

Reeve Richard Morley 306-539-2028 rm127reeve@sasktel.net
 Division 1 Ernie Gutzke 306-699-7082 rm127div1@sasktel.net
 Division 2 Barret Gaetz 306-533-2626 rm127div2@sasktel.net
 Division 3 Darren Solie 306-539-2410 rm127div3@sasktel.net
 Division 4 Patrick Poissant 306-722-7607 rm127div4@sasktel.net
 Division 5 Daryl Hoffman 306-537-0651 rm127div5@sasktel.net
 Division 6 Greg Weisbeck 306-526-9173 rm127div6@sasktel.net

Please feel free to call your Councillor about any concerns and questions regarding RM related business- Please know, Councillors make their best efforts to get back to you as soon as possible, however, they also may be away from the phone at times, and you are always more than welcome to contact the office!

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

The RM office is open to the public at the new building PT NE 32 14 14 W2, 9:00am-4:30pm Monday – Friday. Please call ahead if planning a visit or require an appointment with the administrator. Phone 306-245-3256 Email: info@rmofffrancis.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS Regular Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00am unless otherwise posted.

Property Class	Municipal		Education
Agricultural	5.20 Mill Rate	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 (5%), October (4%) and November (2%) for early payment that applies to both Municipal taxes and your Hail levy (if applicable).

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR COUNCILLOR IS OR DO YOU KNOW YOUR VOTING DIVISION?

*On the bottom right-hand corner of your tax notice, it will say your Division, this should provide your voting Division #. Voting Divisions are determined as per **The Local Government Elections Act, 2014 Sec. 39**. If you feel there may be an error or have questions, please contact us at the office and we can go through it with you.*

When you have a moment... PLEASE CONTACT US TO UPDATE & Confirm YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: CELL - EMAIL - ADDRESS

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, Cornerstone and Weyburn Credit Unions are able to provide this service. You are also able to pay taxes by **E-Transfer**, please email your payment to info@rmofffrancis.ca or continue with paying by cheque or cash. **Sorry, we do not accept debit or credit card payments at the office.**



The RM has appointed a Tax Service Agency to conduct the legislated tax enforcement process on their behalf. It is important to note that while the RM makes the best effort to contact ratepayers in arrears of tax payments, it is not a requirement, and it becomes impossible to confirm mailing and/or contact information. If taxes remain unpaid as per list of lands in arrears, **further costly fees will be added per parcel** and will be added to your account. Council may exercise discretionary authority to exclude properties from the tax enforcement list if the arrears are less than ½ of the previous years levy. Interest charges commence after December 31 of the current taxation year. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to confirm with the office arrears of taxes.

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS RURAL MUNICIPALITIES 2024



To elect Reeve and Councillors for odd-numbered Divisions (Reeve, 1, 3 & 5)

Council for the RM of Francis No. 127 undertakes responsibility for decisions and policy related to governance and all services provided by the RM of Francis No. 127.

Updated Election packages, posting of election dates and voting polls (places) will be posted as the 2024 election approaches. If you have any questions, feel welcome to contact the Administrator for additional information or learn more about the responsibilities of a Reeve/Councillor on the Saskatchewan Government Relations Web page www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/tools-guides-and-resources/information-for-council-members

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS 2026 – to elect Councillors representing even-numbered Division in rural municipalities (2, 4 & 6)

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, AG exemptions may apply. Steps outlining the permit process can be found on our website www.rmoffrancis.ca. Feel free to contact the Administrator if you have any developmental questions.



SETBACK DISTANCES

All buildings, dwellings, structures, fences 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. Council has requested that ratepayers plan for placement of equipment and/or large compressed bundles of materials (ex; bales, grain and silage bags) be considered a structure whether the intent is used for temporary shelters, walls or convenient areas of storage as it may create additional snow and/or other related hazards in abnormal seasonal conditions. 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*). Contact the RM administrator if you require clarification or have any questions/concerns in this regard. *“If you were required to move it by Bylaw, could you easily?”-Please plan accordingly!*

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 = \$980.45

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 \$980.45 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.

DUST CONTROL 2024

The Form for Dust Control 2024 will be available on our website or by contacting the office. Please fill out and return to the office **no later than May 1st** of the current year as dust control application could be as early as mid-May. *Check with the RM office if deadline has surpassed, as it may depend on year, later applications may still be accepted. Secondary application rounds depend on total interest.* Please note that the magnesium chloride used may be dependent on multiple factors including traffic, weather (drier conditions), RM road work if needed, but typically works well to decrease the dust!

Gravel for ratepayers will be available for purchase from the RM at \$25/yard (25 yard limit/1 load) per residence. Please note that deliveries will be at ‘crew’ schedule and discretion with competing priorities. Contact your Councillor for gravel orders. Gravel will not be available outside RM boundaries. Contact your local gravel providers for additional loads for other than the above.
Thank-you!



Shala (Schmidt) Kanasevich

Cell: 306-520-8645



Phone RM 127 Office 306-245-3256

Feel free to reach out or stop in at the RM office for a quote come hail season!

A SAMA REPRESENTATIVE VISITS YOUR YARD

You may have noticed this past year around February, our SAMA representative was out and about knocking on your door to notify you that he is assessing your property. His name is Gordon Knight and he has a logo on his vehicle(s) representing (SAMA) Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency.

Assessments are done at the request of the RM for various reasons not limited to; updating records, sales, new development, vacancies, renting, change of use, house removals, subdivision changes, additions/renos, AG exemptions etc.

Understandably, people are hesitant now adays with folks coming into their yards and hence the **reason our reps certainly try to make contact before the visit.** However, **with less landline usage, we do not always have current phone numbers on hand and limited to permit application information.** Please feel free to check with the RM office if you need confirmation of anyone saying they represent an Agency on our behalf.

We do not give out your contact information to anyone except RM appointed officials, as they have the **authority to ACT** on our behalf according to legislation and likely are trying to confirm a visit and/or assessment/inspection of sorts as required by legislation and directed by the RM of Francis.

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 agricultural lands owned, rented or leased in the RM of Francis and in neighboring RMs (conditions do apply). We may be in contact to renew or update records on file as needed. **Please be advised that if requested paperwork is not returned to the RM office, the exemptions may not be applied as per legislation for 2024.**

Assessment Notices are mailed in the spring (2024) with a 30-day appeal period starting from the date of mailing unless revaluation year. Bylaw 2-2007 A Bylaw to dispense with the mailing of Assessment Notices which means **you will typically not receive an assessment notice if your assessed value has not changed** or has decreased by no more than the lesser of: \$1,000 from the previous year's assed value and 1% of the previous year's assessed value.

The RM's public water well located at SE 32-13-13 W2 has a fob system for access. The current cost is a base fee of \$60.00 which provides for the first 20,000 gallons and then \$4/1000 gallons to be billed after Dec. 31. Renewals/billing are sent out every January, if unpaid the fob may be shut off. Contact the office for more information.



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. It is highly encouraged to provide a minimum 3 days notice to the RM for your permits, as councillor pre-approval and payment is typically required prior to permit.**

As of October 1, 2022 Highway 35 from Highway 33 north to Highway 48 is considered a secondary weight and landlocked agreements are no longer required from the RM. Please visit the highways website for current infomration on highway 35. If you require overweight permits contact the SGI office.

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*. We will update you as it reaches *Royal Assent*.



2023 RM127 Scholarship Program Recipients
Congratulations to Josie Lockert of Vibank & Avery Chinsky of Francis
The Council and staff of the RM of Francis No. 127 would like to wish you all the very best on your upcoming educational pursuits and future endeavors. Your community involvement, personal initiatives, academic and athletic achievements are truly inspiring. Well done!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Volunteers are needed to be part of a needed Local Emergency Planning Committee for our Emergency Measures Organization. The purpose of this Committee is to establish a municipal emergency plan. If you are interested, please contact Shala at the RM office.

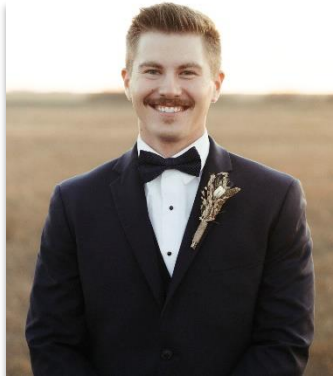
MASS NOTIFCATION SYSTEM

Sign up for mass RM notifications. Typically, notifications of an emergent nature will be sent via phone or text, while more informative messages will be received by email. Call the office or visit the rm website if you require assistance setting up the mass notification system.



RODENT CONTROL

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. Please be advised that Pest Control Officers Dustin Lang and Katlin Lang will be touring the RM throughout the fall season.



“My names **Dustin Lang**, I grew up on my parents farm roughly 11 miles east of Francis. As far as rodent control I learned these qualities from one of the greatest men of all time my grandfather **Fred Paslawski**. I then took over his long-time position as Pest Control Officer for several RM’s when he retired.” Phone: 306-424-7719

Katlin comes from a family of seasoned Pest Control Officers. **Grandfather Fred Paslawski** and brother Dustin Lang are veterans in the Pest Control sector. **Katlin will be training with and assisting Dustin with Rat Control this fall.**

Look for Katlin to be stopping in at your vacant and occupied yard sites in the next few months.

Co-Founder, FarmSimple Solutions

(c) 306-424-7741

katlin@farmsimple.ca



Thank-you Mr. Paslawski for your dedication and years of service. Most of all, we thank you for passing along the tradition!

WEED concerns in your area?

call Bob Baker #306-537-0716

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM (IPCP)-WEEDS

The RM has adopted a Weed Management Plan to tackle various areas in the RM and allow for 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 update annual information of ratepayer programs, claim forms and additional information regarding our current weed control plan on our website. It is important to note the rates required for application of permitted herbicides that qualify for the rebate program.

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!



“I guess the stories were true, the dog really did eat your homework!
Good-bye July 13th list.”



“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all ratepayers for your unwavering support.

As we embark on this harvest season, we wish you all the best and a safe, bountiful harvest ahead.

Your contribution is invaluable, and we look forward to the outcomes ahead.”

Reeve Richard Morley