

Introduce yourself:

My name is James Unrau. I have lived in Eston for 6 years. My family and I moved here after coming to visit and realized that the town would be an exceptional place to raise a family. I love how the community comes together to support each other and how we look out for our neighbours. Being involved in the community is very important to me. I joined our local Lions club when we moved here, have been Lions president, and have enjoyed my time on town council. I have been on the rec board and was directly involved in refurbishing the outdoor rink. Working at the CO-OP has given me the opportunity to know our local residents on a more personal level. I am looking forward to continuing to serve our community in the future.

Question 1

70 % growth. 30% sustainability

A major problem facing countless small towns is the aging population of the residents. By focusing on growth through program's initiated by the Economic Development committee, the town and RM can focus on plans to attract not just residents but new commercial and industrial opportunities for people to be employed at. With the increase in revenue from both residential and commercial taxes, we would be able to increase services while lowering taxes for all residents.

Question 2

I believe that continued education and training would lead to increased efficiency from all employees. For example, being able to diagnose and maintain equipment on our own, we would be able to greatly diminish downtime on said equipment. The downside of this is the upfront cost of training as increased wages that would, in turn, come along with completion of training. In time, however, we would start to see savings by not having to contract out work that we could now do ourselves.

Question 3

Infrastructure is an ever evolving aspect of town maintenance. Knowing whether to repair or replace is a difficult process. In our towns case, our infrastructure is very old. Once a problem is diagnosed, a discussion about cost analysis needs to take place. These discussions, ideally, take place during the yearly budget, but we know from experience that breakdowns don't happen on our schedule. For this reason, repairs should always be the first and most cost effective option, however if problems continue to present themselves you may have no option but to replace a whole unit. This is why the town needs to continue working on our asset management and capital planning to build up reserves to replace aging infrastructure.