

SHE'S BACK - RM 220 COUNCIL HIRES FORMER ADMINISTRATOR

BULYEA SK: The RM of McKillop No. 220 Council voted on September 1, 2017 to rehire the former RM Administrator who committed ratepayers to \$120,000 in unapproved contracts before quitting without giving notice.

At a special (short notice) meeting RM Council passed resolution 287/2017, titled on the agenda, 'Appointment of an Interim Administrator'. At the meeting it was announced that the only qualified person to fill the position was the former Administrative Financial Officer who 'resigned' in May 2017. Council Kuderewko questioned the potential candidate's performance after Council discovered in June that this former RM administrator had signed contracts committing Council to over \$120,000. This amount considerably exceeded her spending authority as former RM administrator and the contracts were not approved by Council until after they were entered into. In support of hiring the former RM administrator for a 90-day term contract were Councillors Wild, Smith and Helgeson. Opposed were Kuderewko, Wilson and LaBatte. Reeve Arndt brought back this former RM administrator by supporting the resolution.

Not coincidentally, this sudden rehiring of the former RM administrator comes at the same meeting where RM Council approved the use of ratepayers' money to attempt to legally challenge a financial and a managerial audit forced by ratepayers' petitions presented to Council on August 11th.

Audio-recorded comments made by Council at this meeting:

- Ratepayers have to pay for this fishing trip.
- I have talked to several people who signed the petition and they didn't know what they were signing.
- We shall follow the Municipalities Act unless Council decides not to.
- It is toxic at the ratepayers level.
- (One Councillor to another) You told me at the last meeting I needed a funnel to get things into my head.
- I double-dog dare you to find something wrong.
- These audits may cost the RM \$250,000 which could mean a tax levy increase of 15% for ratepayers.



This last comment expresses concern about an estimated *possible* cost of an audit. However, no similar concern was expressed about the *actual* \$120,000 in unauthorized RM contracts discovered in June or of the *additional* \$75,000 cost in 2017 to ratepayers for the mess the Last Mountain Regional Landfill (The Dump) is in. In the spring 2017, 7 of the 12 regional partners withdrew from the arrangement due to mismanagement. For the past 3 years the former RM administrator was contracted to provide administrative services to this group, through the RM of McKillop accounts. Reeve Arndt took the Chair responsibilities for this group in early 2017 (see page 2 for estimated costs to RM 220 ratepayers). Finally, no mention was made of the *actual* \$5,400 spent advertising the RM administrative position in spring 2017, again not authorized by Council, after which no one was hired.

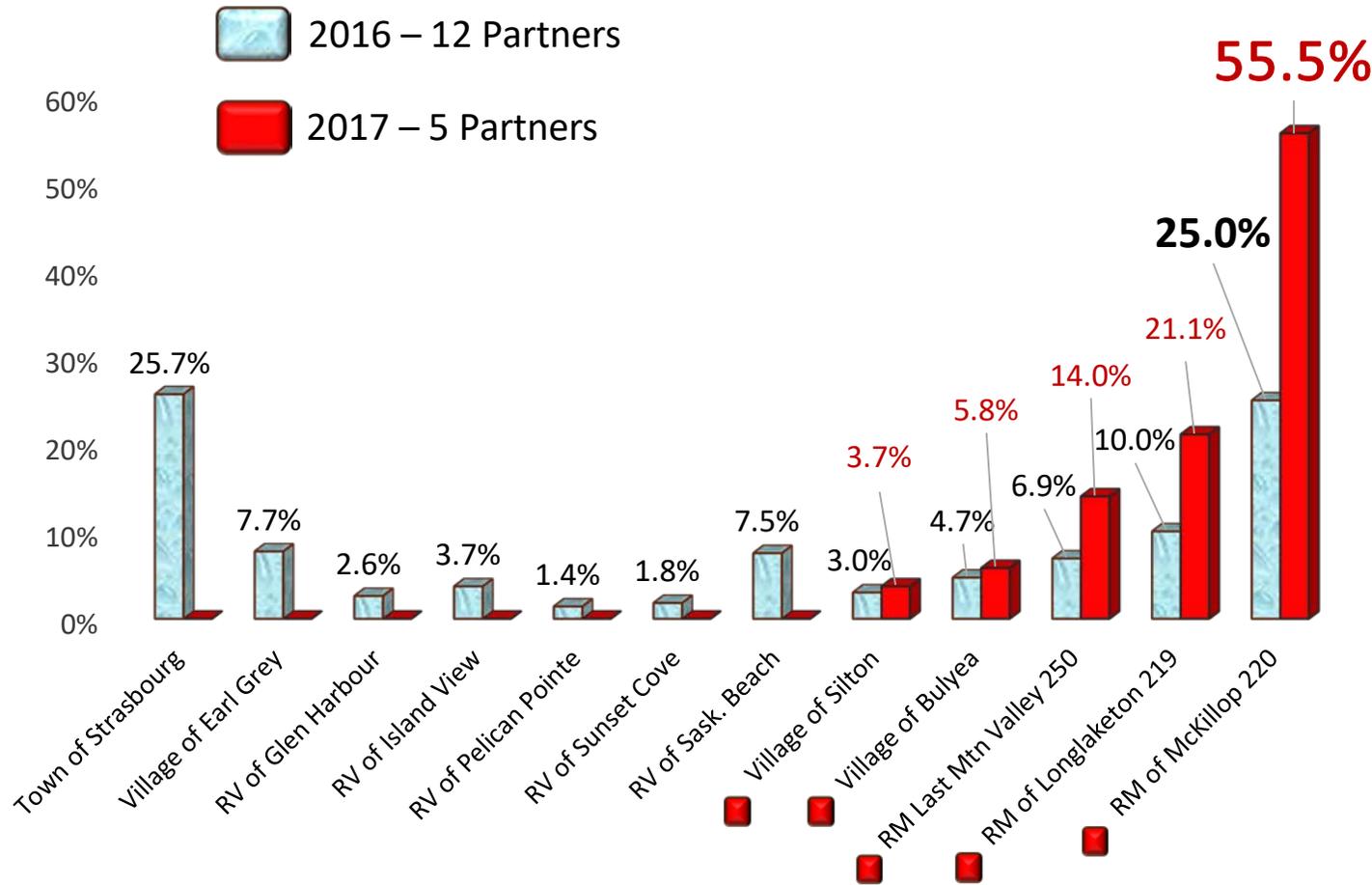
The 220 RPA believes that the only way we can assure that the RM Council is transparent and accountable is to press for the management and financial audits to get to the bottom of where our hard-earned tax dollars are going in the RM of McKillop.

BACKGROUND: The Rural Municipality of McKillop No. 220 lies along the east shore of Last Mountain Lake, north of Lumsden, south of Strasbourg with Hwy #20 on its east boundary. There are 732 permanent residents and approximately 2,000 ratepayers in the RM.

If you have any questions please contact us at rm220rpa@gmail.com

Thank you.

Last Mountain Regional Landfill (LMRL) – The Dump Partner Capital & Operating Cost % 2016 to 2017



COMMENTARY

- 2016 Percentages based on 2016 LMRL Membership Levy Analysis document provided to LMRL Board.
 - Total financial contribution requirements for capital & operating expenses = \$97,000.
- 2017 Percentages based on 2017 LMRL Membership Levy Analysis document provided to LMRL Board.
 - Total financial contribution requirements for capital & operating expenses = \$185,000.
- LMRL has several environmental caveats that require more capital costs to fix or LMRL will be decommissioned. Both options will increase cost to ratepayers.
- RM of McKillop 220 Reeve Arndt chairs the LMRL Board and, up until her sudden resignation on May 29th, 2017, the RM of McKillop 220 senior employee provided administrative support on a contractual basis for the past 3 years.
- Up until June 2017, finances of LMRL were managed through RM of McKillop 220 accounts.
- Partner groups cite withdrawal from LMRL due to mismanagement.

KEY TAKEAWAY

In 2016 the LMRL cost the RM of McKillop 220 ratepayers \$24,250. With 7 partners withdrawing in 2017, the cost of the LMRL to RM of McKillop 220 ratepayers will be over \$100,000.