

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held a special meeting of Council on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

Council present were: Ralph Groening, Stan Siemens, Leo Kornelsen, Barry Fraese, Denis Robert, Sieg Neumann.

Also present for this meeting was Don Harder, Public Works Foreman.

This meeting was called to review the budget needs and requirements for our various departments and committees.

Reeve Herm Martens requested brief reports from the various committees as to their proposed needs and requirements for 2002 and also for needs in future years.

Welfare Committee - As this is an unknown cost factor and it was proposed that \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 be budgeted for 2002.

Private Dykes - It was mentioned that we assumed that the dykes are almost done. There may be one or two left to be done and that we did no longer allowed them to be on the road. Dykes connecting to the road should have a set back from the road to allow for snow plowing and mowing.

Water Works - The Sperling water & sewer project is underway and application is now being sent to Environment for their approval. There was discussion on the overall aspects of the project and what scheduling is for the construction work for this project. Council also discussed the issue of rural water lines and that Provincial funding available for any line projects that may be feasible. We also discussed the borrowing authorization for any rural line projects.

Building Maintenance - It was reported that a new floor is needed for our Municipal shop and that floor heat should be considered at that time. It was proposed that this flooring could cost approximately \$20,000.00. Also, the front door at the Municipal Shop is not in good shape and will likely need replacing in the next few years.

Employee Relations - The Office Building Caretaker was informed that due to the changes made to work requirements for the Office Building there was to be a \$100.00 reduction of the care taking payments. It was also mentioned that for 2002 there would be discussions relating to staffing at the Municipal Office and Public Works.

Protection Committee - Our Fire Departments are operating within budgets allocated and also that Lowe Farm has requested an increase to their budget allocation. The appreciation supper given for the firemen was very well received and it was felt that when the next such supper is held that the Town of Morris Fire Department be included in this event.

Equipment - It was noted that perhaps the backhoe operator could do other jobs than just operating the machine. It was also discussion on the situation of changing the degree of service being provided and also the number of machines we are currently operating and when our equipment units should be traded in. Our Hitachi track hoe will likely need to be traded in next year. We should also purchase an extended warranty on the John Deere motor grader. Council considered what had been purchased recently and were informed that our budget estimates for purchasing motor graders was substantially too low and needed to be increased.

Equipment - Mr. Don Harder presented Council with a listing of the ages of our equipment, hours and then discussed when such machinery should be traded.

Roads - Our gravelling program was discussed and it was mentioned that Lavallee Trucking is wanting to enter into a 3 year contract with their being a \$.25/tonne increase and a fuel surcharge after \$.50 per litre. Council felt that the additional fuel surcharge should start at a higher level and that we be informed of a base starting rate for Lavallee Trucking.

For Dust Control, the cost of \$200.00 per site would likely remain at that amount and that this information would be offered in a newsletter or flyer that should be put out by the Municipality this spring.

There were 2 new roads being considered for gravelling and a decision on this matter would be made at a later date. Such new road projects would likely cost approximately \$14,000.00 per mile.

For the Prairie Grain Roads Program for Riverside Road, it was felt that because of certain cost factors being considered by the Municipality that this project be delayed to the year 2003.

Drainage - For the 2002 construction year, the requests received to date comprise a full slate of construction time. There is more work requested than can be done and some of the work must be prioritized. For a project in the R. M. of De Salaberry, the Marsh River crossing at Gilbert Lussier needs to have a greater culvert capacity at this location and there should be some discussion with De Salaberry on this matter.

There should be a letter sent to the Minister of Agriculture indicating that the Agriculture Dept. Should not be commenting of drainage issues. Having good drainage is a benefit to agriculture and that department should be more involved in promoting proper drainage. Council discussed the need for drainage licencing and that requirement for farmers.

A GPS unit is being considered for next year at a cost of \$70,000.00 and because of the cost of the unit, it was felt that consideration should be given to share with other Municipalities. These is a cost factor that involves a computer, software and purchasing or leasing of the GPS unit.

Councillor Sieg Neumann informed Council of the issues involved in creating trustee wards for the Morris Macdonald School Division.


Reeve


Municipal Administrator.