

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

Minutes of a special meeting of the council of the R.M. of Morris held on Thursday, December 30th, 2004 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Reeve Martens and Councillors Groening, Fraese, Kornelsen, Neumann and Wiens were present with Reeve Martens in the chair. All members of council had been given notice of this meeting. This meeting had been called by Reeve Martens to hold two separate variation orders, consider funding for a wellness centre, hold a tax sale, and discuss various outstanding matters.

Reeve Martens called the Variation Board to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. James Boulton attended regarding application for variation #9/2004, to allow a yard site of 17 acres.

272/04 Leo Kornelsen-Barry Fraese

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris approve application for variation #9/2004 to allow a yard site of 17 acres.

Carried

No persons attended to be heard regarding variation #10/2004

273/04 Ralph Groening-Sieg Neumann

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris approve application for variation #10/2004 re John Wurmnest to allow a front yard of 17 feet and a separation of 6.6 feet between buildings.

Carried

Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing funding for a proposed wellness centre and a public hearing that was held on December 14th. Councillor Fraese abstained from all discussion and voting on the question.

274/04 Sieg Neumann-Ralph Groening

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris give first reading to by-law #1584/2004 being a debenture by-law for a new wellness centre.

Carried 4-1

Mr. Bruce Gregory, the Municipal Solicitor, attended the meeting at 9:45 a.m. He discussed with council some problems concerning the proposed tax sale. All parcels have to be sold at the same time. The public trustee has asked for additional information. Mr. Gregory does not think that the R.M. should proceed with the tax sale because this would open an opportunity for the public trustee to challenge the validity of the entire sale. Mr. Gregory recommended that the tax sale be postponed by approximately 30 days in order for the public trustee to investigate their parcel.

275/04 Lionel Wiens-Sieg Neumann

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris adjourn the tax sale to February 9th, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Carried

Mr. Gregory then left the meeting.

Reeve Martens and Councillor Groening reported on the LUD Committee meeting and advised that the LUD has accepted the contract from Waste Management.

276/04 Ralph Groening-Leo Kornelsen

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris confirm the LUD of Rosenort decision to accept the contract with Waste Management.

Carried

There was a considerable amount of discussion concerning the natural gas line that had been installed in the LUD of Rosenort and also in the rural area. The original agreement for the split of the cost had been 20% R.M. of Morris and 80% LUD of Rosenort. Due to the drastic increase in the price of natural gas, not as many people signed up as had been anticipated. There was also some discussion that the R.M. of Morris receives taxes in the rural area and receives ½ of the property taxes from Centra Gas in Rosenort, with the balance going to the LUD of Rosenort. These total taxes amount to approximately \$35,000.00.

277/04 Ralph Groening-Sieg Neumann

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris write off the Centra Gas receivable of \$22,411.89 with ½ of this amount being charged to the LUD of Rosenort.

Carried

There was some discussion concerning the LUD of Rosenort agreement regarding water and sewer. The net cost of \$224,808.47 for the upgrading of the pumphouse and installation of a sewer lift station has been shown as an account receivable. The LUD of Rosenort would like to transfer \$100,000.00 from the LUD general account and the balance from the utility nominal surplus. The LUD was also requesting that there be no interest charges due to offsetting account receivables.

278/04 Leo Kornelsen-Ralph Groening

Resolved that the R.M. of Morris accept the agreement with the LUD of Rosenort regarding the water and sewer receivable.

Carried

The C.A.O. was requested to check into a walking trail that had been paved in Rosenort in 1999 by Maple Leaf Paving and to find out where this cost had been charged.

Reeve Martens suggested that the income statement portion of the financial statements should show budget and actual for two separate years. The C.A.O. was requested to make this change for future statements. Council would like to receive a four-page statement with two pages being the general fund balance sheet and two pages being the general fund revenue and expenditure.

There was considerable discussion concerning the Lowe Farm lift station. The Lowe Farm lift station was upgraded in 1997 as a balance outstanding showing as an account receivable of \$63,659.21. Council also determined that the Lowe Farm Utility Fund owes the Rural Utility Fund approximately \$28,800.00 for water that had never been paid for. This resulted because Pembina Valley Water Corporation had installed a ¼ inch line that was not metered.

The C.A.O. was instructed to prepare the following transfers for year-end:

1. Lowe Farm Utility is to transfer a net of \$21,000.00 to the Rural Utility Fund. This would be based on the free water of \$28,800.00 less the Pembina Valley Water Corporation rebate of \$7,800.00.
2. The general fund will transfer \$4,500.00 to the Lowe Farm Utility Fund for the sale of equipment from the Lowe Farm Utility that had never been transferred.
3. The Lowe Farm Utility Fund surplus in the amount of \$68,053.89 will be used to pay off the balance of the lift station monies in the amount of \$59,159.21.
4. The revised net Lowe Farm Utility deficit in the amount of \$12,105.32 will be left, to be made up by future surpluses in the Utility Fund.

Page 3
December 30th, 2004

279/04 Sieg Neumann-Ralph Groening

Resolved that Alvin Wiebe, Don Harder and any member of Council be authorized to attend the GIS conference.

Carried

Councillor Kornelsen reported that the Fire Departments recognition evening will be on January 25th in Lowe Farm and he has arranged for Mr. Les Kletke to provide entertainment.

Councillor Groening then left the meeting due to a previous commitment.

Council then broke for lunch and reconvened at approximately 1:15 p.m.

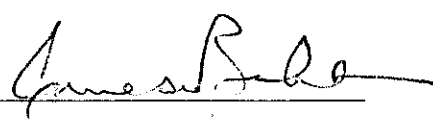
Reeve Martens will set up a meeting with Mr. Steve Topping to discuss problems with the Land Management Branch. The Land Management Branch is advising that they are not prepared to transfer properties to the R.M. that had been promised by Mr. Topping.

Council requested to have complete financial statements quarterly, with the four pages being presented monthly.

There being no further business the meeting was then adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



Reeve



C.A.O.