

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

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

Rosenort  
Dyke  
Waters

At the start of the meeting, Council discussed the situation of two households affected by the Rosenort Dyke and the impact that it is having. It was felt that the east access road for these two families needs to be raised crossing the Morris River. There is no access for these families during times of use of the diversion and the Province of Manitoba is not responding to the situation. Council believed that the matter should be taken to senior levels of Government.

Foreman  
Report

At 9:10 a.m., Council met with Mr. Don Harder, Public Works Foreman, and was informed that the local drains were going down in their water levels, however, the drains that extend beyond our boundaries to the west were still going up. There is a lot of land under water and there will likely be significant crop losses, depending on how fast the water can leave the land. The final levels of the Red River will be a significant factor as to how well the drains will work. There are many culvert traps open and it is impossible to get to them in order to close the trap.

Prior to the rains, there was approximately 2 weeks left of drift dirt to be cleaned out and it is assumed that all the drift dirt has been washed away. The wide bucket has arrived for the hi-hoe and was being used.

With the water levels going down, it is likely that the Municipality will be able to resume the planned drainage program soon. It is hoped that the bridge replacements will be done in the near future.

The gravel program will likely be delayed 1 to 2 weeks because of the rains. The Prairie Grain Road Projects are planned to start in August.

Mr. Al Recksiedler is currently attending water and sewer courses and will be away for the entire week.

Council discussed a drainage issue in the NW of Section 16-5-1 EPM and it was felt that there was not a reasonable solution to the situation noted. Also for the drainage/erosion situation South of River Lot 338, it was explained that the dyke built on the road allowance property is eroding because of the drain and the some form of drop structures would likely help the situation. It is believed that their dyke claim should do this work and pay for the project.

For the Sperling water and sewer project, the contractor has now completed the main lines and is undertaking the connection stubs, however, because of the rains he has delayed further work until conditions are better. The lagoon tender has been let to JKW Construction, however, he will not be able to start on the project until early to mid July because the lagoon area is under water and it will take time to drain and dry up enough to start work.

Agenda

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Barry Fraese:

#101/02. Resolved that the agenda for the June 12, 2002 regular meeting be now approved as it is now amended or as may be amended.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Council then held a short discussion on the issues of the new Morris Arena, our future involvement on this and other projects as well as the recent events of the resignation of the Recreation Director.

Minutes

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:  
#102/02. Resolved that the minutes of the May 8, 2002 regular meeting and the May 9, 2002 special meeting be now accepted as presented by the Municipal Administrator.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

2002  
Disaster  
Assistance  
Requested  
- Drift Dirt

Moved by Sieg Neumann, Seconded by Barry Fraese:  
#103/02. Whereas heavy rainfalls in the summer of 2001 destroyed many crops for that growing season and therefore did not have sufficient land cover in the fall of 2001 which left many fields subject to erosion;  
And Whereas the Rural Municipality of Morris experienced severe winds this spring that caused drift soil to be deposited in drainage and road ditches throughout the R. M. of Morris;  
And Whereas the costs of a disaster are deemed to constitute an unreasonable financial burden upon a municipality, the Province of Manitoba may provide financial assistance on the basis of a cost sharing formula;  
And Whereas the Province of Manitoba Disaster Financial Assistance Policy defines a disaster as a calamity or any emergency caused by accident or the forces of nature, which has resulted or may result in widespread damage to property;  
And Whereas these severe winds have caused a situation whereby the threat to the agricultural community is extreme;  
Therefore Be It Resolved that the Rural Municipality of Morris make application to the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization of financial assistance to remove drift soil from the municipal drainage and road ditches.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

2002  
Disaster  
Assistance  
Requested  
-Heavy  
Rainfalls

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Leo Kornelsen:  
#104/02. Whereas the Rural Municipality of Morris experienced severe and heavy rainfalls on June 9 and 10, 2002 that caused flooding and damage to roads and erosion of property and the threat to property throughout the R. M. of Morris;  
And Whereas the costs of a disaster are deemed to constitute an unreasonable financial burden upon a municipality, the Province of Manitoba may provide financial assistance on the basis of a cost sharing formula;  
And Whereas the Province of Manitoba Disaster Financial Assistance Policy defines a disaster as a calamity or any emergency caused by accident or the forces of nature, which has resulted or may result in widespread damage to property;  
And Whereas these heavy rainfall have caused a situation whereby the threat to the property and infrastructure within the R. M. of Morris is extreme;  
And Whereas this flooding has caused a tremendous financial loss to the farming community in the R. M. of Morris;  
Therefore Be It Resolved that the Rural Municipality of Morris make application to the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization for financial assistance toward this flooding situation.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Council then recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Stampede  
Races

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:  
#105/02. Resolved that we agree to sponsor Mr. Leroy Anderson for the chuck wagon races at the Manitoba Stampede and Exhibition for the 4 days of the event.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

cond. Use  
Hearing -  
Sperling  
Lagoon

At 1:30 p.m., Council held a public hearing for Conditional Use No. 9/2002. This is an application by the R. M. of Morris for a sewage lagoon for the Community of Sperling sewer and water system.  
Mr. Clay Rasmusson and Ms. Arlene Hall attended the hearing. They live approximately 1/3 mile south of the proposed site. They questioned why that location was chosen. It was then explained that the site location is based on the proximity to Sperling, the availability of land and costs involved. This land was available to purchase where other sites were not and this site does have a good location to Sperling.  
Their concern was smell from the lagoon and it was explained that most urban lagoons are close to that town. There is some smell but it is very infrequent and is not similar to a hog barn lagoon if that is what they are using as a reference.  
They requested that they be notified when the lagoon is to be discharged as they have pets that they want to protect. It was explained that the Province regulates when we are allowed to discharge and that the bacteria, etc. counts are at approved levels.  
The hearing was then closed.

Variation  
Board

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:  
#106/02. Resolved that the Council of the R. M. of Morris now become the Variation Board of the Municipality to consider Variation Application No. 1/2002.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Variation  
1/2002  
Rhymer  
SE 12-6-1E

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Barry Fraese:  
#107/02. Whereas Lloyd Rhymer has made application for a Variation Order for the West 630 feet of the East 1570 feet of the South 605 feet of the SE of Section 12-6-1 EPM;  
And Whereas this application is for the purpose of creating a 9.5 acre yard site;  
Therefore Be It Resolved that the Variation Board of the R. M. of Morris does now approve this Variation Application No. 1/2002.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Variation  
Bd. Adjourn

Moved by Denis Robert, Seconded by Stan Siemens:  
#108/02. Resolved that the Variation Board of the R. M. of Morris does now adjourn and resume as the Council of the R. M. of Morris.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Hearing  
Cond. Use  
10/2002  
Sunnydale

At 2:00 p.m., Council held a public hearing for Conditional Use application 10/2002 for the construction of a 1,200 sow to weanling hog barn in the NW of Section  
Present for this hearing were: Blake Friesen, Jeff Siemens, Ed Leask, Mary Swain, Suzanne Schroeder, Allan Southam, Rosemary Epler, Heather Armstrong, Robert Bunkowsky, Jake Neufeld, Heather Bunkowsky, Doug Bunkowsky, Thorsten Stanze, Herbert Stanze, Elwood Kaminsky, Kathy Bunkowsky.

Hearing Continued

Mr. Jeff Siemens spoke first advising Council of their plans to construct a 1,200 sow to weanling hog barn. They had previously presented Council with a written proposal on this application. The weanlings from this operation are to supply weanling to one of the existing hog barns located on Section 23-6-2 WPM. They are hoping that this type of operation will provide a better quality animal for their barn.

Mr. Blake Friesen stated that there are many barns much larger but this barn is more manageable. They plan to plant a tree shelter belt around the site and to have covers on the lagoon. In the last few years, there have been improvements made to issues of odors and they are striving to reduce odor.

Mr. Ed Leask told Council that he is opposed to the application. He lives close to the proposed barn and would be most affected by it. He presented Council with a petition of 27 names in opposition to this proposal. The odor from this and all barns is an issue and is not sufficiently addressed. He lives 1 mile away from this site and would it affect his manner and quality of living. The proposed barn is in the flood zone, which is another issue to consider. The applicants have no concern for neighbors for the spreading of manure from their existing barns. In the fall of 2001, the manure spreading from their other barns was a very offensive odor and people for many miles away were affected. He urged Council not to approve the proposal.

Mrs. Mary Swain informed Council that she is opposed to this barn application. The odor from the existing barns affect people in Sperling and more is not needed.

Mrs. Suzanne Schroeder stated that their manure spreading in 2001 was a very offensive odor. The Province takes no action on issues of smell. There are cases of environmental problems, such as manure in drains and rivers causing problems in lakes as well. We must be good stewards of the land and they are not. They live elsewhere and are not affected by their own barns.

Mr. Allan Southam indicated that other barns are not quite as offensive as the applicant's barns. Their barns do smell.

Ms. Rosemary Epler told Council that the manure spreading is causing a fly problem and that she is opposed to this barn application.

Ms. Heather Armstrong stated that she is opposed to this hog barn application. She understands the importance of farming and that all people living in the rural areas deserve a good quality of life and having to put up with offensive odors is not a good quality of life.

Mr. Robert Bunkowsky is opposed to this barn application. The hog industry is now corporate. He lives 2 miles from this proposed barn site and stated that it would impact his quality of life and the value of his property. Having an owner/operator living on the barn site is a different situation. It is up to the Municipality to protect the local residents and their quality of life and be free of offensive smells.

Councillor Kornelsen asked how many employees would be in this barn.

Mr. Siemens stated that this barn is to have 6 employees. They have also made an option to purchase 2 houses in Sperling for these employees. When these pigs are ready for market, it is planned that they be shipped to the U.S.

Councillor Groening questioned the issue of local grains being purchased for these barns.

Mr. Siemens stated that he did not have that information but that the feed mills would be able to supply that information.

Hearing Continued

Councillor Fraese asked on the issue of the manure spreading in the fall of 2001. There were many calls received on the method of disposal and the strong smell it created. Other barn operators have concerns over the smell created for this disposal. Their machine is like an aeration machine with the manure spread over the top of the ground.

Mr. Blake Friesen stated that this process is the latest technology and the manure saturates into the soil better than the traditional cultivator method. In the fall of 2001, they had to agitate the lagoon longer because the solids had not been removed for a number of years. In past years the agitation of the solids had not been done and this additional agitation caused additional smell.

Reeve Martens stated that there were many phone calls from people many miles away.

Mr. Friesen indicated that there were many years of solids buildup on the bottom of the lagoon that had to be disposed of.

Mr. Siemens stated that he is involved in the operation of the barn operations. Where he lives, he is close to 12 barns. Many people live with smells from one form of business or another.

It was mentioned that others need to be supportive of the industry and without support from the hog industry itself how do you make others supportive.

Mr. Friesen stated that there are pros and cons to every industry.

Councillor Neumann indicated that the lagoon should be emptied once per year and should not be emptied over a long period of time.

Mr. Friesen told Council that they had bought their own equipment for the manure disposal and they plan to only dispose of the manure once per year. They had to agitate the lagoon solids for 80 hours because of the amount of solids and this did create a greater amount of smell than would have normally.

Mr. Thorsten Stanze indicated that he only smells their barns on PR 205 and that other barns do not seem to smell with the same consistency as their barns.

It was then stated that they needed 340 acres to dispose of the manure and that the applicants have that much and more already signed up.

It was then noted that the R. M. of Morris has a 1% refundable performance bond.

Mr. Doug Bunkowsky questioned whether a 1% performance bond was a significant deterrent to a barn operator. A cheap fine is not a deterrent to not have to operate in good stewardship.

Mr. Jake Neufeld told Council that when there was straw cover on the lagoon there was a significant number of flies on the yard and the tarp cover did reduce the smell and the amount of flies at the site. He informed Council that he works for Sunnydale, and that generally hog barn employees do make a good salary.

Mrs. Suzanne Schroeder questioned why the agitated solids in the lagoon had not been done for 5 years and who was looking after the operation at that time.

Mrs. Heather Bunkowsky stated the municipality has a number of barns and enough is enough. There is pressure from the Province to build barns, but Council must remember who they are representing and that these operations are a detriment to the quality of life for rural residents.

Mr. Neufeld indicated that they purchase a lot locally in Lowe Farm and Rosenort. The lowest paid employee is \$11.00 per hour.

Mrs. Bunkowsky questioned that many answers were not specific and if there more barns planned.

Hearing Continued

Councillor Robert indicated that feeder barns have a worse smell than that of a sow barn. The hog barn built in the municipality have helped to maintain the tax level. It services are to remain, where is the Municipality to get its funding from.

Councillor Neumann stated that the Provincial Government is supportive of this industry and is financially beneficial to the Provincial economy.

Councillor Groening indicated that the taxation issue is a concern. The pressure for more hog barns is coming from the pork industry and is corporate driven, Maple leaf driven, Provincial Government driven.

Unless barns become odor free, people may start moving form the area. The expansion of this industry is overwhelming.

Councillor Siemens stated that there are different types of barns and each type of barn provides different assessments. Sow barns have much greater assessment than feeder barns and also employ more people.

Mrs. Schroeder indicated that in the future, the Municipality may not have people in the Municipality if there is a down turn in the hog industry.

Mr. Bunkowski stated that tarps were an improvement. He has had to move his house back from the road because of dust and that much of the traffic on PR 205 is related to hog barns. The traffic to hog barns travels on the road regardless of weather conditions and the Province is not putting money into their roads.

The hearing was then adjourned at 3:30 p.m. and Council took a short recess at that time.

Foreman  
Report

Mr. Don Harder then met with Council and informed them that the water levels in the large drains is going down. However the Shannon Drain is now flooding into Section 36 and 25-4-1 WPM and that general area.

Cond. Use  
9/2002

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Ralph Groening:

#109/02. Whereas the R. M. of Morris, on behalf of 3102432 Mantioba Ltd., has made application for a conditional use order for the construction and operation of a sewage lagoon in the North 689 feet of the East 659.5 feet of the SE of Section 29-6-2 WPM;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the R. M. of Morris does now give approval to Conditional Use Application No. 9/2002.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Rosenort  
EMC Youth  
Roadside  
Cleanup

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:

#110/02. Resolved that we donate \$250.00 to the Rosenort EMC Youth Group for roadside cleanup along the road to the Rosenort Landfill Site.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Assessment  
Workshop

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Denis Robert:

#111/02. Resolved that Barry Fraese and Grant Macaulay be authorized to attend the Environmental Assessment Workshop in Portage la Prairie, Man. on June 26, 2002.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Subdivision  
H. Hildebrand  
SE 6-5-2W

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Barry Fraese:

#112/02. Whereas Henry Hildebrand and Dora Hildebrand have made application for a subdivision in the SE ¼ of Section 6-5-2 WPM under Planning File No. 4152-02-4470;

And Whereas this application proposes to create a 23.8 acre yard site; Therefore Be It Resolved that the R.M. of Morris does now approve this application subject to the following conditions:

1. That a Variation Order be obtained for the 23.8 acre site.
2. That the owner is responsible for any additional accesses required because of this subdivision.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Subdivision  
G. Dyck  
NE 15-5-2W

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:

#113/02. Whereas Leslie Dyck and Gary Dyck have made application for a subdivision in the NE ¼ of Section 15-5-2 WPM under Planning File No. 4152-02-4425;

And Whereas the house on this property is to be moved away and the applicants do not wish to proceed with the application; Therefore Be It Resolved that the R. M. of Morris does now reject this application.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Siemens  
Farms -  
Manure Bldg.

Moved by Sieg Neumann, Seconded by Stan Siemens:


#114/02. Resolved that we approve the new manure storage building for Siemens Farms Ltd. on the SW of Section 27-5-1 EPM and that he meet Environmental requirements.

Carried. For 7  
Against 0

Moved by Councillor Stan Siemens:

That the meeting be now adjourned at 5:15 P.M. with Council agreeing to meet again on Monday, June 17, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. to continue the agenda of June 12, 2002.

  
Reeve

  
Municipal Administrator