

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

Minutes of a special meeting held on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 commencing at 1:30 p.m. between Reeve Herm Martens, Deputy Reeve Ralph Groening and Garry Haggarty with Neil Carroll, from Intergovernmental Affairs and Ken McGill, Sheri Grift and Mark Brodrick from the Department of Agriculture.

Garry Haggarty led off the discussion by stating that the R.M. of Morris had tried to find a reasonable compromise. Council has made some changes but there might still be some agricultural issues left.

Ken McGill presented the objectives from the Department of Agriculture. They felt that the buffer zone around the communities is too large and also that there should be more than 20 Animal Units allowed in this area. He suggested that Council was eliminating options for some producers.

Reeve Martens and Councillor Groening replied that rural residents in the villages are asking for even greater separation. Council also feels that the Farm Practice Board and Department of Environment have not been very much help. Council also pointed out that ILO's are still allowed in 2/3 of the municipality.

Mr. McGill stated that waterways are dealt with under the Environment Act. He suggested that livestock could be limited to 300 Animal Units in the restricted areas. Mr. McGill also suggested that Council could consider restricting livestock between PTH 75 and PR 246. He suggested a smaller zone with no ILO's and a surrounding area of restricted livestock.

Reeve Martens replied that the Council feels caught in the middle. They do not feel that they can depend on the Department of Environment to enforce any regulations and the residents do not approve of "sloppy" operators.

Garry Haggarty advised that conditional uses could present problems with enforcing and tracking.

Mr. McGill replied that the R.M. could set up a restricted area with 300 animal units maximum. He would recommend that Council set a limit of 300 animal units before requiring a conditional use. He also suggested that on Page 58 solid manure could have relaxed guidelines and on Page 59 the guidelines for non-earthen storage could be relaxed.

Reeve Martens and Councillor Groening agreed to call a special meeting on Friday, December 19, 2003 to consider the following items:

1. discuss allowing some livestock in the restricted area;
2. discuss distances from rivers;
3. the trigger point for conditional uses (presently 20)
4. non-earthen manure storage and dry manure.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Reeve



Asst. Municipal Administrator