

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FERTILE VALLEY #285
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
JANUARY 14, 2026

A regular meeting of council for the Rural Municipality of Fertile Valley #285 was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Council Chambers, 316 Railway Avenue, in Conquest, Saskatchewan.

Present were:

Reeve: Barry Friesen

Councilors for

Div. 1: Lonnie Ingell

Div. 2: Bryce Mauch

Div. 3: Mike Z. Hofer

Div. 4: Bob Silverthorn

Div. 5: Craig Barrington

Div. 6: Bill Thompson

Administrator L. Jean Jones and MAIP Intern Hannah Maclean

Reeve Friesen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Addition to the Agenda

01/26

THOMPSON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 add under New Business, information on TAXervice Engagement Letter 2026.

CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda

02/26

BARRINGTON: That the Agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes

03/26

SILVERTHORN: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 10, 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

List of Accounts for Approval

04/26

HOFER: That cheques numbering 17360-17405, direct deposits, and online payments for December 2025 and January 2026, all totaling \$263,662.76 as shown on the attached List of Accounts for Approval be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

Statement of Financial Activities

05/26

MAUCH: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of December 2025 and Bank Reconciliation at December 31, 2025 shall be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

Barry Friesen

06/26

Dispense with Reading of Correspondence Each Month

INGELL: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 dispense with the reading of correspondence received each month in the coming year and that a listing of correspondence received, be attached to the monthly minutes and dealt with if necessary.

CARRIED.

07/26

Correspondence

THOMPSON: That the list of correspondence be acknowledged as attached to and forming a part of these minutes, now be filed.

CARRIED.

08/26

Fidelity Bond Presented

BARRINGTON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 accept the Fidelity Bond as presented. That the SARM Fidelity Bond Invoice of 238.50 be paid. It includes Fidelity Bond Insurance Coverage of \$100,000 and money and securities coverage of \$2,500.

CARRIED.

09/26

SARM Insurance Plan

SILVERTHORN: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 renew the following SARM Insurance Plans for 2026: 1) SARM Membership Fee \$4,057.66; 2) SARM Benefits, LTD Benefits, EHD Benefits, Vision Benefits, Group Life Insurance Benefits, SARM Group Coverage \$42,152.36; 3) Property Self-Insurance Plan \$16,304.28; 4) Liability Self-Insurance Plan \$2,988.00; 5) Excess Liability Coverage \$1,362.10; Total \$66,864.40.

CARRIED.

10/26

SGI Assignment TS SK 006116075

HOFER: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 accept Saskatchewan Government Insurance Assignment TS SK 006116075 in the amount of \$3,119.94 for Fire Invoice #0008 (Conquest Fire Department October 1/25 Rollover that totalled \$4,873.64).

CARRIED.

11/26

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Membership 2026-27

MAUCH: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 renew our membership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for 2026-27 at a cost of \$293.53.

CARRIED.

BMF

Foreman Darren Jones joined the Council Meeting at 9:50 a.m. to sit in on the meeting with Mark Palmer.

DELEGATION: 9:50 A.M. Mark Palmer, Territory Manager, Brandt Saskatoon, arrived early and met with Council. Discussion centered on service and equipment for the John Deere line of graders in comparison to the CAT 160s we own. Mark to provide better service to our area, something lacking in the past. If a comparable grader comes available for a demo, he will arrange. Mark left the Council Chambers at 10:30 a.m. as did Foreman Darren Jones.

DELEGATION: 10:30 A.M. Ken Habermehl, Ratepayer, met with Council to provide information on his own irrigation project for Habermehl Farms Ltd. that was recently approved by Water Security Agency. Maps were provided to Council for reference. A brief history of irrigation for the Macrorie Irrigation District from 1981 to present was presented to Council. Mr. Habermehl also voiced concerns regarding conversation with the R.M. of Rudy No. 284 about taxing pivots and being site specific. SAMA has a different viewpoint on what should be taxable. Mr. Habermehl left the Council Chambers at 10:55 a.m.

12/26

Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan Membership 2026

INGELL: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 renew the Administrator's Rural Administrators' of Saskatchewan (RMAA) membership for 2026 at a cost of \$425.00 as well as an Associate Membership for MAIP Intern Hannah Maclean at a cost of \$225.00 for 2026.

CARRIED.

13/26

West Central Municipal Government Committee Membership for 2026

THOMPSON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 renew our membership with West Central Municipal Government Committee for 2026 at a cost of \$271.80.

CARRIED.

14/26

Donation to STARS for 2026

BARRINGTON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 make a donation to STARS for 2026 in the amount of \$5,000.00.

CARRIED.

15/26

Donation to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers

SILVERTHORN: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 make a donation to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers for 2026 in the amount of \$200.00.

CARRIED.

- 16/26 Donation to Outlook & District Regional Park for 2026
HOFER: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 make a donation of \$2,500.00 to the Outlook & District Regional Park for 2026.

CARRIED.
- 17/26 Pest Control Officer Appointment for 2026
MAUCH: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 appoint Dean Weldon as Pest Control Officer for the year 2026.

CARRIED.
- 18/26 Weed Inspector Appointment for 2026
INGELL: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 appoint Layne Abrahamson as Weed Inspector for the year 2026.

CARRIED.
- 19/26 Council Regular Meeting Dates for 2026
THOMPSON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 set the regular Meeting date for Council to held the second Wednesday each month at 8:30 a.m. for 2026 with exceptions for SARM and RMAA Conventions: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 6, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 10, December 9.

CARRIED.
- 20/26 Monthly Remittance Deadlines
BARRINGTON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 authorize the Administrator to meet the monthly remittance deadlines for collection of Education Property Tax and Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance received each month. As well, online payments be approved and released for utilities and other creditors to meet payment due dates by the Administrator and Reeve.

CARRIED.
- 21/26 Assessor Appointment for 2026
SILVERTHORN: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 appoint L. Jean Jones as our Assessor for 2026.

CARRIED.

BJJ

22/26 Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board Positional Coverage for 2026
HOFER: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 set the amount of positional coverage for elected officials at \$43,726.00 for 2026, complying with Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board minimum.

CARRIED.

23/26 THE STRAY ANIMALS ACT Administrator
MAUCH: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 appoint L. Jean Jones as Administrator of The Stray Animals Act, for the year 2026.

CARRIED.

24/26 Interest and Discount Rates for 2026
INGELL: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 approves an interest rate on arrears of .75% per month. As well, approves discounts for early payment of taxes as follows: July-August 6%, September 5%, October 4% and November 2%.

CARRIED.

25/26 Council Committees and Appointments for 2026
THOMPSON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 approve Schedule "A" Year 2026 Committees of Council, Schedule "B" Year 2026 Appointments, and Schedule "C" Year 2026 RM Rates/Charges, attached and forming a part of these minutes.

CARRIED.

26/26 Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Application
BARRINGTON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 allocate the 2026 municipal population of 604 for the purpose of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant allocation as follows: Dinsmore 202, Conquest 201, and Macrorie 201.

CARRIED.

27/26 Wheatland Regional Library Representative for 2026
SILVERTHORN: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 representative to the Wheatland Regional Library Board for 2026 be L. Jean Jones, Conquest Library Board Chairperson.

CARRIED.

BMM
8

Notice of Planned Procurement

28/26

HOFER: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 post our Notice of Planned Procurement on SaskTenders, of our participation with the SARM buying Group, for two weeks for the year 2026.

CARRIED.

Beaver Control Program Trappers for 2026-27

29/26

MAUCH: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 reappoint Ralph Guillet, William C. Vavra, and Shawn W. Rafoss for the Beaver Control Program for 2026-27 and that our claim be filed with SARM if required.

CARRIED.

Permanent Letter Postage

30/26

INGELL: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 purchase 15 rolls of letter postage from Canada Post at a cost of \$1,953.00 (tax included).

CARRIED.

Returning Officer Appointment

31/26

THOMPSON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 appoint L. Jean Jones as Returning Officer for the year 2026.

CARRIED.

Alternate Administrator Appointment

32/26

BARRINGTON: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 appoint Trent Sim as Alternate Administrator for the year 2026.

CARRIED.

Salaries and Wages for 2026

33/26

SILVERTHORN: That the R.M. of Fertile Valley #285 approve the following salaries/wages for 2026: Foreman Darren Jones – Annual \$99,262.54 plus benefits; Administrator L. Jean Jones – Annual \$81,030.48 plus benefits; MAIP Intern Hannah Maclean – Annual \$52,000.00 plus benefits; Blaine Norris \$36.00 per hour plus benefits; Henry Bachman \$32.00 per hour plus benefits; Chris Buscholl \$30.50 per hour plus benefits.

CARRIED.

BRZ
8

34/26

TAXervice Inc. Engagement for 2026

HOFER: WHEREAS *The Tax Enforcement Act* requires the municipality to conduct tax recovery proceedings every year; AND WHEREAS Council for the municipality deems it to be in the municipality's best interest to hire TAXervice Inc. to manage tax arrears recovery on its behalf; NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that R.M. of Fertile Valley No. 285 hire TAXervice Inc. to manage tax arrears recovery on the municipality's behalf for a term of 3 (three) years. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrator be and is hereby authorized to sign the TAXervice Inc. engagement letter on behalf of the municipality.

CARRIED.

35/26

Adjournment

MAUCH: That the meeting be adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

CARRIED.

Reeve

Administrator