



2017 Annual Report

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County Council

Division 1:George GlazierDivision 5:Maurice WiartDivision 2:Dale NortonDivision 6:Tyrrill HewittDivision 3:Doreen Blumhagen (Deputy Reeve)Division 7:Diane Elliott

Division 4: Stan Schulmeister (Reeve)

Chief Administrative Officer – Tarolyn Aaserud, CLGM

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

Thank you for taking time to review our annual report. This report includes a description of the activities, programs and projects that have occurred in the County of Paintearth for the year ended 2017. The County continues to endeavor to provide effective and efficient services to you the ratepayer. Please review the following reports and do not hesitate in contacting me to discuss further.

County Council approved a three year operating plan with no additional programs approved. Council's priorities for 2018 are as follows: Financial Sustainability, Support Regional Economic Development Initiatives, Infrastructure, Accountability and Transparency.

County Council and Administration continues to work with our Provincial and Federal Government colleagues to voice and lobby the concerns of rural Alberta. The County continues to lobby the Province to help our ratepayers' transition with the coal industry in our region, province and country.

In closing I would like to thank my Council colleagues and staff on the continued dedication to our municipality and ratepayers.

Respectfully yours,

Stan Schulmeister, Reeve

Administration Office

Office Hours

The County Office hours are 8:30 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

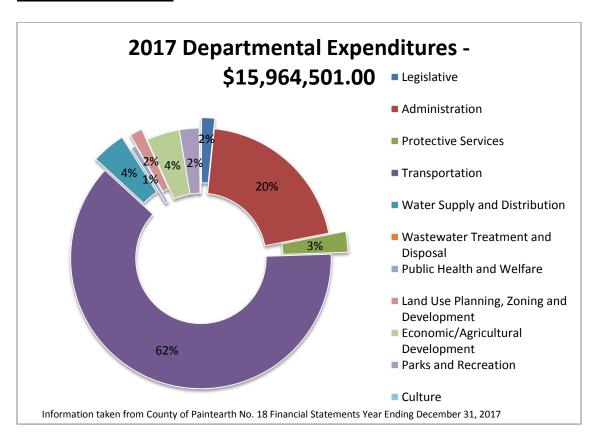
Department of Corporate Services

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 projects financing and tracking, utilities 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.

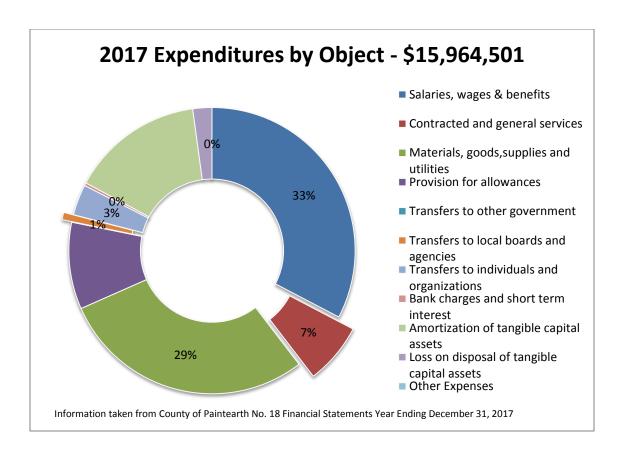
The 2017 Financial Statement is available to the public and can be obtained on the County's website (www.countypaintearth.ca) or by contacting the administration office at 403-882-3211.

2017 Financial Synopsis

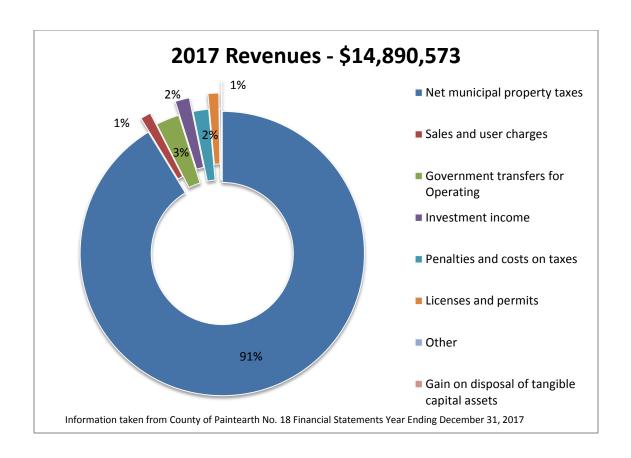


| EXPENDITURES | 2017 Budget | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Legislative | \$348,400.00 | \$261,345.00 | \$297,409.00 |
| Administration* | \$2,060,900.00 | \$3,235,257.00* | \$1,647,082.00 |
| Protective Services | \$435,326.00 | \$412,493.00 | \$365,649.00 |
| Transportation | \$10,121,693.00 | \$9,951,823.00 | \$7,859,441.00 |
| Water Supply and Distribution | \$705,925.00 | \$670,389.00 | \$862,706.00 |
| Wastewater Treatment and Disposal | \$75.00 | \$72.00 | \$72.00 |
| Public Health and Welfare | \$118,200.00 | \$98,708.00 | \$132,203.00 |
| Land Use Planning, Zoning and Development | \$205,700.00 | \$251,318.00 | \$288,575.00 |
| Economic/Agricultural Development | \$701,300.00 | \$657,917.00 | \$726,770.00 |
| Parks and Recreation | \$366,150.00 | \$393,571.00 | \$484,675.00 |
| Culture | \$38,900.00 | \$31,608.00 | \$31,283.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$15,102,569.00 | \$15,964,501.00 | \$12,695,865.00 |

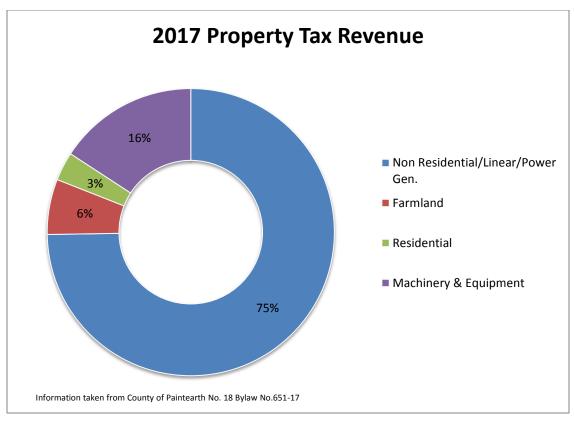
^{*}Administration expenses include taxes and penalties written off as per Council motions: 12.05.17.413 through 12.05.17.421.

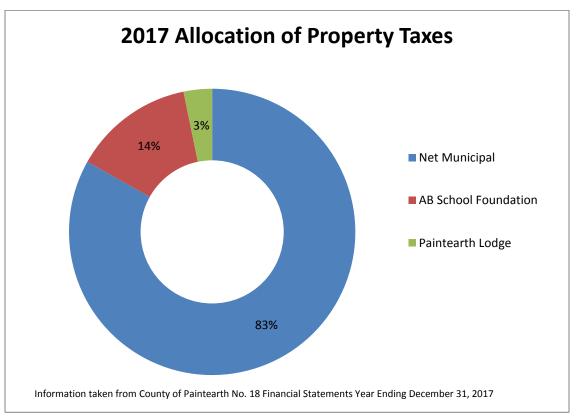


| EXPENDITURES | 2017 Budget | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries, wages & benefits | \$5,619,535.00 | \$5,216,581.00 | \$5,172,795.00 |
| Contracted and general services | \$1,505,409.00 | \$1,104,850.00 | \$1,136,195.00 |
| Materials, goods, supplies and utilities | \$4,759,224.00 | \$4,595,008.00 | \$2,836,891.00 |
| Provision for allowances | \$81,500.00 | \$1,566,456.00 | -\$40,666.00 |
| Transfers to other government | \$0.00 | \$4,169.00 | \$203,077.00 |
| Transfers to local boards and agencies | \$144,000.00 | \$131,870.00 | \$147,395.00 |
| Transfers to individuals and organizations | \$596,826.00 | \$555,686.00 | \$714,582.00 |
| Bank charges and short term interest | \$75,000.00 | \$51,611.00 | \$57,132.00 |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | \$2,271,075.00 | \$2,394,075.00 | \$2,234,869.00 |
| Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets | \$50,000.00 | \$344,195.00 | \$182,279.00 |
| Other Expenses | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$51,316.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$15,102,569.00 | \$15,964,501.00 | \$12,695,865.00 |



| REVENUE | 2017 Budget | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Net municipal property taxes | \$13,662,838.00 | \$13,593,963.00 | \$14,202,104.00 |
| Sales and user charges | \$162,850.00 | \$176,599.00 | \$486,672.00 |
| Government transfers for Operating | \$390,500.00 | \$397,364.00 | \$532,907.00 |
| Investment income | \$150,000.00 | \$241,240.00 | \$179,119.00 |
| Penalties and costs on taxes | \$100,000.00 | \$263,058.00 | \$199,710.00 |
| Licenses and permits | \$28,000.00 | \$181,816.00 | \$28,831.00 |
| Other | \$13,500.00 | \$29,355.00 | \$210,619.00 |
| Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets | | \$7,178.00 | \$12,515.00 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$14,507,688.00 | \$14,890,573.00 | \$15,852,477.00 |





Department of Environmental Services

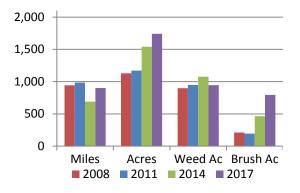
Industrial Vegetation Management

Roadside Spraying

Roadside spraying is done in a three year rotation with the majority being spot sprayed. Division 5 was blanket sprayed and spot spraying of Division 4 and Division 6 was sprayed. 283.5 miles of brush that were mechanically removed with the mulcher was targeted as well.

Across the entire County 1,236 miles were sprayed for a total of 1,741 acres. 54% of the spraying done was for weed control. Total program cost was

\$124,000 or \$70/acre. 52% of the right-of-ways were sprayed.



Private Land Spraying

The County provides custom spraying on private land for control of small patches of persistent perennial noxious or restricted weeds. The ASB is equipped with an ATV sprayer and a UTV boomless sprayer. This service is offered at a very minimal cost as noted on the "Services and EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS".

ASB sprayed about 40 miles of the SMRWC or covered about 32% of the waterline for Absinth Wormwood. The County of Paintearth's ASB has made this weed a priority, but has not elevated it at this time. For now, the ASB has been asked to do an educational awareness campaign on this plant. The County may have to elevate it to a noxious weed under the Weed Control Act if we don't see the population of this plant going down.

Roadside Mowing

Our goal is to complete a minimum of one 15 foot pass on all roads. 1,378.5 miles were completed with 947 miles of gravel, 27.25 miles of pavement, and 246.75 miles of backroads with 143 miles of second cut and 14.5 miles of full cuts. We start in June in order to complete the work as weather and mechanical conditions can play a role. The ASB realizes that areas mowed in the beginning of the year will have regrowth that may require a second cut and if time allows we will do so.



The mowers have been equipped with GPS and allow us to mark different objects such as culverts and rocks. ASB staff picks those rocks that have been marked in May. Please avoid piling rocks or any other objects in the ditch as they are sometimes not visible. We would also ask that any gates that you would like to leave open please have leaning up against the fence.

Total program cost for mowing was \$120,500 or \$23.79/ac. The rotary mowers are the preferred method as it allows 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. Alberta Transportation received 2 weed notices in 2017. If you are concerned or are aware of a weed problem please call the ASB staff.

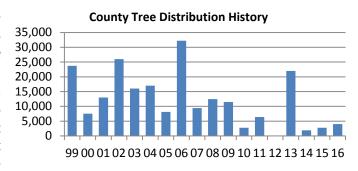
In 2018 ASB will be more diligent in the control of absinth wormwood. The ASB is going to take the approach of education and awareness first, but may look at elevating the weed.

Conservation

Tree Program

Prior to and since the elimination of the PFRA Shelterbelt Program tree orders and farming practices have reduced the number of trees planted.

The County has always held this program in high priority and landowners who order 200 trees or more can request assistance in the planting of the trees at no charge. However, in 2017 no tree orders were placed.



Any resident or business can order trees. There are no longer any restrictions on who can apply. Those who order trees are responsible for the cost as set by the nursery. The ASB will continue to offer a tree program in cooperation with other private industry if feasible. To help in weed control and moisture retention plastic mulch is available for sale to producers with a minimum purchase of a roll (1500'). An applicator is available to lay the mulch down.

Environmental Program Funding

In 2017 we partnered with Flagstaff County and held a Tree & Shelterbelt Care Workshop. We also hosted a Working Well Workshop and a field day relating to Riparian Establishment & Health. The final program was a meeting held with the Town of Castor to inform them about weeds in both the County and Town.

Pest Control

2% Liquid Strychnine

The County has been involved in the sale of 2% liquid strychnine 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 the registration has restricted the sale of the liquid strychnine through the ASB's only. 48 producers received strychnine in 2017.

Coyote Predation Management

The County recognizes that predation of livestock by coyotes can be a serious problem, which are declared a nuisance pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. Livestock producers can request assistance in the control of coyotes where predation is confirmed.

Surveys

The County surveyed for Clubroot in 2017. Five fields per division are surveyed for each, for a total of 35, however the disease was found in Division 7. Another 12 fields were surveyed as a result with the University of Alberta and another 9 fields were surveyed by ASB staff for a total of 56 fields.

ASB staff conducts a grasshopper survey every year and in 2017 numbers were still found to be at low levels.

Beaver Dam Removal

The Board recognizes that beaver dams need to be removed or breached periodically to protect, maintain or construct infrastructure or to avoid the flooding of private and public land. The Ag Fieldman 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.

2017 ASB EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

Rental Equipment Available

Back Pack 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
Crop Protection Blue Books \$11.43 + G.S.T.
Coyote Control Materials no charge

Beaver Dam Removal \$100 for 1st dam & \$50 for each additional

Vegetation Management

- 1. Private Land Spraying \$50.00/hr plus the cost of the chemical per Litre applied at cost plus G.S.T, where applicable, will be charged. One 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.
- 2. Industry Spraying \$50.00 per hour and chemical cost plus 10% plus any GST.
- 3. Weed Picking \$35.00 per hour 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 a roll (1500').

Pesticide Container Sites

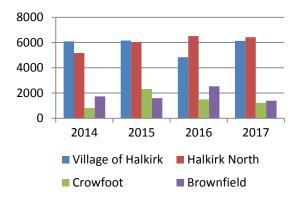
Castor Waste Transfer Site SW 03-38-14 W4
Coronation Waste Management SW 36-36-11 W4

Rural Water Distribution

Rural Water Distribution

There has been approximately 21.5 miles of rural water line constructed off the Halkirk Reservoir that is ready to serve 20 users currently. The Crowfoot Reservoir currently only serves the Crowfoot Subdivision and the Coronation Reservoir currently serves the Town.

Water is brought to the property line where a meter vault is installed. During the engineering phase of a project the cost for hook-up is \$7,500 and if done later the cost is \$20,000. Water is charged based on actual usage. A \$20 monthly capital fee is also applied.

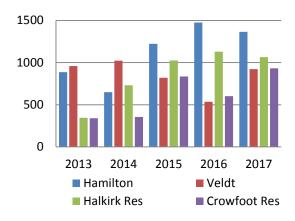


The County is invested in three reservoirs strategically placed in Halkirk, Crowfoot Crossing, and west of Coronation that will be used in the rural water distribution.

Truckfill Facilities

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

All are coin box operated and accept loonies and toonies. Water rates for reservoirs are \$5/m3; Hamilton and Veldt are \$1.75/m3. The Village of Halkirk receives the proceeds from the Halkirk Reservoir. The graph shows the annual use of each. In comparison the average 4 person family household uses 87,600 gallons (400 m3) per year.



The water wells are also used in a groundwater monitoring program. The static water level in both facilities has not changed. The wells are also shock chlorinated in the spring.

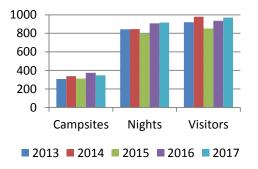
Burma Park

Burma Park

There are 21 campsites located at the park with baseball facilities. There are two playgrounds, shower facilities, hiking trails and free firewood. Camping rates are \$25 for power and \$20 for non-power.

There were no projects scheduled in 2017.

There were just over 970 visitors to the park of which 41% of those were from the County.



Department of Planning and Development

Through the development permit process, the County of Paintearth safeguards and ensures its ratepayers a safe and effective building and planning process for all developments, buildings and subdivisions. The Development Officer is available for questions, inquiries, and is willing to assist/guide all residents through the permit process. A comparison of 2017 with the previous year is found below.

| Development Permits | 2016 | Value \$\$ | 2017 | Value \$\$ |
|------------------------------------|------|-------------|------|---------------|
| Residential Homes (incl mobile) | 8 | 1,725,000 | 11 | 2,842,000 |
| Residential – accessory, additions | 5 | 186,000 | 3 | 70,000 |
| Agricultural uses | 3 | 106,000 | 1 | 40,000 |
| Industrial/Commercial | 13 | 1,366,000 | 7 | 5,685,000 |
| Recreational | 1 | 140,000 | 1 | 80,000 |
| Industrial – Wind Energy | | | 74 | 296,000,000 |
| Totals | | \$3,523,000 | | \$304,717,000 |

2017 was an unusual year, with 23 permits for "regular" developments and another 74 permits specifically for wind turbines in the Halkirk 2 Wind Project, which skews the overall development values. The numbers are broken down in the chart above.

Development Permit fees, applications and related forms can be found on the website. The County of Paintearth completed an annual update to the Land Use Bylaw which brings the County current and aids in the proper development of areas and safeguards rural lands. In 2017 the updates were about: the impending Cannabis legalization and production facilities, housekeeping items to bring into compliance with the new MGA act, and some general regulation updates on manufactured homes and solar/wind regulation corrections.

Subdivisions – There were 10 subdivision applications in the County during 2017, mostly farmstead separations or acreage creations. Common issues with potential subdivisions are

related to the private septic regulation. Due to the area size requirement of open discharge septic systems most acreages are now required to be a minimum of 10 acres, thus the County updated the Land use Bylaw to reflect this. Most subdivisions take approximately 3-4 months to complete. The County would like to offer assistance for a smooth application process, therefore an initial discussion or review with the Development Officer prior to the process is recommended.

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 or to receive a package detailing the development and safety code requirements of your project please contact the Development Officer at the office.

A note on the Windfarms! 2017 seemed to be the year of projects popping up all over the County. The County has approximately 6 companies looking at developing projects – ranging in progress from initial land consultations to one having received AUC approval, yet still requiring provincial funding approval in order to proceed. The county's role in approving and regulating these projects is severely limited by the Province, as the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is the principal authority and has the power to tell the County what it must do. Late in 2017 an appeal was launched in the County and it has yet to be completed. The County must abide by the Province's regulations.

The County has put forth a resolution to the Rural Municipal Association that the Province's AER (Alberta Energy Regulator) assume responsibility for renewable energy products, much like the way it approves and regulates oil and gas projects and ties in strict environmental regulations with such approvals. The County strongly recommends that its residents exercise due diligence when reviewing any legal lease contracts with potential wind projects. It is important to note that you, the landowner, have the final say, not a Surface Rights Board.

The County's Municipal Planning Commission – MPC – presides over all discretionary or sensitive development permits and subdivision requests. In 2017 the MPC was comprised of the following Councilors; Tyrrill Hewitt (Chair), Diane Elliott, George Glazier, and Reeve Stan Schulmeister.

INDUSTRY

2017 was a slower year for the oil and gas industry in the County. There were 25 oil and gas projects requiring 7 new approach constructions, and 18 projects accessing via existing approaches – which is comparable to 2016. There were only 2 new pipeline crossings of our road network, one bored underneath and one trenched in, which was also down from previous years. 2017 showed a significantly reduced number of resource exploration projects, only 44 project notifications were received (down 13 from the previous year's total of 57). The consoling fact though was 26 of those notification were of new wells, or expanded pad sites – helping keep a little pace in the petroleum industry. Let's hope that 2018 rebounds with the rising price of our resources!

Most of 2017's newest action came from Toro Oil and Gas, with a little kicked in by Karve Energy (formerly Apache Canada).

Disaster Services

The County continues to update its emergency preparedness and its ability to coordinate responses in the Emergency Operations Center. The largest threat in our County is wildfires in the dry grassy season,. We encourage all residents to be vigilant in the safe use of fires, when permitted. Check the website regularly for fire ban information!

The County experienced an "a-typical" winter storm event on Monday, October 2nd that levelled the area with no power, unpassable highways, and stranded motorists. The County held an area wide debrief of the storm events on November 9th this identified gaps and areas where we can be better prepared moving forward. This training included preparing for a similar event that lasted longer, with harsher conditions. A follow up workshop is planned for May 31, 2018, for agencies' to share their progress on storm readiness plans.

The County's Public Safety Services Committee consists of Councilors: Doreen Blumhagen, George Glazier, Reeve Stan Schulmeister, and Director of Emergency Management Todd Pawsey.

Community Peace Officer

The County has only one peace officer and he is Colm Fitz-Gerald #15652 Level 2 designation.

The nature of duties performed by Officer Fitz-Gerald include but are not limited to administration and enforcement of county bylaws, traffic laws, consultation duties with RCMP and other county groups. Education has been the main thrust and still is with the major oil companies, energy companies and local land owners with regards to use of county roads.

The economic slowdown could still be felt in the early part of the year and still reduced the amount of road permits in the county however county road use was still busy. Late spring brought a brighter economic upswing hence more traffic in the county. This in turn required the continued pre and post patrol of our roads. Spring saw an improvement in the economy which in turn increased road permits. Officer Fitz-Gerald continues to work with the RCMP, Commercial Enforcement and local fire departments.

Officer Fitz-Gerald is also in charge of running our fire permit program and was part of upgrading the bylaw, including enforcement. There were 250 permits issued.

The file count was down to 25 compared to 27 in 2016; this was due in part to what required a file. The files included RUAs (road use agreements), fire calls and other files. Officer Fitz-Gerald is also part of the Emergency Management Team in planning as well as peace officer duties and also assists other departments in the scope of his duties.

The program and Level 2 designation is effective as per the county's goals and objectives.

Road Bans

The County places bans on the roads throughout the year to protect them from damage, such as deep ruts and potholes that overweight vehicles can cause. Traffic signs are posted when a road is banned, indicating the percentage of axle weights that are permitted to travel on the road. All our paved roads are banned year round at 50% or 75% ban.

All Secondary Highways located in the County are under Provincial jurisdiction. For information on roads under Provincial jurisdiction, 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 will provide all approval services as per the guidelines established by the County. This service will 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 weight.

Department of Public Works

Gravel Program

The County graveled approximately 368 miles of roads in 2017, and applied approximately 65,000 tonne of ¾ inch and 8,500 of 1½ inch gravel to the roads. The summer road gravelling is completed with 4 county owned trucks, consisting of 3 super-b belly dumps and one tandem truck with a tandem belly dump.

The County stockpiles approximately 30,000 tonne of ¾ inch and 10,000 tonne of 1½ inch gravel from our gravel pits to various stockpile sites using our own gravel trucks. In 2017, the County has purchased approximately 67,000 tonne of 4-20 Alberta Transportation spec ¾ inch gravel from outside sources, for the west side of our County. We also crushed approximately 91,000 tonne of 4-20 AT spec ¾ inch gravel and 30,000 tonne of 1 1/2inch in the Horn pit. This is final crush at this location as it has been depleted of crushable material.

Our gravel inventory consists of 600,000 tonne of ¾" 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 10 grader divisions with each grader operator maintaining approximately 100 miles of gravel roads and approximately 25 miles of back roads. The County's grader fleet consists of 1 Caterpillar 160H motor grader, 2 Caterpillar 14H motor graders, and 10 Caterpillar 160M / AWD motor graders. The County buys new graders on a 5 year buyback program and sells the used graders on the open market at the end of 5-7 years. This enables the County to have sustainable and reliable equipment to maintain our roads. The County also has one plow truck for our winter sanding & plowing needs.

The road system is comprised of:

| Regularly Maintained Roads | | 1,095 miles |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Non-Regularly Maintained Roads | | 254 miles |
| Undeveloped Roads | | 470 miles |
| Paved Roads | | 28 miles |
| | Total: | 1.844 miles |

Road Approaches/Culverts

The Public Works Department built 24 new approaches of which 21 required culverts. The Public Works Department replaced 17 culverts across rural roads.

In 2017 the Public Works Department contracted out two culvert replacements. At these two locations we bored a 30 inch steel pipe through the large fills across our road ways.

Road Signage

The Public Works Department is responsible for looking after approximately 1,036 different signs throughout the County. In 2017, 32 signs were installed or replaced and 15 new sign posts were 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 our structures. Major repairs are contracted out. We have staff trained in minor bridge maintenance on all the bridge size structures. Maintenance on these bridges is scheduled throughout the winter or rain days. The County contracts all the bridge inspections out to WSP Engineering.

In 2013 the Provincial Government cut all funding for bridge funding. In 2014 we installed our first single lane temporary 70 t bridge structure, also installed a second one in 2015. We placed this structure over top of the existing bridge.

Fence Line Brushing

The Public Works Department brushed approximately 2.5 miles of fence line and ditch bottoms.

Back Sloping

The Public Works Department back sloped 13.5 miles of ditches and fence lines. 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 56 miles of road ditches with contract mulcher and 25 miles with county owned mulcher.

Road Stabilization

The Public Works Department applied MG30 on 50 miles of gravel roads using approximately 1,265,200 liters at a cost of \$0.25 per liter. The County will be using this product for farm and other road stabilization projects in the future. The biggest advantage to using this product is that it is non-corrosive. We also save on the amount and frequency that gravel is applied to the road once the base has been established with MG 30.

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 2017, the County passed the internal safety audit with a score of 92%. The safety program is ongoing and will always be a big part of the County's daily operations.