



RM OF MARTIN NO 122

## JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**WEBSITE:** [www.rmofmartin.com](http://www.rmofmartin.com)

### COUNCIL:

Reeve	Garry Bonkowski	(306-435-8008)
Division 1	Ken Smith	(306-434-6001)
Division 2	Jason McDougall	(306-435-9533)
Division 3	Kyran Foy	(306-435-7176)
Division 4	Hal Garrett	(306-435-7757)
Division 5	Ray Donald	(306-435-7457)
Division 6	Reece Wolf	(306-434-6098)

### PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION:

Foreman	James Greening
Maintenance Operator	Neal McMullen
Seasonal Maintenance Operator	Mike McGonigal
Seasonal Maintenance Operator	Aaron Flynn (Gravel Driver)

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday (May-Sept) 8 am to Noon and 1-4 pm  
Monday to Friday (Oct-April) 8 am to Noon and 1-4 pm

Council meetings are generally held the **second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am** in the Municipal Office located in Moosomin. If you would like the opportunity to speak to Council, please make an appointment by contacting the office at least one week before the date of the meeting.

## PAYMENT METHODS FOR TAXES & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

In 2014 the RM implemented **On-Line Banking** through the *Royal Bank and Conexus Credit Union*.

On-Line Banking name is: **Martin No 122 (RM)**

Please use your **4-digit account** number found on your tax notice (add zeros in front to make it 4-digit).

In 2017 the RM started accepting **DEBIT CARD, MASTERCARD, and VISA**. We still accept cheques or cash! In 2021 the RM started accepting **ETRANSFERS**. If you wish to ETransfer for either your taxes or to pay an outstanding bill please use our email address: [admin@rmofmartin.com](mailto:admin@rmofmartin.com) as the source of transfer. There is no security question required as it automatically deposits into our bank account. We do however ask that in the Message area you tell us what you are paying!

Did you know that you may also make arrangement to pay your taxes **MONTHLY** either by Internet Banking or via Post-Dated Cheques? This option makes budgeting for your tax payment easier! You can also set that up automatically on your own through your financial institution.

### I NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

There are many instances when the RM Office needs to contact our Ratepayers – road construction, to share important information, disaster notification to name just a few. Therefore, we ask that you ***please provide the office with your Email and Cell Phone Numbers***. We will not share this information with anyone else. Please email the office at [admin@rmofmartin.com](mailto:admin@rmofmartin.com) with your contact information. Thank you in advance for providing your updated information!

## CIVIC ADDRESSING

Civic Addressing is a province-wide standardized system of identifying and locating properties by establishing unique access point locations and can be used to assist emergency responders. You will begin to see the Civic Addressing Signs installed in front of your property later this year. You will also notice the last few years that your Tax Notice has your Civic Address on it! Currently your civic address will not show up on Google Maps etc because those systems have not been updated.

The RM has been working on this project for a couple of years and one of the early steps was to review all the road names in the RM. Addresses were verified, deleted and modified based on a list that was generated for the RM by the Civic Addressing Registry (CAR). This required another level of training and access to the CAR website in order to validate the address points.

The addresses were determined by distance/lots and either the east Range Road or south Township Road. For Instance: **132130** Township Road 150 means the Range Road **1321** to the east and **30** means the Lot Number and of course Township Road 150 is the road where the house is located. **15222** Range Road 1335 means the Township Road **152** to the south and **22** means the Lot Number and of course Range Road 1335 is the road where the house is located. If the road has a special name or Grid Road Name then the number means the Lot # (ie 1261 Highway 1 or 7180 Grid Road 703 or 90 Sharpe's Bridge Road).

**ALL DEVELOPMENT requires a Developmental Permit.** There is no charge for a Development Permit. A Development Permit is required under the RM of Martin's Zoning Bylaw. A Development Permit outlines what and where you want to develop. Acquiring a Development Permit is the **FIRST STEP** for **ALL** projects that alter or affect your property (not just buildings).

**BUILDING PERMIT is a permit required under the RM's Building Bylaw** and mandated by the National Building Code of Canada. A building permit ensures that all new buildings, alterations to existing buildings, changes to building use and building demolitions meet national safety standards. The cost of a Building Permit is \$50 plus the Building Official (inspector) Inspection Fees

- Construction CANNOT take place until the permit is approved and the fees are paid

**The RM of Martin can accept donations for Earlswood Cemetery and issue you a tax receipt for the donation?**

### **THIS IS THE LAW!**

#### **SPEED LIMIT on gravel roads is 80 km/hour**

Section 203 (1)(c) of the *Traffic Safety Act* states: "**No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than 60 kilometres per hour when passing...** (c) any highway equipment on a highway that has ministry issued warning lights in operation, whether in motion or not." This means gravel road and municipal equipment with flashing lights!

**PLEASE SLOW DOWN TO 60KM/HR when passing and meeting RM Graders and workers.**

#### **REMINDER OF YEARLY NOTIFICATION FOR USERS OF NON-POTABLE WELLS**

Please be advised that the water from the Jacobi/Gillich Well (NE 01-13-33-W1); Correction Line Well (SW 02-15-33-W1) and Red Jacket Well (SE 33-14-32-W1), that is available to the public, is not potable (the water is not safe for human consumption). The water from these wells is **NOT TREATED or TESTED** and is considered unsafe for human consumption. **DO NOT USE** this water for drinking, cooking, food preparation and/or oral hygiene purposes.

If you are planning a controlled burn please call the number above so you are not billed for a fire call. The number is answered 24/7 – 365 days a year!

**1-866-404-4911**

If there is a FIRE BAN issued by the Municipality and you burn you will be charged with a fire call (if fire department is called out) as well as a fine. **Most importantly DID YOU KNOW ..... you may NOT be covered by your insurance and could be liable for any damages that occur as a result of the fire!**

Fire Ban Notice is emailed to ratepayers who have given their EMAIL address, posted on Facebook, posted to the RM of Martin Website and a poster in the Wapella Post Office.



#### **MOWING REQUEST**

Mowing will soon be underway for 2023. Please remember **not to drop gates in the ditch area!** Please put the gates along the inside of your fence so they are visible to the mower operator – your gates will inevitably last longer!

**NOTE FOR NEXT YEAR – if you wish to cut ditch hay please contact the office before June 15<sup>th</sup> to let us know so that we leave you something to cut!**



Follow us on Facebook at:  
**RM Martin**

Check out our website at:  
[www.rmofmartin.com](http://www.rmofmartin.com)

**The office is  
CLOSED Fridays  
from beginning of May  
until end of September**

## DID YOU KNOW .....

1. ... **there is no such thing as a Subdivision Tax?** One of the main reasons people think Subdivisions pay a higher tax is because Subdivision owners compare the amount they are being taxed on their houses to what farmers are taxed on their houses. Section 293 of *The Municipalities Act* provides that farmhouses may be fully or partially exempt from tax based on the taxable assessment of land that farmers own. Attached to this Newsletter is a Government of Saskatchewan information sheet **Residential Tax Exemptions in Rural Municipalities** that explains how the 293 Exemption works. A subdivision is subject to the same Mill Rate and Mill Rate Factors as the rest of the Municipality but because farmers' house tax may be reduced it is assumed that Subdivisions are taxed higher – which is not true.

2. ... **that you are taxed on the Taxable Value of the land or house NOT the entire Assessed Value?**

### How is Tax Calculated?

It is important to remember that your Tax Notice has both Municipal Taxes and School Taxes on the notice. The Municipality must remit the school portion of your payment to the Government of Saskatchewan and **does not keep** any portion of it for the RM's use. Also, the RM of Martin has a 3% discount on taxes (including school) for the month of August only.

In the following example, this property has a house on it and has some other farmland that reduces the Taxable portion of the house (exempt portion using the 293 exemption). It does not fully exempt the house from taxation as in this case the farmer does not rent or own enough land to exempt the entire amount of the house.

From the Assessment Notice:

Assessment Type	Assessed Value	Taxable	Exempt	Total
Land	116,300	53,175	0	53,175
Impr	305,200	118,475	125,685	244,160

In the example above this quarter of land has a house (impr = improvement). When calculating tax, the first thing that is important to know is that the Assessed Value is a value that is determined by Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) and is a median value of comparable properties in the province. Assessed Value does not mean that is what you would sell the property for but rather it is long-term value of property. Municipalities do not use the Assessed Value when calculating taxes but rather use a percentage that is **determined** by the Government. There are different taxable percentages depending on the type of land (Pasture/non-arable land 45%; Cultivated/Farmland 55%, Residential 80%, and Commercial 100%). What this means is that the pre-determined percentages are applied to the Assessed Value to get the Taxable Value that the municipality would use to calculate taxes.

For instance in the example above the "Land" Assessed Value is made up of \$113,900 Non-Arable Land + \$2,400 Residential land = \$116,300. To calculate the Taxable Value:

$113,900 \times 45\% = 51,255$  you will see this amount on the Tax Notice

$2,400 \times 80\% = 1,920$  which equals \$53,175 taxable land portion

305,200 x 80% = 244,160 taxable value BUT in this case the property owner has a 293 Exemption (other land that can be used against the taxable portion) of \$125,685. Therefore, in this case the taxable portion is 244,160 – 125,685 = 118,475 these 2 amounts are combined and you will see them on the Tax Notice.

**3. ... that 72.2% of Property Taxes collect in the RM of Martin come from Commercial Properties. Farmers (farmland) account for 20% of our Property Tax income and Residential pays 3.4%. In 2024 the RM of Martin's Tax levy (the amount we will collect from taxes) is \$1,952,716.62. This is broken down as follows:**

Non-Arable (pasture)	\$53,958.62
Agriculture	\$365,437.03
Residential	\$51,134.22
Railway	\$160,916.92
Commercial & Industrial	\$71,990.14
Pipeline	\$1,240,879.69
Minimum Tax	\$8,400 (\$1650 Residential, \$6650 Ag & \$100 Commercial)

Total Commercial Taxes were \$1,222,295.82 which equals 75.5%

Total Agriculture Taxes were \$414,573.16 which equals 21.5%

Total Residential Taxes were \$58,312.70 which equals 3.0%

**4 ... the Reeve (or Mayor) votes on ALL motions, the same as a Councillor.** The Reeve (Mayor) is NOT the tie breaker vote. Each member of Council has one vote.

**5 ... that if the Councillor or Reeve (or Mayor in the case of a Town) does not vote (abstain) on a motion they are deemed to have voted NO.** Legislation requires that every Council member in attendance at a meeting vote on every motion (unless legislations says they must abstain – ie conflict of interest).

**6 ... that if a vote is tied the motion is defeated.** Otherwise, a motion is carried/passed with a majority.

**7 ... the Reeve (or Mayor in the case of a Town) has no more power than a Councillor.** Infact, the Reeve (Mayor) has the same legislative duties and responsibilities as the rest of Council. The Reeve (Mayor) does have a few more *responsibilities* than the rest of Council such as being the Chair during Council Meetings (running the meeting), can request that the Administrator call a Special Meeting of Council, is a member of all Council Committees, and is considered the “Head” of Council. The Reeve (Mayor) also signs cheques and legal instruments as required. All members of Council have no authority to act independently.

**8 ... that Section 92 of *The Municipalities Act* lists the general duties of the Council.** Councillors, included Reeve/Mayor) must swear an Oath of Office and complete a Public Disclosure Statement. They must also declare a Conflict of Interest in any matter that they or a person closely connected to them may have a private interest in. Council (and staff) must pass and follow a Code of Ethics Bylaw.

**9 ... the Administrator's job is to manage the Municipality.** Council makes the bylaws, policies and resolutions/decisions that govern the Municipality and it is the responsibility of the Administrator to implement those bylaws, policies and decisions. In a nutshell Council is elected and provides direction. The Administrator is hired and provides advice and ensures that Council's decisions are implemented.

**10 ... the Administrator's job is legislated by *The Municipalities Act* as well as other Acts.** Section 111 of *The Municipalities Act* states the Administrator shall perform the duties and exercise the powers and functions that are assigned to an Administrator by *The Municipalities Act* and other Acts and by the Council. To see an in-depth list of duties you can look at *The Municipalities Act* or your Municipality's Administrative Bylaw.

**11 ...that decisions of Council must be made by Resolution.** All meetings are open to the public and Councils must follow their Council Procedures Bylaw and have a quorum of Council for a meeting to be valid.

**12 .... that elections must follow *The Local Government Elections Act*.** Legislation dictates when elections must occur, who can run for office, who can vote in an election, and how elections are run including the hours and dates you can vote. The Administrator is generally appointed as the Returning Officer for elections. Returning Officers cannot stop someone from running for office or from voting in an election. The Returning Officer will give the candidate or voter the eligible criteria to determine if they are eligible to run or to vote. Candidates and voters sign a document (declaration) stating they are eligible and may be liable for false information. The Returning Officer's duties and responsibilities are legislated under *The Local Government Elections Act* and all election officials must swear an oath to act fairly and impartially in respect to their duties. The Act determines how elections are run and what duties and limitations election officials have.

**13 .... that the ballot box is sealed after the advance poll and kept in safekeeping until election day.** During both the Advance Poll and Election Day the Returning Officer must keep the election materials and ballot box secure at all times in order to prevent anyone from having access to election materials and ballot box. On Election Day, in front of the first voter of the day, the ballot box deposit slot is unsealed to allow for the ballots to be deposited. The ballot box is not opened (unsealed) until the ballots are counted. Once a winner is declared the election materials are sealed back into the ballot box.

**14 ...that after a winner is declared the ballot box is sealed and cannot be opened unless ordered by a Judge or to destroy the ballots as per Legislation.** A Judge is the only one who can order and open a ballot box before the legislated time to destroy the contents. A petition to the Courts would have to be made and approved before the Judge could open the ballot box.

**15 ... that an Election Official, Candidate or Voter who contravenes *The Local Government Elections Act* may be found guilty of an offense and liable on summary conviction to a fine or jail.**

**16 ....that it is an offence to make a false statement to election officials and a voter or candidate who contravenes the Act may be found guilty of an offence and could be fined or face jail time.** When you come to vote you must show identification verifying your identity and yes even though we know you we must follow *The Local Government Elections Act* and see your ID! You also must sign the Voter's Registration Form declaring that you are entitled to vote. The Returning Officer and Poll Clerk can't stop you from voting if you are not qualified to vote but if you sign the form stating you are qualified and you are not then you may be found guilty of an offence as above.

**17 ....that the RM of Martin has a website.** Have you checked out the RM of Martin website: [www.rmofmartin.com](http://www.rmofmartin.com) If you haven't checked our website out you should! You can find the following information on our website:

- History of the RM
- History of the Council & Administration
- Minutes from meetings
- Election information
- Assessment Information
- Assessment Notices
- Budget
- Financial Statements
- Taxation information
- Bylaws
- Development and Building Permit Information
- Subdivision Information
- Code of Ethics Information
- Newsletters
- Civic Addressing Information
- Public Notices
- Copies of RM Map
- Links to other important information