

IN RECOGNITION OF COVID-19 OUR OFFICE DOORS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Spring Newsletter –
April 2020



Vision Statement

A future with growing, sustainable communities and a diverse economic base resulting in more people, more jobs and more housing.

Greetings from the Reeve

Our lives have all changed dramatically in the past month with the aggressive world wide spread of Covid-19. The true impact for us will take some time to unfold but there is no question that change will be significant. The priority for all of us at this point is of course to remain healthy and to follow the clear directive of provincial and federal leaders. Go out only if you must and follow 'social distance guidelines'.

We remain hopeful that this spring will not require response to a high-water event. Normal weather patterns over the next 2 weeks should result in a water event somewhat similar to 2006 (less than 2011).

RM of Morris Council has completed work on the 2020 budget and we expect to present financial package that will result in 2% increase in actual cash request of our ratepayers and residents. The Covid-19 picture has caused us to review and analyze various operational options. Council will meet on April 8 to review and discuss plans for the upcoming year. The public hearing for the RM Morris budget will be Tuesday April 28 at 9:30 a.m. We will provide additional detail on the process we will use for the public hearing because of Covid-19 considerations.

The priority project for this year will be to begin construction of additional water storage for Rosenort region. This project will require the support of both the federal and provincial government and we are waiting for a decision on our Investing in Canada grant proposal.

The RM of Morris Council is committed to service our community and will make every effort to plan, and make decisions that result in a sustainable, affordable and equitable quality of life for our residents.

Please be safe and make every effort to protect and keep our community healthy.

We wish you all the very best as you face this remarkable life challenge.

Our lives have changed forever!

CAO Report

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held it's annual strategic planning workshop in early February and spent time discussing a number of agenda topics. One of the topics of discussion was the Annual Financial Plan for the municipality. Consensus of Council at the end of the workshop was that every effort should be made to establish a Financial Plan for 2020 that would only have an increase in the Municipal Tax Levy in the area of 2%.

We continue to work on the 2020 Financial Plan and will be presenting it at a Public Hearing scheduled for April 28th, 2020 at 9:30 AM. Due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic we are anticipating that an 'in-person' Public Hearing may not be achievable and we are therefore taking the necessary actions that will allow us to have a 'virtual hearing' via technology available to us. If you are a taxpayer/resident of the Rural Municipality of Morris and wish to attend the hearing virtually we would ask that you call our office and we will advise you how to attend.

Speaking of Covid-19, it has changed the way we work, communicate and interact. Our Administration office has been closed to the public for a number of weeks now and we don't know how long this will continue. Some staff are now working from home and a few of us are still here taking care of the things needing to be done on a daily basis. We are still here to serve you, just not on an 'in-person' basis. We do appreciate your patience during this time.

We are looking forward to Spring 2020 and also hope that flooding will be negligible, however as we are not in control of the weather, we will have to take a wait and see approach.

So, as we keep being told – 'Stay Safe, Stay Home and wash your hands frequently'!

Serving the communities of
Sperling, Aubigny, Rosenort,
Riverside, McTavish, Silver Plains,
Lowe Farm, Kane and Sewell since
1880.

Public Works Report

Spring is upon us; winter was fairly quiet for snow removal. But again, I want to remind rural residents not to push snow from their driveway onto municipal roadways. This can cause dangerous circumstances for our snowplow operators and also cause drifting on roads.

Roads: Graders will soon be starting to scrape and pull shoulders. The gravel program will be starting May/June. Also, provincial weight restrictions started on March 27th and will remain in effect until May 27th or sooner. Make sure you have your dust control application in by May 22nd, 2020.

Drainage: The 2020 drainage program will likely start by the end of April.

Spring clean-up will be happening the week of May 19th; starting in Lowe Farm. May 20th – 21st will be in Rosenort, Riverside and Aubigny. Finally, May 22nd will be Sperling.

Paul Robert, Public Works Manager

paul@rmofmorris.ca

SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES 2020

- May 19th – Lowe Farm
- May 20th to 21st –
Rosenort, Riverside &
Aubigny
- May 22nd – Sperling

DUST CONTROL

Applications can be picked up at
the RM office or found online.
Deadline to apply is May 22nd,
2020

Fire Chief / Building Inspector Report

Hello everyone!

The spring of 2020 is proving to be much different from previous years due to the COVID – 19 virus. I sincerely hope that all of you are safe and well. Can I ask a favour from all of you? If unfortunate circumstances arise and you need to call 911 to request assistance from our Firefighters or Medical First Responders, can you please advise the 911 call taker if anyone in your family or at the scene of the incident is suffering from, or showing symptoms of the COVID – 19 virus. Our staff are equipped with the necessary personal protective equipment and practicing established protocols to keep themselves safe while continuing to serve our community. Having this information will allow our personnel to be prepared upon arrival on scene and allow them to expedite treatment to patients.

Although the municipal office is currently closed to the public, building permits and inspections can still be obtained through me. I can be contacted by telephone at (204)712-0022 during our regular business hours or by email at trevor@rmofmorris.ca. A reminder that a permit is required for any accessory building larger than 120 square feet, as well as any new construction or additions to existing buildings. As always, I am more than happy to answer any and all permit related questions you may have.

I sincerely hope you all stay safe and healthy through these troubled times. As my grandmother used to say, this too, will pass!

Trevor Dackow, Bldg. Insp. / Fire Chief

trevor@rmofmorris.ca

R.M. of Morris Media

Please take the time to visit our website and check out our upcoming events. We would like to include as many community events as possible, so please forward information to Jennifer at the R.M. of Morris office by calling 204-746-7300 or send her an email at jennifer@rmofmorris.ca



Water Works Emergency Line:
204-746-7300

Animal Control Officer John Derksen:
204-746-0593

Quick & Easy Billing and Receipts

- Sign up for emailed utility billing to receive your bill quicker. Email marley@rmofmorris.ca, or go to our website and apply online! (Not available for tax bills)
- Emailed receipts are an option when paying **any** bill to the RM of Morris; to set it up please email jennifer@rmofmorris.ca.

If you would like to sign up for email notifications please email jennifer@rmofmorris.ca. You will **not** be sent every update and notice that we publicize, only important notices such as boil water advisory notices and other important notices that affect large areas or the entire municipality.

Please note that email notifications will be sent out during **REGULAR OFFICE HOURS ONLY**. You may refer to our Facebook page for after hours notices.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION AMONGST YOUR NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

In the case of a boil water advisory please follow the instructions below:

To avoid purchasing water bottles, and prior to the service interruption, water users can store tap water in clean containers for drinking water purposes and should fill the bathtub for flushing water during the outage.

Due to flushing of lines after the water service resumes, water users may experience a sputtering water flow, discoloured or dirty water. This is normal and should resolve after a few minutes of running your cold water tap.

All water should be brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute before it is used for:

- **Drinking and ice making**
- **Preparing beverages, such as infant formula**
- **Preparing food**
- **Brushing teeth**

It is not necessary to boil tap water used for other household purposes, such as laundry or washing dishes. Adult and older children that are able to avoid swallowing the water can wash, bathe, or shower. Young children should be sponge bathed. If boiling is not feasible, an alternate and safe supply of water should be used.

To avoid burn injuries from hot water, caution should be taken. Please keep young children away from boiled water, and place kettles and pots away from counters and stove edges. **Notices will be posted to our media.**

2020 Recycling Pick Up



Rosenort & Lowe Farm
Sperling, Riverside,
Rosenort & Aubigny



Holiday....CLOSED

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	X	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	X	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming Council Meetings

- April 8th, 2020
- April 28th, 2020 – Special Council Meeting, including 2020 Financial Plan Hearing
- May 13th, 2020
- June 10th, 2020
- July 8th, 2020

Landfill Hours and Price List

DAYS	Rosenort 204-746-0417	Low Farm 204-746-4337
Monday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Tuesday	9am - 4:30pm	1pm - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Thursday	9am - 4:30pm	10am - 8pm
Friday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Saturday	9am - 4:30pm	9am - 3pm
Sundays & Holidays	CLOSED	CLOSED
FEES		
5 Bag Max.		\$7.00
Half Ton Truck or Small Trailer		\$14.00
One Ton Truck (min. rate)		\$35.00
Scale per Tonne		\$35.00 <small>(not accepted at Low Farm)</small>
Fridge (Freon removed)		\$35.00
Asphalt Shingles per Tonne (not mixed)		\$35.00

Rates effective July 1st, 2018.

Recycling Depot Bin Locations:

- Aubigny (30187 PR 246)
- Sperling (2 New St)
- Sewell (18133 Recksiedler Rd)
- Low Farm Landfill (24059 Rd 5W)
- Rosenort Landfill (NE 9-6-1E)

RECYCLING ONLY, NO GARBAGE PLEASE.

Council Contact Information

Reeve Ralph Groening Email: ralph.groening@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 746-5394
Deputy Reeve Rick Giesbrecht Email: rick.giesbrecht@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 746-5355
Councillor Stan Siemens Email: stan.siemens@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 746-5818
Councillor Barry Fraese Email: barry.fraese@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 746-5824
Councillor Scott Siemens Email: scott.siemens@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 746-4749
Councillor Mervin Dueck Email: mervin.dueck@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 746-5010
Councillor Shane Kroeker Email: shane.kroeker@rmofmorris.ca	Cell: (204) 209-0375
CAO Larry Driedger Email: larry.driedger@rmofmorris.ca	Office: (204) 746-7300

Payment Options Under Normal Operations

- 1) Online Banking** – You may process your payments online if your bank is set up for such. Please be sure to choose the **RM of Morris**, not the Town of Morris as a payee. Always allow **5 business days** for your bank to process payments to ensure it is received by its deadline. We **DO NOT** deal with TD Bank.
- 2) Pre-Authorized** – Forms are found in our office. Please bring a void cheque if signing up. Both utility and tax bills may be paid this way.
- 3) At Our Office** – We accept cash, cheque and debit only. Cheque payments can also be sent in the mail. We **DO NOT** accept credit cards.



• where agriculture and industry meet •

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba has given approval to the following utility rates effective January 1, 2020.

Commodity Rates per one thousand gallons of water

	2019 Rates	2020 Rates	2021 Rates	2022 Rates
Urban water consumption	\$ 17.96	\$ 19.01	\$ 19.07	\$ 19.14
Sewer charge	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.23	\$ 2.47
Urban deficit recovery rate rider	\$ 3.61	-	-	-
Rural water consumption	\$ 10.78	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.03	\$ 17.05
Rural deficit recovery rate rider	-	-	-	-
Bulk water consumption	\$ 23.01	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.00
Sewer only charge	\$ 5.25	\$ 38.39	\$ 41.03	\$ 43.67
Urban quarterly service charge	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.48	\$ 20.96	\$ 21.44
Rural quarterly service charge	\$ 27.30	\$ 20.48	\$ 20.96	\$ 21.44

Accounts shall be billed quarterly, and will be due and payable not less than twenty-one days after the date of billing. A late payment charge of 1.25% per month shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date.

In the event that an Account remains outstanding the Account will be transferred to the realty tax account of the property in respect to which the water account is unpaid, to be collected as ordinary realty taxes.

For a complete copy of By-Law No. 1732/2018 please visit our website at: rmofmorris.ca