

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

Minutes of a special meeting of the Council of the R.M. of Morris held on Tuesday May 11th, 2010 commencing at 7:30 p.m. held in the lower level of the Rosenort Credit Union. This meeting had been called as an additional hearing regarding By-Law 1663/10. This by-law proposes to close a portion of Canola Drive that runs North/South at the East end of Canola Drive. Some residents in the Rosenort community had requested a special meeting in Rosenort, because it would be difficult for them to attend the official meeting on May 12th, 2010. Council agreed to hold this special hearing and to hear all comments. Mayor Martens, and Councillors Groening, Kornelsen, Neumann, Robert, Siemens and Wiens were present. Approximately 80 local residents were also present.

Mayor Martens reported that the Council had started with a total of 5 options that have been narrowed to 2. These 2 options were:

- 1- Close Canola Drive and have no alternative.
- 2- Build a road East and North along the airport runway.

Mayor Martens then asked for any persons wanting to speak in favor of this proposal.

Mr. Ron Braun, the General Manager for Westfield Industries gave everyone present a brief history. He advised that Westfield was celebrating their 60th Anniversary, from when four brothers in Rosenort started producing augers. They have a steady history of expansion, until they are now the largest manufacturer in the world. Westfield was purchased by AG Growth Industries 10 years ago. A lot of their production is now done by robotics. They are proposing to build a new building consisting of 30,000 square feet. 8,000 square feet of this building will be for research and development. Westfield presently has 340 employees. Each new job in manufacturing has been shown to create 11.4 additional jobs. AG Growth has a total 8 locations, and chose to do their expansion in Rosenort. AG Growth has a concern about safety with the road going through a manufacturing area, and the fork lift traffic.

Barry Fraese stated that the ditch going East is the start of the road, which is fine. There should be no large equipment on this road. He also thinks that Westfield should make some contributions over time.

Diana Kroeker advised that she lives at the corner of Roselane and Canola. She is concerned about safety in case of an accident or fire. She also advised that there is a senior centre on Canola. She has further concerns regarding a medical emergency, and thinks that Canola needs two ways out.

Angela Siemens advised that people leaving Westfield are speeding, and they do not turn East as they are instructed to. She would like to see Canola Drive going East and Westfield employees forced to go that direction.

Theresa Thiessen stated that there is a lot of traffic on this road in the mornings. She is concerned that running Canola Drive further East would just be delaying the same problem again. She would like to see the roadway go between Rosenort Agro and Westfield.

Tracy Dueck asked why Westfield was not willing to change their parking lot.

Ron Braun responded that the shop layout conflicts with any change.

Brent Friesen stated that he lives at Canola and Spruce. He is opposed to closing Canola and is opposed to extending Canola Eastward. He believes that the best option is to go between Rosenort Agro and Westfield.

Chuck Brandt spoke and advised that he is a minority share holder in Rosenort Agro. He advised that they are open to a proposal to give up land if Westfield gives up the parking lot. They would have to find a proposal that would work for everyone.

Darren Plett asked if it was legal to close Canola. He was concerned about the number of houses. He would recommend a higher standard, and felt there should be a second exit.

Diana Kroeker stated that there is too much traffic. It does not make sense to have one access only.

Tracy Dueck stated that Westfield is a great asset and no one wants to make Westfield feel like a villain. She is aware of a safety hazard at the intersection with PR 205.

Al Ginter asked if Westfield could use the lane by Rosenort Agro.

Mayor Martens replied that Rosenort Agro uses this lane for their parking and they're not willing to give it up unless they have a different parking area.

Remi Courcelle stated that there have been two accidents in one day. He is afraid that we can never control speed.

Theresa Thiessen asked where would the money come from to go East.

Mayor Martens advised that Westfield would buy Canola and the municipality might take some gas tax money. 10 years into the future there is no firm plan. Mayor Martens asked for a show of hands on who would be in favor of just closing Canola East. No persons put up their hands.

Henry Thiessen stated that the land belongs to the RM, and wondered what happens in the future. Will the new road have to be closed? He would appreciate if Westfield spent more time on garbage clean up.

Denis Robert stated that no one knows what will happen in 10 to 15 years. There could be a new access road ready on the South side of the old dike.

Ryan Plett stated that if there are only two options, and we would have the same problem in approximately 10 years, then we are not forward thinking by building the road to the East.

Brent Friesen asked if it was more cost effective to remove the quonset and build a road then to move the parking lot.

Henry Thiessen suggested that we could go East of the dike and then go West along the South of the old dike.

Leo Kornelsen stated that he was concerned about fire protection and only having one access.

Wes Friesen advised that he realizes the danger, but does not want employees on Canola.

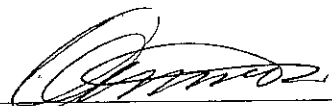
Frank Peters, the Chairman of the Rosenort Chamber of Commerce stated that the community does appreciate Westfield.


Sandy Eidse stated that with the proposed continued growth, the parking lot will still be a problem.

Tracy Dueck asked if Canola will be put up for tender, and was advised no. She also asked if an alternate road would be built before Canola was closed. Ms. Dueck also asked if the RM would consider putting back the stop signs at Canola and Spruce. Council is not in favor of this plan. Ms. Dueck further asked if the RM would build a sidewalk along Canola and was advised that no decision had been made. She also asked if stop signs would not slow down traffic and was told that no it would not.

Cam Cornelsen suggested that it would be a good idea to put up speed bumps on Canola. No one present wants to just close Canola Drive.

There being no further persons wishing to speak, the meeting was then adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


CHAIR


CAO