

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

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

Agenda

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Denis Robert:
#21/03. Resolved that the agenda for the February 12, 2003 regular meeting be now approved as it is now amended or as may be amended.

Carried. For 5
Against 0

Committee Reports

Committee Reports

Leo Kornelsen – Weed Control District – may continue operation as they are looking for other partners. There are also concerns relating to the West Nile virus and Weed Districts spraying for mosquitoes.

Denis Robert – Equipment – possible sale of some equipment and the purchase of replacement of same.

Sieg Neumann – there will be a budget meeting in the near future.

- Livestock Committee and concerns relating to tarp covers.

Ralph Groening – Rural Water Committee working on the 2003 line proposals.

- The Drainage plan is ready to propose to Council. He has also met with Water Resources concerning their needed work in the Tobacco Drain.

Minutes

Moved by Barry Fraese, Seconded by Denis Robert:
#22/03. That the minutes of the January 8, 2003 regular meeting and the January 9, 2003 special meeting be now accepted as presented by the Municipal Administrator.

Carried. For 5
Against 0

LUD of
Rosenort
Delegation

At 9:30 a.m., council met with Mr. Greg Friesen of the LUD of Rosenort Committee. He raised questions of the Rosenort Dyke project and how other communities were having their 10% share waived. He was informed that the Municipality was looking into the situation and was waiting for information from Steve Topping.

He also asked if the Municipality would participate in the possible paving of the parking lot area for the Heritage Centre. Council indicated that they would consider the matter, however, they first wanted to know if the Heritage Centre would be providing their share to the project.

He questioned the MEMO outstanding 1997 claim for River Road North and Rosewood drive.

He mentioned there was water sitting in some area of Rosenort and there was a possible concern relating to the West Nile virus.

He also mentioned the new Development Plan and asked what the status was of that plan. Council advised him of the current status of the project and what may or may not be happening in the hear future.

Delegation

At 10:00 a.m., Kim Toews and Danielle Bruneau of the Red River Valley Child Care Centre met with Council. Their organization was started last year and they have very part-time staff and are located in the basement of the Lutheran Church. They are a family center and operate on a non-profit basis with very limited resources. They deal with Parenting, Nutrition, Literacy and Community Enhancement. Much of their nutrition program is sponsored by the RHA and federal funding. They have a charitable status and hope to continue operations by accessing grants, business donations, fundraisings and possible financial support from the Municipality. Their current funding sources are being reduced and they hope to get other funding sources to continue and expand their current programs. They have held the Mother Goose program in Lowe Farm and Rosenort and want to do more and asked for Municipal support.

Debenture
Hearing
By-law
1562/03

At 10:30 a.m., Council held a public hearing for the Local Improvement By-law for a debenture issue for the rural water lines that were installed in 2002. Mr. Allan Loewen attended the hearing and although he had no questions for the hearing, it was quickly explained to him the process of the debenture issue and the effects relating to his property. There being no further discussions, the hearing was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Public
Works
Foreman

At 11:00 a.m., Mr. Don Harder, Public Works Foreman, then met with Council. There is a water main break in Rosenort near Country Graphics and that repairs would start tomorrow.

There are still some deficiencies for the Sperling Water Plant. He then informed Council of cost estimates for bridges crossing the Morris River near Riverside. For the Riverside West bridge the cost estimate is \$16,600.00 and for the Riverside Bridge the cost estimate is \$23,000.00.

He then provided Council with a listing of culvert requirements and indicated that there were 12 bridges left in the Municipality. They discussed the 2003 gravel program and that the 2002 Prairie Grain Roads were not included in the 2003 program and that the proposed 2003 roads under the Prairie Grain Roads was also not part of the 2003 gravel program. For the Prairie Grain Roads project for Sewell Road there would be a shortfall of \$41,000.00 and for Mile 31N road the shortfall would be \$56,700.00.

He also mentioned that the equipment Committee had located a 15' gravel box from Fort Garry Industries at a cost of \$7,000.00. they were also looking at a 1996 Ford Aeromax truck from Loadline at a cost of \$20,000.00 and also a low bed trailer for \$18,000.00 but the trailer needs tires and a safety.

Council then recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Cond. Use
Hearing
1/2003
Puma Pork
SW 16-5-2W

Council then held a Public Hearing for Conditional Use Application No. 1/2003 by Puma Pork for a 6,000 feeder hog operation in the SW of Sec. 16-5-2 WPM.

There were 20 people present for this hearing.

Reeve Martens then gave a brief explanation of the hearing process.

Dulaney Blatz spoke of his involvement in the Lowe Farm community.

He mentioned that Elmer Toews of Ste. Anne was the proposed purchaser of the farm. He is currently working at Quinfield Farms hog barn. He mentioned that he was opposed to hog barns in the past but now having worked in barns is supportive of the industry.

He has not noticed any smell in his yard from the K line barns NE of his yard site. He plans to continue living in the home yard and asked that the proposal be approved.

Mr. Jeff Senebald of Elite Swine stated that this proposal of 3 – 2000 feeder hog barns is 858 A.U. and would operate on a 16 week cycle with the animals being all in/ all out. They would use the Elite Swine dead animal 24 hr. pickup. For the site, the barns are 675 feet from the East property line and 165 feet from the road. The project would hire 2 full time employees.

Mr. Rich Smith, of Elite Swine, mentioned that the operation must comply to other Government requirements. This location has good soil conditions for lagoons. Plans are to have shelterbelts planted around the site. For the lagoon they are planning to use straw cover which works very well. They want to try a product from Gullaguard which is straw held in place by plastic meshing but which must be replaced every year. He then reviewed a written presentation to Council. The hog manure is a natural organic fertilizer and is 96% water.

Elva Dyck spoke that there is an increasing number of Intensive Livestock Operations in the area. The Municipality has approved many barns in 2002. The smell from the barns could be harmful. The corporation has little benefit to the community as it only benefits the Municipal and Provincial Governments. Long time employees are selling out to barn employees. This is not community growth, it is replacement of people but still does not benefit the community. Ontario and Quebec have initiated moratoriums on hog barns. Some barn sites approved by the Municipality are in the flood zone. This is not an agricultural operation but is a factory and all intensive livestock operations are commercial. They devalue property, affect the quality of life for residents of the area, and we have enough barns. Council should consider a moratorium to stop all barn construction for a period of time.

Colleen Dueck presented a petition of 16 names in opposition to the application.

Dave Dueck spoke that they have lived at their location for 18 years and their yard site is 1.5 miles SE from the proposed site. They are often outside in the summer time and the odour from the barn would affect their way of life in the summer. In North Carolina they are finding health problems in areas where there are many hog barns. They have a concern regarding water pollution from hog barns. A barn of this size produces the equivalent manure as that of a town of 6,000 to 8,000 people. The value of their farm will decrease. There are enough hog barns and the owner should reside at the barn site. We do not know the effect of the current barns approved for the area and no more should be approved for the area.

Cornie Paetkau mentioned that Dulaney Blatz plans to move out of the residence. How are neighbors expected to react to such applications. Smell from hog barns and from stubble burning all affect one's health. There is now a large area of land in the area that is for manure disposal and which affects a great area of residents. Manure disposal leaves a smell in the field for a long time. He asked that Council stop and consider all of the barns that have been approved. Overland flooding happens in the area and would affect the area residents and the hog barn flooding would carry the manure off the fields to ditches and down stream.

Victoria Groening stated that she is opposed to this application. One does not need 3 barns to make a living. There are many barns approved for the area and there is a concern of flood threats and over air quality as well. One cannot trespass on others property but smell from barns travels many miles and affects all in its way. Council should move very slowly and should take stock of what has been approved recently.

Reeve Martens asked who does final inspections and was informed that Manitoba Conservation inspects and a professional engineer also must certify the lagoon.

Councillor Groening noted that the manure management plans are registered in Steinbach and wondered what kind of compliance is kept to the registry of the plans.

Councillor Neumann mentioned that the barn is only 165 feet from the road and trees in between would cause snow problems. The manure disposal is a natural fertilizer and commercial fertilizer may also cause problems. Mr. Smith stated the situation must be manure managed properly. There is a great variety of nutrient content in the manure depending on the barn operation (feed, washing frequency and amount of water used, etc.).

Elmer Toews stated that he has 2 hog operations with a total of 8500 hogs near St. Anne. Hog barns have a value to an area in that the manure increases crop production. He plans to be the majority shareholder for this proposed barn and would be the contact person for this operation. Councillor Groening mentioned that the K-line barn have 19 employees with 5 being in the area and most employees are not moving into the area.

Cornie Paetkau mentioned that it has been stated that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the smell is from the lagoon and $\frac{1}{4}$ from the barn. He believes that these percentages are wrong and the $\frac{3}{4}$ of the smell is from the barn and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the smell is from the lagoon.

Rick Smith stated that the industry is working constantly on air quality in barns and exhaust fans. A drier barn does smell much less.

Victoria Groening asked if compensation is given to the area people and was informed that nothing was given. She then stated that something should be given back to the community. These are big barns and big industry and they should be contributing to the communities.

Dulaney Blatz stated that it is important for communities to have support from the barns and there is a need for youth in a community.

Dave Dueck indicated that different people have different sensitivities to smell and that hog barn smells affect people differently and wondered if they would get value for their property.

Colleen Dueck said that they do not want to be force to move because of the odour. 2 barns in the area produce 8 million gallons of manure.

The hearing was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. and the meeting resumed at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Delegation

Mr. Jeff Senebald and Mr. Rich Smith of Elite Swine met with Council to discuss some of the events that are taking place in Alberta. Alberta had a similar process as Manitoba and Alberta has now legislated that the Province would administer hog barn applications. In Alberta the Province does the approval process and does enforcement of all permits as well. The Municipalities are consulted on applications.

Moved by Councillor Barry Fraese:

That the meeting be now adjourned at 5:05 p.m. with Council agreeing to meet again on Thursday, February 13, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. to continue the agenda of the February 12, 2003 meeting.


Reeve


Municipal Administrator