

**BIRCH HILLS COUNTY**  
**POLICY**  
**# 8**  
**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The Advisory Council recognizes that the maintenance of a good road system is of prime importance to the economic health of Birch Hills County. The value of close cooperation with Alberta Infrastructure in providing that road system is also recognized. The following policies shall be adhered to in providing that system.

**1. ROAD AUTHORITY**

- A. Birch Hills County Council shall be the road authority for all decisions concerning road construction and maintenance within Birch Hills County.
- B. The Council, at their sole discretion may hire private contractors and sub-contractors to work within the County.

**2. PRIORITIES**

- A. Maintenance and re-gravelling of the existing road network shall be the main priority. Construction of new roads and rebuilding of old roads shall be of lesser priority. As a general guide, approximately two-thirds of the budget may be allocated to Maintenance and re-gravelling.
- B. Priorities for gravelling shall be established by the Council on the basis of need as opposed to a regular rotational program. The equivalent of one-third of the total road mileage in the County should be graveled each year. This should not be taken to mean that each road will be graveled once every three years.
- C. Priorities for construction of roads shall be set by the Advisory Council as follows:
  - Priority 1 - Roads which should be built
  - Priority 2 - Roads which may be built if funds are available
  - Priority 3 - Roads which will not be considered at this time.

In establishing the priorities for construction and in allocating available funds, the following criteria will be used:

- 1. Residences with children and no access.
- 2. Residences with no children and no access.
- 3. Patented farmland access.
- 4. Leased land access.

ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL SITES AS REFERRED TO IN #1 AND #2 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS PROOF OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT RESIDENCE HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY AN ACT SUCH AS INSTALLING NATURAL GAS AN POWER SERVICES. ROADS FOR REBUILDING AND CONVENIENCE ROADS SHALL BE CONSIDERED ON THEIR OWN MERIT.

### **3. STANDARDS**

- A. Roads shall be constructed to standards as established by Birch Hills County in concert with Alberta Infrastructure.
- B. Road construction should take place on 30-meter right-of-way. In instances where it is deemed unnecessary or found impossible to obtain such a right-of-way, the Council should review the situation prior to construction. Where a road is not built on 30-meter right-of-way, backsloping or landscaping agreements should be obtained where possible.
- C. All new and re-built roads shall be graveled as soon as is reasonably possible after construction.

### **4. COMPENSATION FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY, ETC**

- A. Council will set rates for compensation from time to time for land and fencing. These rates will be set out in a Schedule of Rates to be attached to this policy.
- B. Compensation for fencing will only be paid for fencing, which is in a functional condition at the time of negotiation. Compensation may be in the form of a cash settlement or such trade of service agreed to by Council.
- C. Compensation shall be paid for windbreaks where over 50% of the width of the windbreak is destroyed. Rates shall be equivalent to the cultivated land rate for all windbreaks.  
Special consideration may be given by Council to increase compensation in individual cases where:
  - the windbreak is near a dwelling or,
  - the owner has spent considerable time and effort in planting or caring for the windbreak.
- D. Compensation for other than land, fencing, and windbreaks shall be negotiated by Birch Hills County on an individual basis. Fair market value and/or replacement costs should be used as a general guide in negotiations.
- E. Where borrow pits are purchased, compensation for crop damage may be negotiated by Birch Hills County in addition to the basic purchase price.

### **5. DRAINAGE IN ROAD DITCHES**

- A. Council recognizes that, in certain cases, water transfer in roadside ditches may be of benefit to the agriculture community.
- B. Where a farmer wishes to use the roadside ditch for water transfer, he must be prepared to do the work himself except where changes to the culvert systems are required. In those cases, Birch Hills County will do the culvert-related work at the County's expense in order to ensure proper installation.
- C. The farmer will be responsible for obtaining approval from Birch Hills County prior to constructing any ditch.
- D. Where the water transfer affects other landowners nearby, or goes beyond the boundaries of the quarter section of land on which the water originates, the farmer must obtain a permit or letter of authority from Alberta Environment which includes approval by the affected landowners.
- E. The farmer must accept all responsibility for any changes in water flow patterns, which result from his ditching.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

**SCHEDULE OF RATES**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>CULTIVATED LAND:</b> | <b>\$400.00/ACRE</b>   |
| <b>BUSHLAND:</b>        | <b>\$150.00/ACRE</b>   |
| <b>BORROW PITS:</b>     | <b>\$500.00 PER PIT (MAXIMUM TWO ACRES).<br/>WHERE COST BENEFITS JUSTIFY,<br/>ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS TO A MAXIMUM<br/>OF \$400.00 PER ACRE WILL BE<br/>PERMITTED.</b> |
| <b>FENCING:</b>         | <b>\$3,000.00/MILE (OWNER SUPPLIES<br/>MATERIALS) OF VIABLE FENCE OR<br/>REPLACEMENT BY BIRCH HILLS COUNTY<br/>AT THEIR EXPENSE.</b>                               |
| <b>WINDBREAKS:</b>      | <b>\$400.00/ACRE FOR 50% OR MORE.<br/>REDUCTION IN WIDTH, IF LESS THAN 50%,<br/>\$150.00/ACRE.</b>   |
| <b>OTHER:</b>           | <b>INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATION WITH FAIR<br/>MARKET VALUE AND/OR REPLACEMENT<br/>COSTS USED AS A GENERAL GUIDE.</b>   |

**AMENDMENT: September 23, 1992**

# TRANSPORTATION POLICY

## SCHEDULE OF RATES

Individual negotiations with fair market value and or replacement costs used as a general guide for the following:

- ❖ Cultivated Land
- ❖ Bush land
- ❖ Borrow Pits
- ❖ Fencing
- ❖ Windbreaks

Schedule Amended: February 12, 2003