

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the R.M. of Morris held on Tuesday, November 1st, 2005 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Reeve Martens and Councillors Groening, Fraese, Kornelsen, Neumann and Robert were present with Reeve Martens in the chair. Councillor Wiens had sent his regrets. Reeve Martens had called this meeting to review the dyke billings and any other business that needed to be done.

Council decided that their general objective would be that they want to be done with all of these billings. They also want to present general arguments to the Province that Land Management Services, engineering and survey fees are way too high. It will also be Council's hope that the existing billings would be reduced.

Council then reviewed each of the dyke projects with the following comments to be used in preparing a brief to the Province.

Lowe Farm

- ☐ Land Management Services cost of \$8,578.29. This was for a friendly purchase in the amount of \$6,538.00 or 131% of the purchase price.
- ☐ Engineering costs are 25% of the construction costs.
- ☐ The survey costs are 110% of the purchase price of the land.
- ☐ Extra provincial administration fees are 92% of the purchase price for a friendly seller.
- ☐ The total provincial fees plus surveying and engineering represent 39% of the total project costs.
- ☐ This land was not purchased but was only leased for a 100-year period.
- ☐ Can you explain the Land Management Services bill for \$4,164.10 dated June 30th, 1999?
- ☐ Why are there any surveying costs in December 2003, and who received these monies?

For the Riverside dyke, the Council presented the following questions:

- ☐ The administration fee of \$58,636.58 is excessive.
- ☐ The provincial fees, administration, Land Management Services, engineering, and surveying fees are equal to 25.7% of the total project.
- ☐ Land management fees are 24.49% of the purchase price for friendly purchases.
- ☐ What is the December 2004 bill for Hotsy for \$3,000.00?
- ☐ Is this a double billing for Riverside and for Aubigny?
- ☐ The actual work was \$363,727.27 for Specialty Flood protection. This is equal to only 44.8% of the total project cost.
- ☐ The contractor advises that he is short \$30,000.00 on the payments that are stated in the reconciliation that Council received from you.
- ☐ Who is Barry Hallick and why are there charges from him on the Riverside project?

For the Rosenort project, the Council had the following questions:

- ☐ On page 10, what are the Mastercard charges for? Three of these seem to be duplicates.
- ☐ On page 8, there is a bill paid to KGS for the Ste. Agathe project.
- ☐ On page 4, why are there janitor fees, and especially in 2005?
- ☐ On page 3, can you explain the charges for photography and for CIBC Visa?
- ☐ Also on page 3, why are all the Corpel water bills charged to Rosenort and can you explain the MTS bills?
- ☐ Can you explain the bill from Pitney-Bowles?
- ☐ Can you explain the administration allocation on page 7?
- ☐ The total administration charge of \$293,397.75 as outlined on page 7 is excessive for this project.
- ☐ The administration, plus Manitoba Land Services, plus engineering, plus surveying equal 11.7% of the total project cost.
- ☐ Can you explain the steamer bill for \$5,600.00?

For the Aubigny dyke, the Council had the following comments:

- ☐ The administration, engineering, and surveying fees equal 27.8% of the total cost.
- ☐ The administration and Land Management Services fees are excessive.
- ☐ The actual work is only 20.2% of the total cost.
- ☐ Can you explain the item on page 4 in the amount of \$32,965.49 for miscellaneous other fees from 2002?

Council had the following general comments:

- ☐ There are total charges from Manitoba Telephone System of \$139,281.46, Manitoba Hydro - \$170,182.60, and Centra Gas - \$78,952.47.
- ☐ There is total survey services cost of \$113,415.24.
- ☐ There are engineering costs paid to private firms in the amount of \$1,049,862.14.
- ☐ There are Land Management Services costs in the amount of \$389,434.83.
- ☐ There are provincial employee wages and travel costs charged to these projects in the amount of \$447,939.35.
- ☐ Council believes that there should be no engineering fees charged from the Province, because all of the engineering was contracted out. Yet the Province has charged a total of \$447,939.35 of provincially employed engineers to these projects.
- ☐ Council believes that the Land Management Services fees are outrageous.
- ☐ Council is concerned that when the Federal Government and the Municipality agreed that the engineers should be fired because of incompetence that the Province overruled this decision.
- ☐ There are major engineering flaws in that the Rosenort dyke is not operating the way that it was intended. It was intended that the river channel would accommodate all of the water inside of the dyke. In 2005, Council was advised that pumps would be required because the riverbed was not holding the water. Instead of going after the engineering firm, the provincial employees advised the R.M. of Morris that they would have to pay in perpetuity to cover the cost of pumps.
- ☐ Council wants to point out that Province of Manitoba does not have to reach the maximum cost.
- ☐ What is happening with surplus lands?
- ☐ Council is not in favour of using lots on the north side of PR 205 in Aubigny for borrow pits.

There being no further business the meeting was then adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Reeve

C.A.O.