

April 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:27 p.m., by videoconference, with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- Shaun Hatfield
- George El-Jakl
- Jody Crook
  
- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was agreed that the following item be added to the agenda:

- Delay of interim tax billing

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the meeting held March 16, 2020, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

At the March 9, 2020 meeting, it was suggested that once all roads identified under the TIR Cost Shared Agreement have been addressed, then consideration be given to a Local Road Improvement Grant Program. This would be a way for Council to assist individuals wanting to maintain their private road. A list of private roads, containing 3 or more civic addresses, located within the Municipality was provided to members for review.

Much discussion took place regarding this proposed program. It was suggested that such a program would include the following:

- A Road Association must be formed and registered with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.
- Municipality would match funds raised by the organization for road maintenance, up to a maximum.

066.

Page 2, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting April 14, 2020

- Roads qualifying would have minimum 3 houses.
- This program would apply to all private roads including Goose Lake Road and Barrington Lake Road.

It was agreed that staff prepare suggested program details for consideration of members at a later date.

#### ADDITIONAL TIR FUNDING FOR J CLASS ROADS

It was reported that correspondence has been received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal advising that a one-time \$10 million allotment was provided in the 2020-21 Provincial Budget to repave existing paved Provincially owned J Class roads throughout the Province. This program would be cost shared on a 50/50 basis the same as the Cost Shared Program for Paving Subdivision (J Class) Streets as set out in the 3 year agreement.

Municipalities are being asked to submit a list of paved J Class roads to be considered for repaving not later than April 17, 2020. Municipalities must also confirm funding approval to participate.

#### Resolution COW200402

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that Fish Plant Road be submitted to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for repaving.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### COST TO PAVE LIGHTHOUSE ROAD UNDER TIR COST SHARED PROGRAM

The Municipality previously submitted a list of roads to be considered for paving under the TIR Cost Shared Program for Paving Subdivision (J Class) Streets for 2020-21. The Lighthouse Road from CFS Baccaro Gate to Lighthouse, paving - 0.581 kms has been approved by the department. The total cost of the project has been estimated to be \$350,000.00 of which the Municipality would be responsible for 50% - \$175,000.00.

The department is looking for written confirmation as to whether the Municipality approves the project at the cost noted above.

Correspondence also indicated that the department has identified issues with Petticoat Lane, Bateman Road and Symonds Road. These roads require extensive widening and ditching and directed the Municipality to contact the district for further details.

#### Resolution COW200403

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the municipal cost of \$175,000.00 to pave the Lighthouse Road, located in Baccaro.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the municipal portion of \$175,000.00 would be taken from Gas Tax Funds.

PROPERTY TRANSFER REQUEST - CLEMENTS POND AREA

Correspondence has been received from Lawyer Celia J. Melanson on behalf of Paula and Randy Waybret regarding a camp they purchased in 2017 at Clements Pond. Since acquiring the property they have discovered that the camp is not located on their property identified as PID 80068307, but is on property owned by the Municipality. Mr. and Mrs. Waybret are requesting that the parcel of land where the camp is located be subdivided by Instrument of Subdivision and transferred to them, in exchange for the property they own.

It was agreed that staff investigate the request to determine the impact and provide an update to members on their findings.

CROWN LAND HARVESTING - DECEPTION LAKE AREA

It was reported that a reply has been received to our letter sent to the Minister of Lands and Forestry requesting that their harvesting plans for the Deception Lake area be put on hold until the ecological forestry practices included in the Lahey Report are seriously considered and assessed for implementation.

The reply advised that they continue to implement the recommendations in the Forestry Review and do not plan to put a hold on Crown land harvesting. As part of the Forestry Review implementation, regular assessments of the department's progress will be carried out.

DELAY OF INTERIM TAX BILLING

Due to COVID 19, it is suggested that the interim tax bills be delayed and issued the first week of May and allow 60 days before interest begins to give people a little more time to arrange for payment. Interest will commence July 1, 2020.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that the Province in cooperation with NSF and AMANS is preparing a Tax Deferral Program to assist residents who are experiencing difficulty in paying taxes.

Members were advised that interest on outstanding accounts was frozen on March 17, 2020. After further consideration of this freeze, it was agreed that interest be charged again starting May 1, 2020. It was noted that by freezing interest for the past 6 weeks it has resulted in a savings to property owners of approximately \$16,500.00.

Payment options were discussed. At present taxes can be paid as follows:

- Using the drop box recently installed at the front of the Administrative Centre
- By cheque or money order
- On-line
- By phone
- At the bank in person (residents should check with local banks to confirm their policy)
- On our website using Paymentus

At present no payments are being accepted in person.

068.

Page 4, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting April 14, 2020

Resolution COW200404

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the issuance of the Interim Tax Bills be delayed until the first week of May and interest on the interim bill be charged effective July 1, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

