

Feb 7, 2017 Ratepayers Association Update:

1. I have not received any word back from the RM Administrator regarding the three ratepayer's petitions that were submitted to her in person, on January 23rd, during office hours and prior to the last regularly scheduled council meeting. In addition, I have not received any replies to the emails or letters sent to RM Council, prior to the last council meeting. See my last update for specifics about these items.
2. The next regularly scheduled RM council meeting is next Monday, Feb 13th. The agenda should be out and available on the RM website, by this weekend. There should be an open session starting at 11:45, where ratepayers can ask questions or present concerns. I encourage ratepayers, who have the time, to come out and take this opportunity to be heard.
3. Many requests have been coming in asking what other options are available for ratepayers to effectively complain or present concerns beyond the RM council and administration. I am working on a contact list of these other avenues and it should be out soon.
4. The Interim Development Control Bylaw No. 327/2017 has been passed by Council and has been forwarded to the provincial government for approval. Since this bylaw was the subject of one of our petitions and because we have been effectively denied any opportunity in the required public consultation component of the RM governance process, I have put together a review report on the subject. I am just waiting on one piece of the puzzle, before sending it out.
5. We need to hold the second meeting of the ratepayers association. This group was quickly formed just two days after the January 9, 2017th RM council meeting in response to three contentious issues being sprung on the ratepayers, with virtually no public notice or consultation. The priorities set at our first meeting, were to create the three petitions asking for public meetings, collect signatures, and get the petitions submitted before Council finalized the three matters. That was all accomplished, but now it is time to make this all matter. It was an amazing feat to get all this done in such a short period of time and to collect such a significant list of ratepayers, considering this all took place in the dead of winter, when many ratepayers were on holidays or away for the winter.
6. We need to meet to organize the group, create a plan of action and get working on the required tasks. Please let us know your thoughts or suggestions. Also, if anyone is interested in joining the leadership group or helping out behind the scenes, let us know because everyone can do something. We would appreciate any direction as to where and when to hold the meetings. Once we are setup and in operation, the requirements for meetings can be replaced by phone, email, website, or social media etc. Remember membership in the ratepayers association will be quite loose. Either sign a petition, send an email asking to be added to our email list, or just talk to someone who is involved; and participate as you see fit.