

County of Paintearth ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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COUNTY COUNCIL

Division 1:	George Glazier	Division 5:	Maurice Wiart
Division 2:	Dale Norton	Division 6:	Tyrrill Hewitt
Division 3:	Doreen Blumhagen (Deputy Reeve)	Division 7:	Diane Elliott
Division 4:	Stan Schulmeister		

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson

Council Meetings

Regular County Council Meetings are scheduled to be held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 9:00 a.m. The adopted Council Meeting Minutes are available on the County's Website or photocopies are available to the public for a nominal fee.

MESSAGE from Reeve Stan Schulmeister

The final year of this term of Council, and I am pleased to say we have weathered the challenges thrown our way very well, with good tidings ahead in the future.

Council has been at the helm when Covid-19 began, and I am confident we will see it through to the end, with most folks participating in the vaccination program that offers some form of return-to-normal for life as we knew it prior to March 2020. We are lucky that impacts from COVID were minimal in the community, however I offer sincere condolences to those who had the misfortune of losing loved ones to COVID during this difficult time. I also encourage a moment of reverence for those who were taken from us during the pandemic.

I would like to take a moment to thank the staff here at the County for keeping services running uninterrupted throughout the whole pandemic, your dedication to your role at the County is greatly appreciated, all of you. This extends to our first responders in fire and ambulance who also stayed the course and answered the call each time it came. Council is grateful for your valour and courage.

Moving forward, I acknowledge that the pandemic, as well as the recession that came with it, connected or unconnected, has been tough for many. Prices and sales went down, and our energy sector continues to take a hit. Our coal mine is moving into reclamation mode as well, signalling the end of an era for our region, and a need to shift gears to new ideas that bring prosperity to the region. This is sure to be a challenging time, but it does not have to be the watermark on our generation's ability to live its best life.

We continue to save for future needs, and work on projects such as the Brownfield water distribution system upgrades. We are making land available in Fleet for new families to come

and live, escaping the city life and raising children surrounded by flourishing crops on family-owned farms. Our agricultural way of living continues unbroken, strong and empowering future generations to know how to care for themselves and the land.

Our municipality planned ahead for losses in revenue from the province, to be responsible and not needlessly increase taxes. When the province took five percent of our linear revenues away, we cut six per cent. When our urban friends reached out in need of more support for the recreation services our residents use, we sat down to the table to have sensible negotiations to keep cost increases to families reasonable.

The County continues to hunt for new ways to bring investment in that adds value to the crops we grow. The new term of Council will see multiple are projects underway that will help revitalize the non-residential tax base, and with opportunities for new partnerships with our urban counterparts.

On behalf of Paintearth County Council, I am proud of our work, and prouder still to call Paintearth home.

Stan Schulmeister, Reeve

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Office Hours

The County Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday except statutory holidays. The Office is closed daily from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WEBSITE

For information regarding the County of Paintearth No. 18 please visit our website at www.countypaintearth.ca

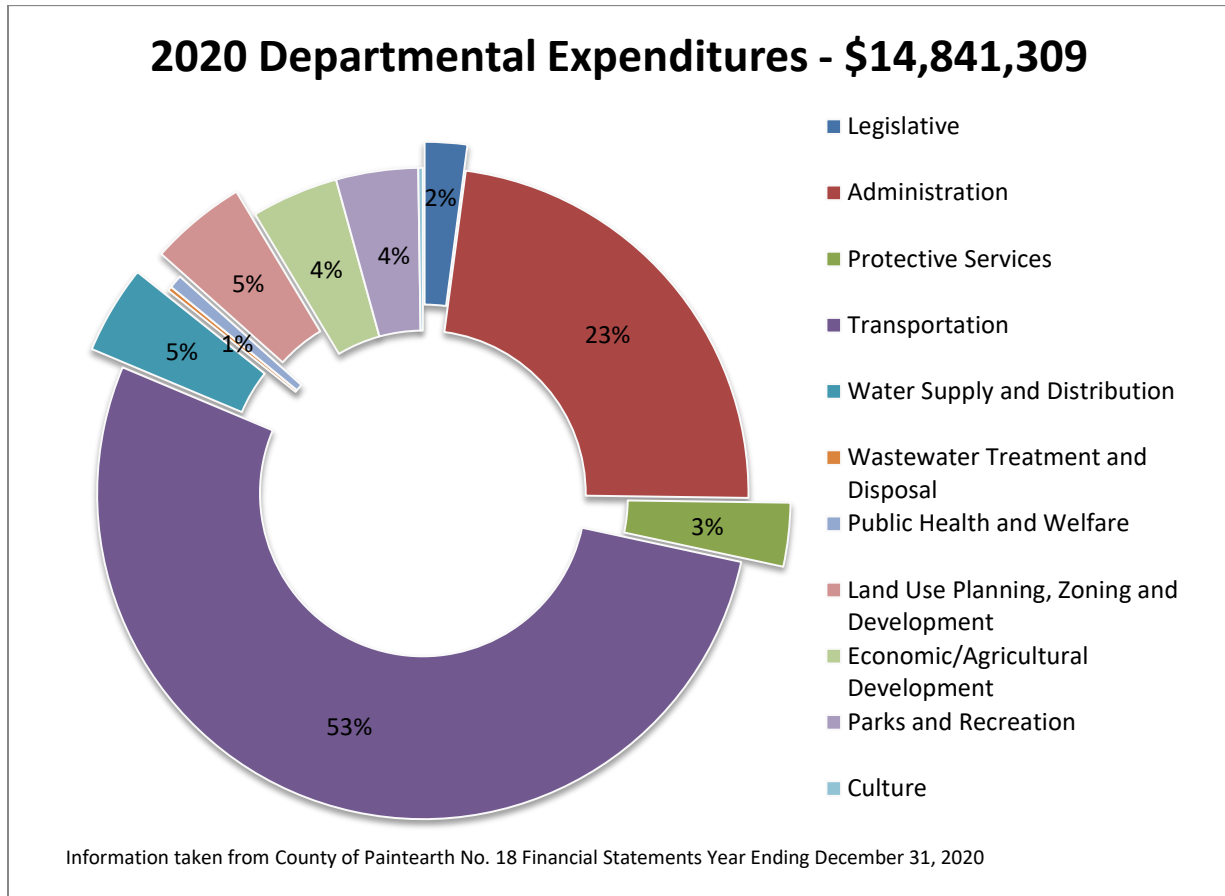
DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services department is responsible for the overall management of the financial affairs of the County. This includes assessment, property taxes, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, capital project financing and tracking, utilities billings, IT management, GIS/GPS, and other general administrative functions.

The department is responsible for accounting and financial reporting services with our annual audited financial statements as well as other interim reporting.

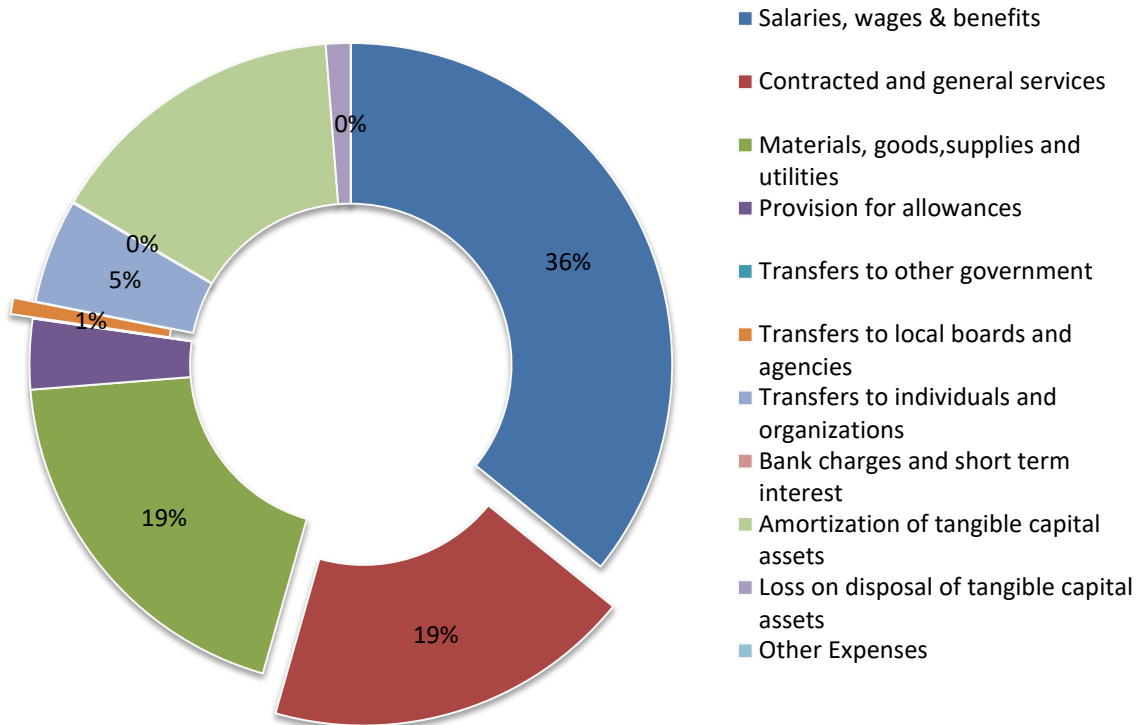
The 2020 Financial Statement is available to the public and can be obtained on the County's website (www.countypaintearth.ca) or by contacting the administration office at 403-882-3211.

2020 Financial Synopsis



EXPENDITURES	2020 Budget	2020	2019
Legislative	\$586,150.00	\$312,608.00	\$353,863.00
Administration	\$2,150,900.00	\$3,430,154.00	\$2,621,625.00
Protective Services	\$505,870.00	\$468,565.00	\$462,483.00
Transportation	\$10,509,913.00	\$7,858,832.00	\$8,903,933.00
Water Supply and Distribution	\$756,150.00	\$651,382.00	\$743,615.00
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	\$42,075.00	\$32,307.00	\$41,296.00
Public Health and Welfare	\$102,000.00	\$98,708.00	\$98,708.00
Land Use Planning, Zoning and Development	\$526,490.00	\$710,362.00	\$399,388.00
Economic/Agricultural Development	\$757,200.00	\$641,076.00	\$722,881.00
Parks and Recreation	\$489,100.00	\$604,048.00	\$365,010.00
Culture	\$40,000.00	\$33,267.00	\$32,636.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$16,465,848.00	\$14,841,309.00	\$14,745,438.00

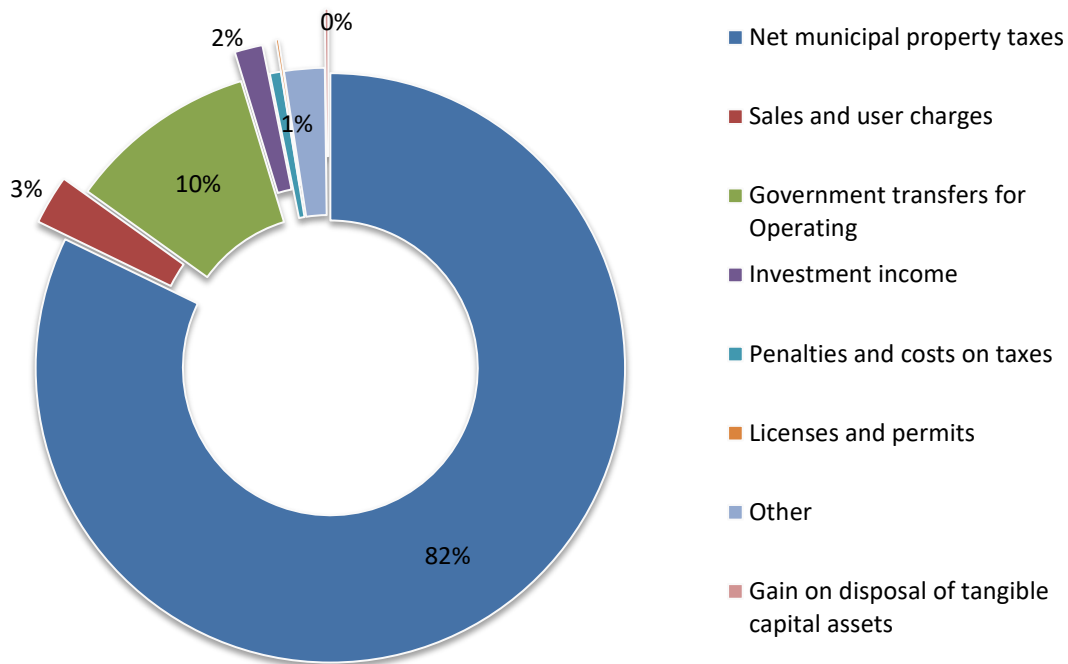
2020 Expenditures by Object - \$14,841,309



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2020

EXPENDITURES	2020 Budget	2020	2019
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$6,155,036.00	\$5,318,066.00	\$5,304,648.00
Contracted and general services	\$2,070,007.00	\$2,757,710.00	\$2,285,466.00
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	\$4,620,630.00	\$2,868,401.00	\$4,028,342.00
Provision for allowances	\$101,500.00	\$525,570.00	\$53,389.00
Transfers to other government	\$2,300.00	\$4,256.00	\$74,462.00
Transfers to local boards and agencies	\$234,000.00	\$121,532.00	\$126,195.00
Transfers to individuals and organizations	\$685,400.00	\$778,746.00	\$548,757.00
Bank charges and short term interest	\$76,100.00	\$8,074.00	\$19,436.00
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$2,456,375.00	\$2,273,499.00	\$2,254,409.00
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$64,500.00	\$185,455.00	\$50,334.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$16,465,848.00	\$14,841,309.00	\$14,745,438.00

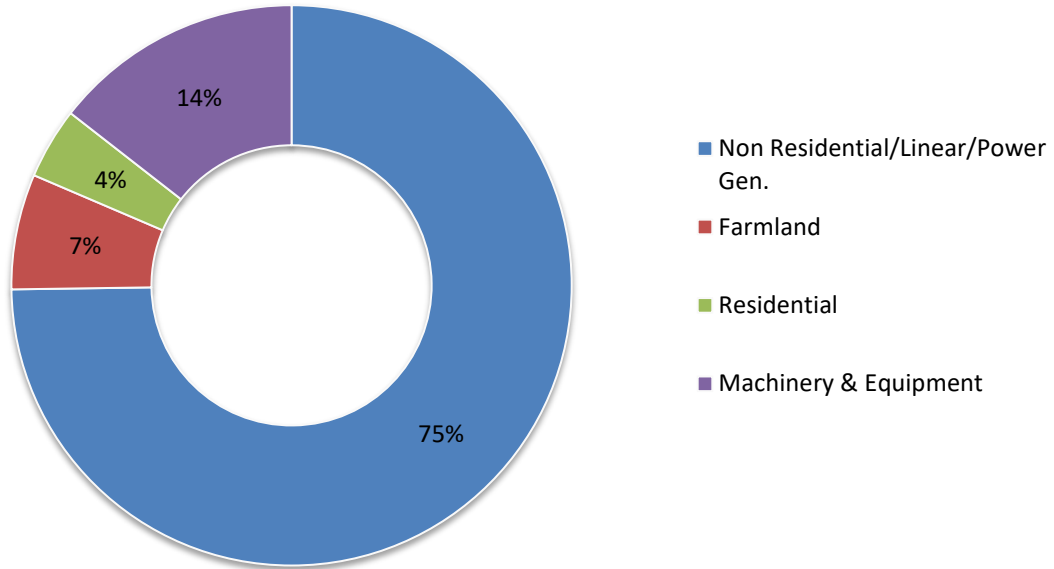
2020 Revenues - \$17,156,056



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2020

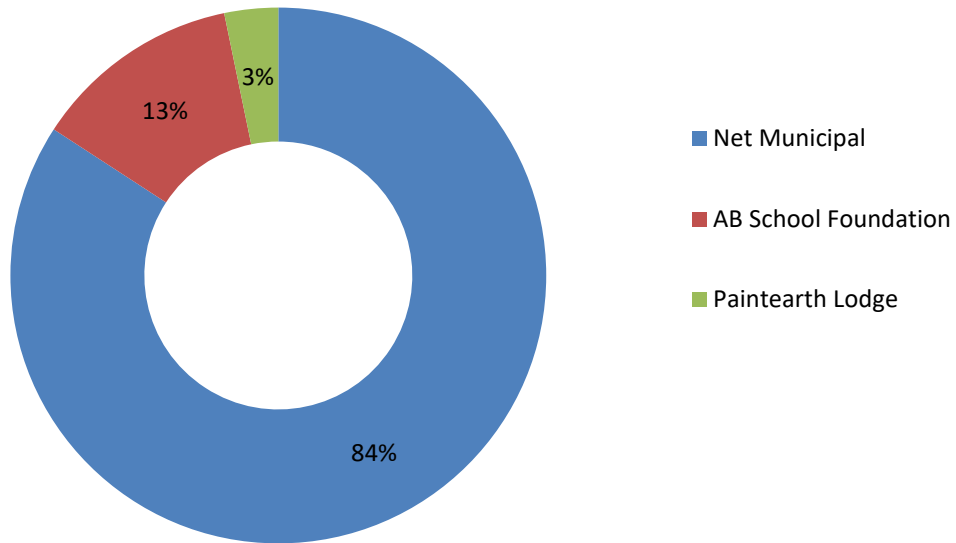
REVENUE	2020 Budget	2020	2019
Net municipal property taxes	\$14,138,628.00	\$14,099,867.00	\$14,122,911.00
Sales and user charges	\$391,865.00	\$464,149.00	\$345,994.00
Government transfers for Operating	\$342,000.00	\$1,783,371.00	\$1,204,284.00
Investment income	\$400,000.00	\$263,286.00	\$543,703.00
Penalties and costs on taxes	\$125,000.00	\$103,784.00	\$198,711.00
Licenses and permits	\$62,500.00	\$26,021.00	\$112,249.00
Other	\$5,000.00	\$381,232.00	\$34,455.00
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$17,000.00	\$34,343.00	\$36,284.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,481,993.00	\$17,156,053.00	\$16,598,591.00

2020 Property Tax Revenue



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Bylaw No.686-20

2020 Allocation of Property Taxes



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

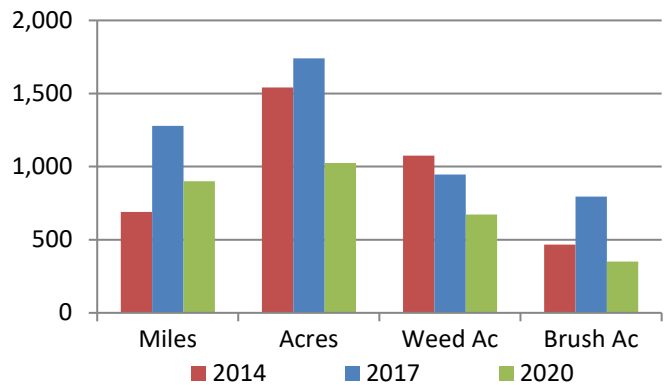
Industrial Vegetation Management

Roadside Spraying

Roadside spraying is done in a three-year rotation.

In 2020 ASB staff blanketed Division 4 and spot sprayed Division 5 and part of Division 6.

Across the entire County 901 miles were sprayed for a total of 1,024 acres. 66% of the spraying done was for weed control. Approx. 38% of the right-of-way's were sprayed in the rotation.



Total program cost was \$105,500 or \$103/acre. The utility-terrain vehicle (UTV) sprayed 118.5 miles or 16 acres for brush.

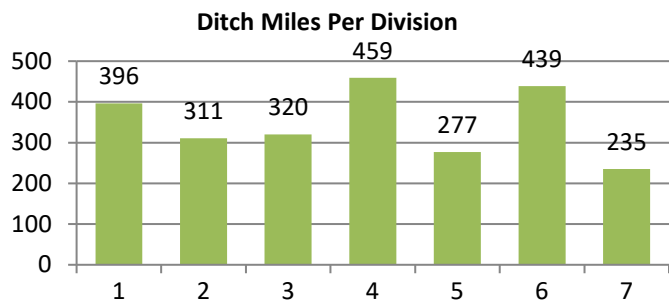
Private Land Spraying

The County provides custom spraying on private land for control of small patches of persistent prohibited noxious or noxious weeds. The ASB is equipped with an ATV sprayer and a UTV boomless sprayer.

In 2020 the ASB sprayed 13.6 acres for 5 individuals regarding the control of Absinthe Wormwood and other noxious weeds. ASB staff also sprayed 14 miles or 59 acres of the old rail line (PRWM).

Roadside Mowing

In 2020 our program changed from doing a single 15 ft pass on every road, to doing only the gravel and backroads where the ASB staff had sprayed. ASB staff completed a second pass on all pavement and almost completed a second pass in Division 4.



ASB staff completed 1,285.5 miles with 945 mi of gravel, 27 mi of pavement, and 102 mi of backroads with 144.5 mi of second cut. The season started in June and was completed could by the end of August. In 2021, staff will begin the 2nd week of July and work until mid-October.

ASB staff also pick the rocks marked in the previous year. Please avoid piling rocks or any other

objects in the ditch as they are sometimes not visible. ASB also asks that any gates which you would like to leave open, please lean up against the fence.

Total program cost for mowing was \$109,232 or \$44.83/mile or \$89.64 a road mile. The rotary mowers are the preferred method as they allow for mowing of smaller brush, increased visibility, less grass on road surface, and less risk of creating fires.

Weed Inspections

Weed inspections have always been a part of ASB duties, but we also rely on the public. In 2020 the Assistant Fieldman did a quick survey across the whole county for the noxious weeds and Absinthe Wormwood in late August. If you are concerned or are aware of a weed problem, please call the ASB staff or go to the county website and “Report A Weed” under the Environmental Services section of.

Conservation

Tree Program

In 2020 there were no trees planted by the ASB. The County has always held this program in high priority and landowners who order 200 or more trees can request assistance in the planting of those trees at no charge.

Any resident or business can order trees. There are no longer restrictions on who can apply. Those who order trees are responsible for the cost as set by the nursery. The ASB will continue to help in the planning and design of tree shelterbelts and/or assist in the form of a tree planter and staff.

Environmental Program Funding

As it did with many other things, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major effect on the Environmental Extension this year by eliminating in-person events. Which was the largest part of our program.

On April 4th, the ASB partnered with the Battle River Research Group to hold a Cattle Feed webinar. Attendees learned about how feed quality affects lactating animals, feeding spring-threshed grain, and understanding feed test results.

There were two virtual meetings for the Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Project advisory committee. Headed by the Battle River Watershed Alliance, this committee includes regional municipal environmental staff as well as expert advisors. Funding obtained from an Government of Alberta grant for farmer-led projects to improve the water quality in the Battle River and Ribstone Creek watersheds, was allocated at these meetings.

On November 19th, the ASB partnered with Camrose County to hold a virtual Working Well Workshop. The 7 participants learned how to operate, maintain, and protect their water wells as well as how to understand water test results.

The Assistant Agricultural Fieldman has begun training to assist producers within the County to complete their Environmental Farm Plans. Progress has been delayed due to the pandemic but will hopefully conclude before the end of 2021.

Pest Control

2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate

The County has been involved in the sale of 2% LSC ever since the province has been able to receive an emergency registration from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Although the delivery has changed over the years, this registration has restricted the sale of the liquid strychnine to occur only through the ASBs. ASB sold 186 cases in 2020.

Coyote Predation Management

The County recognizes that predation of livestock by coyotes can be a serious problem, which are declared to be a nuisance pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. Livestock producers can request assistance in the control of coyotes where predation is confirmed. ASB did not receive any calls in 2020 regarding coyote predation.

Surveys

The ASB has again surveyed for Clubroot in 2020. Inspectors follow a protocol for proper sampling techniques before entering the land. A minimum of 5 fields per division are surveyed, for a total of 35 fields county wide. No additional fields were done in conjunction with the U of A this year due to COVID. 4 fields were sampled for Blackleg at the request of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

ASB staff conducts a grasshopper survey every year and in 2020 ASB staff surveyed 36 fields. The numbers found are low again. However, numbers in the South end of the County near Highway 36 were elevated over the previous years.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry also conducts insect surveys, and the results are summarized as follows:

- Pea leaf Weevil damage was low in the survey we conducted in late May – early June. Until the Pea Leaf Weevil population bounces back producers will not need to be using insecticide seed treatment.
- Wheat Midge numbers remain low in your area. Despite this, it would be a good idea for producers and agronomists to monitor fields as the wheat heads out in 2021. This is especially true if seeding is delayed and/or wet conditions prevail.
- No Cabbage Seedpod Weevils were found in Paintearth. The population in Central Alberta seems to have been very reduced. Numbers are certainly nowhere near threshold.
- One of the Bertha Armyworm trap sites was above the first warning level of 300 moths and almost to the second warning level. It will be important to continue with the trapping to understand which way the trend will go.

Beaver Dam Removal

The Board recognizes that Beaver dams need to be removed or breached periodically to protect, maintain, or construct infrastructure and to avoid the flooding of private and/or public land. The Director of Environmental Services is a licensed blaster and is available for the removal of Beaver dams. Prior to the start of the blasting, the landholder must sign a Beaver Dam Blasting Agreement.

2020 ASB EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

Rental Equipment Available

Backpack Sprayer	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Hand Broadcast Seeder	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Cattle Scale	\$40.00/half day or \$75.00/ full day
Hay Probes	no charge
Gallagher Tag Reader	\$250.00 Ref. Deposit

Pest Control Products Available

Magpie Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Skunk Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Coyote Control Materials	no charge
Beaver Dam Removal	\$100 for 1 st dam & \$50 for each additional

Vegetation Management

Private Land Spraying - \$80.00/hr plus the cost of the chemical per L applied at cost plus GST, where applicable, will be charged. 1 follow-up treatment will be included in the initial call out fee if needed. Subsequent call outs will be charged at the discretion of the applicator.

Industry Spraying - \$135.00/hr and chemical cost plus 10% and any GST applicable.

Weed Picking - \$35/hr plus GST.

Tree Planting

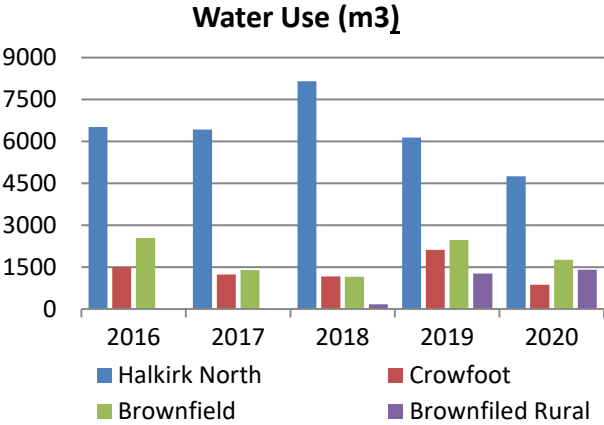
Tree planter and staff are provided free of charge for tree orders over 200. Shipping charges for the trees shall be paid for by the ASB. Plastic mulch will be available for sale to producers with a minimum purchase of 1 roll (1500’).

Pesticide Container Sites

Castor Waste Transfer Site	SW 03-38-14 W4
Coronation Waste Management	SW 36-36-11 W4

RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION

In 2019 the County entered into an agreement with the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC), where the Brownfield Transmission Line and the Brownfield Truck Fill are operated under the SMRWSC and the connection points to the rural addresses and the Hamlet remain with the County.



The Coronation Reservoir serves the Town of Coronation and the residents along Secondary Highway 872 to Brownfield including the Hamlet of Brownfield. The County owns the rural properties that come off the line and is ready to serve 12 residences.

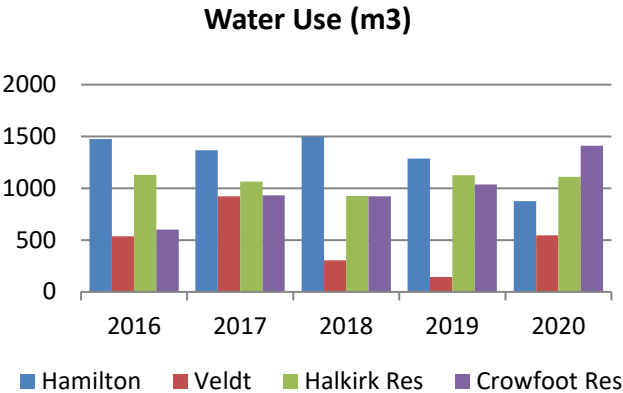
There has been approximately 22.5 miles of rural water line constructed off the Halkirk Reservoir and is currently ready to serve 21 users. The Crowfoot Reservoir currently only serves the Crowfoot Subdivision.

Water is charged based on actual use and in 2020 that charge was \$3.10/cubic metre (m3). On a monthly basis, the average consumption is 18.9 cubic metres (18,900 litres) for all users. All water consumption the County is read with meters.

The County is invested in three reservoirs, which are strategically placed in Halkirk, Crowfoot Crossing, and west of Coronation.

Truck Fill Facilities

The County operates two types of truck fills. The Halkirk and Crowfoot Reservoirs have drinking water and are open to everyone. Hamilton (NE-32-35-10) and Veldt (NW-12-38-15) are wells that are for agricultural, firefighting, and County use only.



In 2020 the County purchased a water dispensing system for Crowfoot Reservoir. This system allows the user to operate on both coin and prepay accounts. The Halkirk Reservoir is coin box operated at this time and

accepts loonies and toonies. Anyone wanting to use the Brownfield truck fill, contact the SMRWSC directly or Stettler County. Water rates for reservoirs are \$5/m³, Hamilton and Veldt are \$2.20/m³. The Village of Halkirk receives the proceeds from the Halkirk Reservoir. The water wells are used in a groundwater monitoring program. The static water level in both facilities has not changed and these wells are shock chlorinated in the spring.

For more information, check out the County’s website and look under Environmental Services and go to the Utilities page.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The County started off 2020 with an ambitious public community engagement project. This project was designed to gathering input on a wide range of subject matter to guide the development of a new/updated MDP (Municipal Development Plan) and the LUB (Land Use Bylaw). We successfully navigated a chilly week of -35 winter over 4 consecutive evenings. Thank you to all those hardy residents who made it out to a community hall evening. The COVID pandemic then changed the 2nd round to an online survey this past Christmas and January, with the final documents recently being developed and approved.

Permits

Through the development permit process, ratepayers are safeguarded and ensured a safe and effective building and planning process for all developments. A comparison of 2020 activity levels with the previous year is found below:

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS	2020	Value	2019	Value
Residential Homes (including mobile)	12	\$2,408,000	4	\$1,800,000
Residential (accessory, additions, etc)	8	\$374,000	6	\$235,000
Agricultural Uses			1	\$12,000
Industrial/Commercial	4	\$646,000	1	\$15,000,000
Recreational			1	
TOTALS	24	\$3,428,000	13	\$17,232,000

2020 was a return to a normal year, as total permits and values for large-scale industrial projects were limited.

2020 saw the conclusion of the Halkirk 2 Windfarm project legal proceedings. The Alberta Court of Appeal required the County to re-hear the 2018 SDAB Decision regarding the development permits issued in 2017 for the Capital Power windfarm. The Appeal Board Re-Hearing was held over 2 days in July, with the decision essentially mirroring that of the 2018 appeal board and the project permits upheld. It is unknown at this time if Capital Power will complete the windfarm.

Subdivisions

There were 5 subdivision applications in the County during 2020 with 3 completed by the end of the year. Most subdivisions take approx. 3-4 months to complete, cost ranges between \$3000 - \$5,000 and septic systems being the limiting size factor. The County strongly recommends an initial discussion or review with our staff prior to application, in order to ensure a smooth process and to help avoid any obstacles or issues that may arise.

Fleet Development

The rail lands south of Railway Avenue in the Hamlet of Fleet was the subject of an Area Structure Plan designed to aid in the development and subdivision/creation of residential lots for the area. An Environmental Assessment (Phase 1 & 2) was completed and showed no extensive contamination of the grounds that previously housed grain elevators and that these lands are sound to develop on. The Fleet Rail Lands ASP is expected to be completed in 2021 and lots available for sale soon after.

Development Permit fees, applications and related forms can all be found on the website. The Director of Community Services is available for questions, inquiries, and is willing to assist/guide all residents through the subdivision or development permit process.

Palliser Regional Municipal Services is the agency responsible for all planning and subdivision review within the County. PRMS also handles all safety codes permits and applications for building, electrical, gas, plumbing and private sewage disposal. For more information detailing the development and safety code requirements of your project, please contact the Director of Community Services at the office or visit www.palliserservices.ca.

The County's MPC (Municipal Planning Commission) presides over all discretionary or sensitive development permits and subdivision requests. In 2020 the MPC was comprised of Councillors Diane Elliott (Chair), George Glazier, Maurice Wiart and Reeve Stan Schulmeister.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The County continues to explore agricultural value-added projects possibilities, such as plant protein processing industry, expanding of growing of market vegetables and/or greenhouse operations throughout the County. The County is also exploring additional renewable energy projects that will aid in employment and job creation for years to come.

INDUSTRY

2020 was another slow year for the Oil and Gas industry in the County in terms of new projects. However, there was plenty of clean up and reclamation efforts happening across the region. There were 11 industry projects requiring access to our road network, only 1 new pipeline crossing from our local gas utility and 9 new electrical services or upgrades. 2020 continued the 2019 trend as 81 project notifications were received but only 4 were for new installations. There were 23 reclamation certificates issued, with another 33 well sites reclaimed or abandoned, and 27 pipeline abandonments within the County.

DISASTER SERVICES & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2020 was a challenge to the County in view of the pandemic that hit the province and the country. Fortunately, our remote/rural area saw low case counts throughout the year, which allowed for basic county operations to continue relatively unaffected. Our office has seen temporary closures with access restricted, which has led to our increased capacity of doing online processes to keep and maintain business continuity. The County continues to update its emergency preparedness considering pandemic plans and its ability to coordinate responses of the Emergency Operations Center. The probability of wildfires in the dry grassy season is the largest threat and we encourage all residents to be ever vigilant in the use of fires. Disasters do not follow pandemic rules, so they've added a new dimension to our plans.

The County was forced to cancel its annual workshop in May, ironically timed with Emergency Preparedness week. We will return to hosting the event when allowed to do so. We thank the community for their patience in dealing with the pandemic and the ever-changing plans of what activities our residents can do. The County looks forward to 2021 and a return to some degree of normal.

PARKS AND RECREATION

In 2020, the County campgrounds - Huber Dam Campground and Burma Park – were initially affected by restrictions of the pandemic. However, recovered as the spring progressed into the summer seasons and were relatively similar to previous years. Huber Dam saw additional trout stocking and the aerator assisted with oxygenating the water to keep more fish alive. With the lack of ball season play at Burma, the County took the time to refurbish the backstops. New chain link mesh fencing was installed, and the bleachers refinished to like new conditions will help ensure a couple more decades of ball seasons with fans in the seats! Both Huber Dam and Burma Park are operated by contract caretakers this past season.

The fall of 2020 saw the Valley Ski Hill complete (mostly) the landslide remediation work. The ground surface and ski runs had been affected, posing a potential threat to the lift lines and water/snow making systems. Subject to stiff pandemic regulations the facility remained closed for the season to ensure that proper repairs and upgrades could be completed, and a new re-opening will be a feature in the fall 2021!

COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER

The contact person for the Peace Officer program within the County of Paintearth is Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer.

The county has one Peace Officer, Colm Fitz-Gerald and he can be reached at (403)740-2997 (cell) or (403) 882-3211 (office).

The nature of duties performed by Officer Fitz-Gerald include, but are not limited to; administration and enforcement of county bylaws, traffic laws, consultation with RCMP and other county groups. Education continues to be the area of focus with all oil/energy companies and local landowners regarding the use of county roads.

The economic slowdown and COVID-19 can still be felt within the county as well as globally. This has reduced the amount of requested road permits in 2020. However, our roads were busy with local traffic. The County Peace Officer now has portable scales which are being used extensively. Currently, there have been no issues with overweight vehicles.

As we continue work our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, Council, staff, and our residents have shown great resiliency. A brighter economic upswing is upon us and will bring more traffic in the county. In turn, this will require the continued pre and post patrol of our roads. Officer Fitz-Gerald continues to work closely with the RCMP, Commercial Enforcement and local Fire Departments.

Officer Fitz-Gerald oversees our Fire Permit program and has been part of upgrading the County Fire Bylaw, which includes enforcement. There were 259 Fire Permits issued in 2020.

File investigations include RUAs (Road Use Agreements), Fire Calls, Bylaw files, liaison with local RCMP and other files. Officer Fitz-Gerald is part of the Emergency Management Team where he aids in planning as well as Peace Officer duties. He also assists all other departments within the scope of his duties.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Road Bans

The County places bans on the roads throughout the year to aid in the protection from damage that over-weight vehicle can cause, such as deep ruts and potholes. Traffic sign(s) are posted when a road is banned to indicate the percentage of axle weights permitted to travel on the road. All paved roads under County jurisdiction are banned at 50% or 75% year-round.

All Secondary Highways located in the County are under Provincial jurisdiction. For information on roads these roads visit, www.transportation.alberta.ca, or call toll free 1-877-236-6445.

Overweight & Over Dimensional Permit Approval Services

To improve the availability of service to Industry, to better track the movement of these heavy loads and to improve the ability to recover cost for any damages that may occur, the County of Paintearth has partnered with Roadata Services Ltd. (RDS) to provide approval services for the movement of heavy loads on County roadways.

RDS provides all approval services as per the guidelines established by the County and this service be available 24 hours per day at (888) 830-7623 (toll free).

Allowable Weights

When movement is not restricted due to road bans, adverse weather or individual roadway limitations, the County follows Alberta “Allowable Permit Weight” guidelines. Please remember that any municipality has the authorization to limit weights below provincially defined weights.

Gravel Program

The County graveled approximately 273 miles of roads in 2020 by applying approximately 70,756 tonne of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and 3,062 tonne of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch gravel. The summer road gravelling was completed with 4 county owned trucks, including 3 super-b belly dumps and 1 tandem truck with a tandem belly dump.

The County stockpiles approximately 30,000 tonne of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and 10,000 tonne of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch gravel from our gravel pits to various stockpile sites using our own gravel trucks. In 2020, the County purchased approximately 30,000 tonne supply of 4-20 Alberta Transportation spec $\frac{3}{4}$ inch gravel from outside sources. We hauled and stockpiled this gravel with county trucks.

Our gravel inventory consists of approximately 506,000 tonne of $\frac{3}{4}$ road gravel and 1,700,000 tonne of gravel in reserves. The County has about a 30-year supply of gravel with the current gravel inventory and materials in reserves.

Road Network

The County is divided into 8 grader divisions with each grader operator maintaining approximately 188 km of local gravel roads and approximately 24 km of field access roads. The grader fleet consists of 11 Caterpillar 160M / AWD motor graders and 1 plow truck for our winter sanding and plowing needs. The County buys new graders on a 5-year buyback program and sells the used graders on the open market at the end of 5 years. This enables the County to have sustainable and reliable equipment to maintain our roads.

The road system is comprised of:

Regularly Maintained Roads	1520 km
Field Access Roads	141 km
Grassed Trails	241 km
Paved Roads	45 km
Total	1947 km

Road Approaches/Culverts

The Public Works Department built 15 new approaches with culverts and widened 8 old approaches, 4 of which needed new culverts. The Public Works Department replaced 50 culverts across rural roads and one bridge file culvert with two 4 ft culverts. We also contracted a liner placed in a culvert on Lake Thelma Road.

Road Signage

The Public Works Department is responsible for approximately 1,036 different signs throughout the County. In 2020, 58 signs were installed or replaced, and 38 new signposts installed. If you notice a sign missing or knocked down, please contact the County Office immediately.

Bridge Program

The County has 110 bridges and bridge size culverts. We are responsible for all maintenance on these structures. We have staff trained in minor bridge maintenance on all bridges size structures. Maintenance on these bridges is scheduled throughout the winter or rain days. Major repairs to these structures are contracted out and all bridge inspections out to WSP Engineering. In 2020 we contracted out work to 3 bridges which received major repairs. In 2013 the Provincial Government cut all funding for bridges.

Fence Line Brushing

In 2020 the Public Works Department brushed approximately 1 mile of fence line and ditch bottoms.

Back Sloping

The Public Works Department back sloped 3 miles of ditches and fence lines in 2020. This service is considered on a request and priority basis. Requests are to be submitted on a hold harmless application and landowners must remove their fence. There is no charge for this service.

Mulching

The Public Works Department mulched approximately 16 miles of road ditches.

Gravel Reclaiming

The Public Works Department purchased a gravel reclaimer in 2017 which is mounted on our grader that pulls gravel of our road slopes and shoulders, then return to the road surface. We have reclaimed 408 mile of roadway of which 118 mile were completed in 2020. We reclaim and save on average 80 tonne of ¾ inch gravel per mile. Average cost per tonne of ¾ inch gravel is \$19.21.

Safety Program

The County of Paintearth is committed to a strong safety and loss program that protects its staff, its property and the public from accidents. In 2020, the County passed the external safety audit with a score of 93%. The safety program is ongoing and will always be a big part of the County's daily operations.