

Reeves Report

With the passing of another year and the economy starting to turn around, all was starting to go back to normal, but little did we know what was in store for us. With saturated soils and unprecedented rainfall, June 18/10 was a day Cypress County residents and others will remember for quite some time. Flooding occurred on most tributaries and creeks that has not been seen for over 100 years. A State of Emergency had to be put in force and our Emergency Services were put to the test. Fortunately there were no serious injuries or fatalities. A lot was learned and recovery is still in the process for some. This was the first State of Emergency since the County was formed in 1985.

Because of the wet weather, major repairs to bridges, roads, and infrastructure, not much new road construction was able to be completed. Hopefully this will be completed this year.

In October we had an election with one change to council. Bob Olson now represents Division 9. Thanks to all who went out to vote for the elections, and thanks to Peter Konosky for his three years service as Councillor.

With the new Council in place, the Intermunicipal Development Plan was signed and put into effect. Emergency plans have been reviewed and changed to better address some concerns that came up during the flooding. Council is also still in the process of restructuring various land use bylaws that need to adapt with the every changing needs of the County.

While this was going on, winter came and once again we were in a battle with Mother Nature. With the amount of snow and wind, it was almost impossible to keep roads open. A thank you to staff for their long hours and determination to try to deal with this as best as possible. All together this winter came with a burden of over \$1,000,000 to deal with all the snow. Finally spring showed up and from all that snow came the runoff that we are all dealing with right now in the form of flooding, seepage, or water covered fields. It's a good time to thank the provincial government for funding the various Disaster Recovery Programs that have been put in place to cover damages.

With all the flooding and runoff came the breach of the Seven Persons Reservoir on April 12/11 and another State of Emergency. Once again our Emergency Services were back on the job and all concerns were looked after as best as possible. Fortunately the breach was able to be controlled and catastrophic damage was avoided.

Through all this Council is forced to make a few changes that will affect residents and taxpayers. With the increased demand for services and falling assessments council needs to start moving more towards cost recovery of services. One of these changes will be water rates which will increase an average of 38% to offset rising prices and infrastructure. The other, unfortunately, will be an increase to the mill rate for the Non residential and Farmland assessment of 0.1064 of a mill. First mill rate increase in 27 years. With these changes council was able to balance the budget, a small feat in itself.

With the building near completion our Annual Meeting and Open House will be June 7 at 7pm in the council chambers. Please stop by to see the renovations and ask council any questions or concerns you may have.

On behalf of Council and staff I wish you all a safe and prosperous year.

Respectfully Reeve Darcy Geigle