

VILLAGE OF MORRIN
COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Attendance OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATOR HAROLD JOHNSRUDE
 CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OFFICER ANNETTE PLACHNER

1. CALL TO ORDER

Official Administrator Johnsrude called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

C21-048 Moved by Official Administrator Johnsrude to approve the April 21, 2021 Council meeting agenda as presented. Carried

3. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

- The Village is waiting on West Country report for the reservoir and lagoon repair cost estimates.
- Waiting for approval for the reservoir tank siding repairs.
- Hydrant testing and repairs planned for April 28, 2021.
- Upgrades to VFD's ongoing.
- Repairs to the water leak in the old water plant building are done, repairs to one water main valve stem needed to be done to complete the project as well as some 2 inch piping was required.
- Backup/fire pump is non-functioning, the motor is overheating.
- MPE Engineering completed a feasibility study of the new backup fire pump.
- Thuro are booked for May 16, 2021 for sewer line flushing.

4. REGISTERED PRESENTATIONS

There were no registered presentations for this meeting other than those included in the New Business section.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Regular Council Meeting, March 17, 2021

C21-049 **Motion:** Moved by Official Administrator Johnsrude to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 17, 2021. Carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ascend Chartered Accountants – Monica Faupel – 2020 Audited Financial Statements

Official Administrator Johnsrude requested Ms. Faupel to present the 2020 Audited Financial Statement.

- The audit opinion stated that the 2020 financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Village as at December 31, 2020.
- The auditor determined that an allowance for doubtful accounts regarding unpaid taxes needed to be established. This allowance totalled \$135,909 and resulted in a prior period adjustment.
- The allowance for doubtful accounts resulted in the Unrestricted Surplus position being reduced to a deficit position of \$94,362.
- Deferred revenues for capital purposes in future years increased from \$690,045 to \$928,297.

C21-050

Motion: Moved by Official Administrator Johnsrude that the audited Financial Statements and Financial Information Return for the year ended December 31, 2020 be approved. Carried.

7.2 MPE Engineering – Chris Watson - Capital Infrastructure Report

The Village requested MPE Engineering to report on several topics; 2019 project status, 2nd Avenue N sewer lateral lines and future infrastructure priorities.

2019 project status – emergency fire pump, standby generator & hydrant repairs

- The standby generator project is completed and was cost shared 50/50 between the County and Village.
- The Village decided to replace the gas engine drive with an electric motor for the emergency pump without consulting MPE Engineering or the County. The Village did not follow the recommendation provided by MPE in March 2019 to do a complete replacement with a new vertical turbine pump rated for 72 L/s.
- MPE was informed of this decision just prior to installation; the project could not be changed but MPE requested a delay because the pump station power capabilities required an upgrade to handle the electric motor.
- The emergency fire pump still needs to be replaced because it is only achieving 33 L/s with the new electric motor.

- The emergency fire pump should be a high priority because it malfunctioned during a recent Village fire and it cannot use the electric motor.
- MPE confirmed when questioned by Official Administrator Johnsrude that the approximately \$90,000 spent by the Village for the electric motor and electrical upgrades was not required. MPE will assist the Village with selling the electric motor to a supplier/contractor to help recoup costs to the Village.

2nd Avenue N sewer lateral lines

- A Village resident made a presentation at the March Council meeting regarding the sewer lateral lines on 2nd Avenue N.
- Sewer Lateral lines on 2nd Avenue North camera results show a sag in all of the properties. The majority of the residents are not experiencing any issues with their sewer systems.
- MPE recommended that the lateral lines not be excavated and that camera inspections of these lines be done every 2 years.

Future infrastructure priorities

- MPE Engineering prepared an Infrastructure Master Plan in 2017 for the Village and Mr. Watson provided information to consider future priorities.
- The emergency fire pump should be considered urgent and be replaced with a new vertical turbine model as soon as possible, presumably in 2021.
- Upgrades for the Truck fill system including coin receiver/keypad system and flow master are currently in the design stage.
- Upgrades for the installation of a local Alarm Reporting Unit are being installed.
- MPE reviewed the process to establish infrastructure priorities and recommended that the next priority after the emergency fire pump be rehabilitating 2nd Avenue S from Main Street to 1st Street S including replacing the water and wastewater utilities.

Official Administrator Johnsrude concluded that the information received from MPE Engineering will be taken into consideration in developing the 2021 Village capital budget and the multi-year capital budgets as required by Municipal Affairs. The Village will be contacting MPE during the capital budget development.

7.3 Village 2021 Draft Operating Budget.

- Official Administrator Johnsrude has worked closely with the CAO and Public Works in preparing this draft budget.

- The format has been changed and it is important to note that this is a draft for several reasons:
 - The reduced financial position of the Village identified in the 2020 financial statements needs to be addressed.
 - The capital budget needs to be developed and funding sources identified.
 - Property taxes and utility revenues are at the 2020 levels and will probably need to be increased due to the draft projected 2021 deficit of \$ 49,000.
- Significant issues – unrestricted deficit position; how restricted surplus will be used; utility services under funded.
- Expenses either new to 2021 or not incurred in 2020:
 - Allowance for uncollected taxes - \$28,400.
 - Provincial policing levy - \$4,000.
 - Repairing 4 sewer lateral lines - \$20,000.
 - Starting to fund the \$50,000. Commitment to the Friends of the Morrin School: \$10,000. Annually for five years.
- Approval of the final operating and capital budgets is anticipated for the May Council meeting as well as the resulting tax rate bylaw.

8. REPORTS:

8.1 CAO Report

- CAO related to the public that as per the Village Animal Control Bylaw the owner of a Dog must register and obtain a animal license prior to January 31 of the current year. A time extension was given at the February 17, 2021 meeting to April 1, 2021 due to the late shipment of the license to the Village. To date there are numerous dogs in the Village that are not licenced, therefore fines will now be issued by the Animal control Officer.
- Regarding the proposed RV Trailer Park - a few members of the Morrin Historical Society meet with Starland County to discuss the proposed RV park on Railway Avenue North. The Village has not met with either of these parties to date. A Development Application was forwarded to Starland County as per their request, the Village has not received any correspondence since.

8.2 Official Administrator Report:

The Official Administrator had nothing to report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Minister of Municipal Affairs re- Preliminary Review

Official Administrator Johnsrude received correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the decisions resulting from the Preliminary Review conducted by Municipal Affairs.

- The Preliminary review identified matters that are a cause for concern: in respect to the functions of Council prior to the loss of quorum and in respect to the provision of financial information to council.
- A decision to the inspection request has been deferred to the outcome of the October municipal election.
- Village Council will be advised of the Minister's decision after the October 2021 election.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – MAY 20, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURMENT

C21-051 **Motion:** Official Administrator Johnsrude moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Carried.

OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATOR

CAO