

Best Practice

Contracting Road Grading Services

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

The RM of Big Stick has a small population base and is faced with the difficulty of attracting an experienced grader operator to our community to maintain the roads. The municipality determined that in order to reduce costs, improve service, maintain infrastructure and attract an experienced grader operator, it would be best to contract our road grading services.

THE PROCESS

Many different scenarios comparing the benefits of the municipality providing road maintenance services versus contracting the work were examined prior to signing the contract. It was determined that the costs associated with owning and maintaining the equipment and machinery were significantly greater than contracting the work to somebody else. The RM worked with Amec Infrastructure to design and tender a road maintenance contract.

THE RESULTS

This practice improves road quality, adds to the life expectancy of the roadways and cuts costs allowing for additional revenues to other expenditures. The RM now has a reduced payroll, and savings are returned to other transportation costs such as gravel, primary weight road construction and rock removal.

The RM of Big Stick also receives compliments and inquiries on behalf of other municipalities and their ratepayers regarding the superior road conditions in the municipality.

LESSONS LEARNED

The RM of Big Stick has learned that contracting our road maintenance services is necessary to maintain and improve our road system. This allows administration and council member to concentrate their efforts in other areas of concern. Added benefits include not having to pay for asset depreciation and being able to invest the savings to increase the municipality's fiscal capacity.