout the year within the RM with the exception of Spring Road Ban season and when by Council resolution, Primary Weight Permits may be issued. All haulers who intend to haul above the specified weight designation are required to contact the RM office to get a permit for the municipal roads therein. **Primary Weight Permits are available for \$25 per single-trip per vehicle, or \$100.00 per multi-trip (seasonal) per vehicle plus GST. As of October 1, 2022 Highway 35 from Highway 33 north to Highway 48 will be considered a secondary weight and landlocked agreements are no longer required from the RM.**

Stray Animals Act – Animals cannot run at large in the province. In other words, we have a “closed herd law” in Saskatchewan. The ‘Stray Animals Guide’ which can be found on the Government website outlines the current legislation of *The Stray Animals Act* and the *Regulations* outlining the steps involved for all parties including the RM when dealing with a stray animal. New Legislation ‘*The Animal Production Act*’ is being drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture and proposed Bill No. 73 contains provisions respecting Boundary or Line Fences, Stray Animals, Identifiers, and the Production, Sale, Transport, and Inspection of Animals and Animal products. SARM has been actively involved with the consultation on *The Stray Animals Act* and has been communicating with the Ministry of AG in consultation of the new *Animals Production Act*.

www.rmofffrancis.ca contains additional information regarding the following and more;
Notices and Newsletters Forms Elections Bylaws Planning and Development Assessment
Pest Control and Weed Programs Dust Control

www.rmofffrancis.ca