

THE MD CONNECTION

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

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COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION

TAMARA MIYANAGA, REEVE

Harvest has concluded, and the weather is allowing farmers to complete fall tasks, but the drought concern is ever-present. Thank you for implementing the best land management practices to ensure erosion control and weed suppression. The MD of Taber collaborates with Farming Smarter. If you are interested in reviewing innovative research, Agriculture Services is available to answer questions and provide support related to the Weed, Soil, and Pest Acts under their jurisdiction.

Entering the winter season prompts reflection and planning for the forthcoming growing season. However, it can also be a time of solitude and challenges. We encourage everyone to check in on neighbours or anyone facing difficulties. Farm Family Counseling Services, facilitated through FCSS, is available, offering ten confidential in-person or remote sessions. They are available to assist individuals and families in managing anxiety, stress,

depression, and suicide. Reach out at **587-370-3728** or email **counsellingservices@fcss.ca**. For immediate mental health emergencies or crises, please call 9-1-1.

Five Councillors attended the Rural Municipalities Association Fall conference. Besides an opportunity to network and advance the municipality, they met Minister of Environment and Protected Areas Rebecca Schultz to request additional Horsefly Spillway Project funding due to inflationary shortfalls and coordinate a meeting with the Minister and our agriculture processors. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RJ Sigurdson's meeting focused on improving water security through increased on and off-stream storage, with a priority on Eyremore Dam and accessing adequate funding for infrastructure development to support irrigation expansion and the Agri Food Corridor. Importantly, the MD of Taber's resolution to ensure every area of Alberta has available ambulances with

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COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION

Continued

qualified emergency personnel was successful. We are advocating alongside the Town of Vauxhall to ensure our residents receive timely life-saving responses from EMS.

Crucial reviews are underway, each with a public consultation phase. Keep an eye out for meeting dates and opportunities for online submissions on topics including the Land Use Bylaw, Land Management Plan: policy for grazing leases, tax recovery land, cultivation leases, and a Transportation Plan affecting the future of road networks.

Barnwell Firehall hosted a successful open house, with excellent engagement between firefighters and residents. Council is grateful for the dedication and expertise of our 90 volunteer firefighters, including the Station Chiefs, for providing a rapid response fire and rescue service. Thank you to firefighter families for their sacrifice and employers who support firefighters' call attendance.

The Enchant Subdivision is complete, with 35 lots available for purchase. Two Rural Highway Commercial lots are available adjacent to the Vauxhall Truck Stop, and we are underway with the Grassy Lake Subdivision, with lots anticipated in the fall of 2024. Lot details are available on the website.

Join us for Coffee with Council on February 7 at 7:00 pm at the Enchant Community Hall for an informal gathering open to all residents to voice comments or concerns. Additionally, every Council meeting offers opportunities for individuals to address Council in person or virtually. If it's a formal matter, you can request its addition to the agenda via our website or by contacting the office at 403-223-3541. Councillors are always open to emails or calls.

Council is midway through deliberations on the 2024 Capital and Operating budget. It's a challenging process, but we aim to create a budget that optimizes your tax dollars, ensuring quality transportation networks and services. Our focus also includes supporting committee initiatives such as housing, libraries, recreation, and economic development amidst economic pressures.

As the holiday season approaches, we encourage you to spend time with those important to you and find time to partake in activities that brighten the holidays for those in need. Your involvement will make a positive difference. On behalf of the Council, Administration, and Staff, Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024 filled with good health and opportunities.

FUNDING FUN!

Rec Boards, Towns & Villages

Community services, particularly those related to recreation, active living, and sports, hold immense importance for our residents. Embracing an active lifestyle and fostering recreational opportunities significantly contributes to the physical, social, and emotional well-being of individuals and their communities.

Recognizing this, the Municipal District of Taber has established a structured system for distributing annual recreation operating funds to Municipal Boards, Towns, and Villages. This initiative aims to ensure that residents of the MD have access to the manifold benefits offered by recreational activities. The policy titled "Operational Grants for Recreation Boards, Towns, and Villages" has been designed with the community's well-being in mind.

In the year 2022, the MD of Taber allocated **\$349,552** towards augmenting the range of recreational opportunities available in our hamlets and villages. This investment reflects our commitment to fostering an environment where residents can thrive through diverse recreational pursuits.

For further details on how these funds are allocated and utilized, please visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/recreation-grants

We encourage community members to explore the information provided, as it showcases our dedication to supporting and enhancing recreational experiences for all.



Let your business take root!

Are you ready to invest in your business's future?

Look no further than the Municipal District of Taber's Vauxhall East Commercial Lots for Sale!

Here's your chance to secure your piece of the bustling Highway 36 corridor, with two fantastic lots available priced at just \$104,000 + GST each. Act now, as there's only one lot per development!

Property Highlights:

- > Serviceable lots
- > Water service to property line
- > Gas and power nearby
- > Septic tank requirement
- > Highway frontage
- > Rest area/truck stop adjacent
- > Highway 36 high load corridor

Ready to Take the Next Step?

The Municipal District of Taber is committed to fostering growth and economic development in the region. These commercial lots are strategically positioned to help your business thrive. Whether you're expanding, relocating, or starting anew, this is your golden opportunity.

Development Permit Application Required

To secure your commercial lot, please ensure that your offer to purchase is accompanied by a completed development permit application.

Your application should be submitted to the attention of:

Brian Peers, Manager
Municipal Lands & Leases
Municipal District of Taber
4900B - 50th Street
Taber, Alberta, T1G 1T2

FOR SALE Vauxhall East Commercial Lots

Need more information or have questions?

Don't hesitate to get in touch:

Phone 403-223-3541
Fax 403-223-1799

For faster response, kindly follow up all faxes with a quick phone call. We're here to assist you every step of the way, ensuring a smooth and efficient process.

Seize this incredible opportunity to invest in your business's future and unlock the potential of your business today! Contact us and take the first step towards a prosperous future. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity!

For more information visit:
mdtaber.ab.ca/p/non-residential

DID YOU KNOW?

NEW FACES AT THE MD OF TABER

1

That the next Coffee with Council will be in Enchant at 7pm on February 7th?



Residents now have a chance to meet their elected officials in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to bring forward any concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding municipal programs and services. To learn more about upcoming Coffee with Council events visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/coffee-council

2

That your property could qualify as a small business subclass?

The small business property assessment subclass offers a **25% in tax savings** compared to other non-residential properties. To qualify for the small business subclass, submit an application on or before February 15th, 2024 to be considered for the 2024 tax year. To learn more and apply visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/small-business-subclass

3

A 12% penalty will applied to any remaining unpaid Municipal District of Taber property taxes on February 1, 2024?

Information on how you can make payments to your property taxes is available at:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes

4

Our offices will be closed for the holidays on the following dates?

December 25 & 26 and on January 1st. Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

The MD of Taber is pleased to announce the recent hiring of James Eaves as Information Services Technician and Tina Braun as Reception and Records Clerk.

James comes to us with an impressive background in technology. After graduating high school in 2019, he embarked on a journey in the world of technology by enrolling in Lethbridge College's Computer Information Technology program. His dedication and hard work have culminated in his recent graduation, marking the completion of his studies and practicum in June 2023.



During his practicum, James worked alongside the Town of Coaldale as part of his employment with 'Nerds on Site,' a respected entity providing top-notch IT support. His experience in supporting the technological infrastructure for the Town is a testament to his skills and capability in this field.

Beyond his professional achievements, James is an enthusiast in game development and an avid reader. We are excited to have someone with such diverse interests joining us.

With his comprehensive education and hands-on experience, James brings a wealth of knowledge and fresh perspectives to our team. His expertise will undoubtedly contribute significantly to our technological initiatives and services here at the Municipal District of Taber.

We are excited to have James on board and look forward to the innovative contributions he will bring to our organisation.

Tina brings a unique background and a genuine passion for learning and growth.

Tina's journey has been marked by determination and resilience. After experiencing a non-traditional educational path, Tina never gave up on her dream of obtaining her Grade 12 diploma. She went on to achieve her General Education Diploma (GED), and we commend her for her unwavering commitment to personal and educational growth.

Prior to joining our team, Tina worked on a potato farm for six seasons and held several seasonal positions. Seeking new opportunities and experiences, she was referred to the Youth Employment Program (YEP) in Taber. Tina expresses her deep gratitude for the opportunities YEP provided her and the path it set her on.

Her journey led her to the Municipal District of Taber, and Tina has found a welcoming home here. She has already proven to be an asset to our team and continues to embrace each day as a learning opportunity.



In her free time, Tina enjoys spending quality moments with her husband, indulging in her love for travel, skiing, volleyball, and golf. Her enthusiasm for life and learning is infectious.

We are excited to have Tina Braun, as our new Reception and Records Clerk. We look forward to her contributions and growth as a valued member of our team.



INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2023

> Grassy Lake North Subdivision

Phase 1 of the Grassy Lake North Subdivision is currently in the design stages. This project will see 40+ new residential lots available for purchase in the near future.

> 2023 Shoulder Pull Program

The construction season wrapped up the end of November. A total of 26 kilometres of shoulder pulls were completed this year.

> Grassy Lake Stormwater Study

A consultant was hired to complete a stormwater study of Grassy Lake and the final report is due the end of December 2023. We will present a schedule of projects along with a detailed maintenance plan following the study's completion.

> Range Road 17-3 Grade Widening

The contract has been awarded to McNally Contractors. The project consists of widening the grade for 700 metres, followed by a 2-kilometre asphalt overlay. The finishing touches on project are expected to be completed in first part of December.

> Vauxhall Airport Paving

The contract has been awarded to McNally Contractors. The project consists of an expansion of the taxiway. The project was completed mid-September.

> Grassy lake landfill reclamation

The contract has been awarded to East Butte Contractors. This project will remove landfill waste from a historic landfill on the north side of grassy lake. Once completed it will make way for a residential subdivision to be built nearby.

HORSEFLY EMERGENCY SPILLWAY UPDATE

Phase 1: Taber Lake to Oldman River

Significant strides have been made; the section spanning from Taber Lake to the third structure (1165 meters) is finished, boasting completed rock armor and operational drop structures. Progress throughout the summer has allowed for 98% completion of the road crossing at Highway 36, albeit with reduced speed limits due to ongoing work on the bypass.

Concrete structures (5) and box culvert road crossings (4) are fully constructed, facilitating the opening of all roads for use. Currently, work in the coulee has commenced, obliging compliance with the Historical Resources Act Approval, necessitating a Paleontologist's presence during excavation.

Upcoming tasks involve completing drainage ditch excavation and bank building, aiming for substantial completion by March 15, 2024. Environmental measures have been diligently executed, with an environmental company ensuring the safe relocation of rattlesnakes to their hibernation sites on October 15th.

Key approvals, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), have been secured. The DFO approval dictates necessary mitigations and contractor compliance for work

near the Oldman River entrance. Notably, Phase 1 remains within the stipulated budget.

The project's efficient progression showcases substantial achievements and adherence to regulatory measures, emphasizing environmental stewardship while maintaining project momentum within set constraints.

Phase 2: Horsefly Reservoir to Taber Lake

Phase 2 of the Highway 3 Twinning project near Taber is in its final design phase. MPE and Stantec have collaborated with CP Rail for the rail crossing design. Two of three phases incorporate wetland components as per provincial mandates. Alberta Transportation will fund the necessary Highway 3 crossings. Additionally, Phase 2 involves crossing Lantic Sugar's railroad spur line, with positive discussions and cooperation from their accommodating staff.

Phase 3: SMRID Main Canal to Horsefly Reservoir

Phase 3 construction, slated for Fall/Winter 2024/2025, awaits funding confirmation before tendering. Simultaneously tendering Phase 2 and Phase 3 separately in summer 2024 is the plan if funding aligns. This strategy aims to expedite progress while ensuring adequate financial backing for the upcoming construction phases.

4 HIDDEN DANGERS OF SNOW PILES

Ever wondered how dangerous a snow pile can be?

Here are 4 reasons why piling your "Private Snow" on roads is a "No".

1. It's dangerous to others

When snow from private properties encroaches on the roadway, motorists may have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic or pedestrians. The snow also reduces the space available for pedestrians and vehicles to share the road, and that can bring them dangerously close together in possibly slippery conditions.

2. Snow piles interfere with plowing

Piles of snow on municipal roads are also an issue for our maintenance operators because they are obstacles to plowing. A grader and loader may be brought in to remove the snow. Our budgets are not intended for clearing "private snow" off public property.

When plows need to detour around piles of snow or can not remove snow from the road due to large deposits that must first be removed, everyone who travels the area gets a lower level of maintenance. Our operators make an effort not to block private accesses and driveways during road plowing operations.

3. Drainage and damage problems

Piling snow into ditches is also a "snow-no." Why's that? Snow piles can interfere with drainage, causing damage to both public and private property. You could find yourself in a costly conflict with a neighbour or the Province of Alberta.

4. Unauthorized use of right-of-ways

In accordance with Section 3(14) of our Unauthorized Use of Municipal Property Bylaw No 1806, moving snow onto a municipal right-of-way (eg. municipal roads, ditches, bridges) is considered unauthorized use. People who do not comply may have to pay for the removal of the snow if it is deemed a safety hazard or a risk of damaging public infrastructure or damages infrastructure.

Scan or visit to learn more:
mdtaber.ab.ca/p/winter-maintenance



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS



Is all or part of your property eligible to qualify as a small business in the MD of Taber?

Until recently, businesses were charged the same property tax rate regardless of their size. The small business subclass can offer, at the discretion of Council, up to a 25 per cent in tax savings compared to other non-residential properties.

Non-residential class has been divided into 3 subclasses, defined in related regulations as follows:

- › Vacant non-residential property
- › Small business property
- › Other non-residential property

This allows Council the opportunity to consider differentiating tax rates for each non-residential subclass during the annual budget process.

In order to be considered as non-residential subclass for the 2024 tax year, submit your small business application on or before February 15th, 2024.

To learn more about non-residential subclasses and Bylaw No 1952, or to download an application, scan or visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/small-business-subclass

Do I require a Development Permit for my farm building?

Understanding the necessity of a Development Permit for your farm building is crucial. To determine whether a Development Permit is required, consider the following criteria:

- › Will the farm building be erected within a proximity of fewer than 150 feet to the center line of the nearest road right-of-way, be it developed or undeveloped?
- › Does the intended location of the farm building fall within the 350-foot intersection site triangle setback?
- › Is there a plan to install a septic system within the confines of the farm building?
- › Are there intentions to construct the building in close proximity to a coulee or waterbody?
- › Is the inclusion of sleeping or living quarters part of the building design?
- › Are there pipelines or other easements in the vicinity of the proposed building?

The questions listed are a few of the more common questions we ask of applicants when it comes to farm buildings that require a permit.

Should there be any uncertainty regarding whether your farm building needs a Development Permit, contact our Planning and Development team at 403-223-3541 or visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/planning-development



FOR SALE

Take the first step towards your Enchanting future.

Enchant Subdivision Phase 3 lots for sale.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



mdtaber.ab.ca/p/residential

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Calling all community advocates in the Municipal District of Taber!

Do you have a passion for making a difference in your community? Want to be a part of the decision-making process that shapes our district's future?

Well, here's your chance!

We're excited to announce vacancies on two of our boards, committees, and commissions, and we want YOU to join our team.

Why should you get involved?

- › Influence local policies and initiatives
- › Connect with like-minded individuals
- › Shape the future of our district
- › Make a positive impact in your community

Current opportunities:

- › Weed Control Act Appeal Board (one vacancy)
- › Unsightly Premises Appeal Board (one vacancy)

Ready to take the leap?

Applying is a breeze! Simply visit our website at mdtaber.ab.ca/p/bccs where you'll find all the information you need to apply online.

Don't miss an opportunity to be part of the change you want to see in the Municipal District of Taber. Your voice matters, and together, we can build a brighter future for our community.



2024 FARMER PESTICIDE COURSE:

ATTENDING THIS COURSE ALLOWS YOU TO PURCHASE RESTRICTED CHEMICAL SUCH AS THIMET FOR POTATO PRODUCTION OR PHOSTOXIN FOR GRAIN BIN FUMIGATION. USEFUL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANNING, HACCP, CANADA GAP.

**At the Operations
& Maintenance facility.**

Course dates available (choose one):

January 10, 2024
February 7, 2024
March 6, 2024
April 3, 2024



To register, you:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Must be fluent in English.
3. Must prepay a \$40 registration fee (includes lunch and course manual).

How to register:

Please mail or deliver your registration form complete with cheque payable to:

**MD of Taber
4900B - 50th St
Taber, AB T1G 1T2**



Forms available online at mdtaber.ab.ca or call and register by phone at 403-223-3541.

For more information contact **Jorden Holst**, Agricultural Fieldman at 403-634-4713.

EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY NOW!

The Municipal District of Taber deeply values the invaluable contributions made by community organisations, recognizing their pivotal role in enhancing our municipality's quality of life. We understand that extending support from the municipal government is vital to advancing the goals of various community programs, organisations, events, and activities.

Requests for donations undergo a specific criteria and process outlined in the "Donations to Community Organisations, Programs, Events & Activities"

policy. This policy, along with the donation application, is available online at: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/donation-requests

In 2022, the MD of Taber proudly contributed **\$275,631** towards empowering local community groups and fostering their impactful initiatives.

This support remains integral to nurturing a thriving and connected community for all.

