

Public Property & Streets Committee Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2009
Town Council Chambers

Present

Councillor S. Cameron, Chair
Councillor J. MacPherson
Councillor D. Roberts

Town Engineer, Ken Proctor, P.Eng.
Deputy Clerk, D. Wilson
Mr. M. MacDonald, Observer

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
"That the Minutes of the meeting held on April 3, 2009, be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Reporting Issues

Councillor D. Roberts noted that she is informing CAO D. Kampen of any issues/concerns that she receives, but still has a concern in not knowing when a matter has been addressed so that she can advise her constituent(s). She requested Deputy Clerk D. Wilson to have this matter added to the Agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

- C. Whalen Request

Deputy Clerk D. Wilson advised that information regarding water line easements in the Clydesdale area were distributed to the CAO and Town Engineer. Mr. K. Proctor advised that this matter will probably go back to Council. He noted that although the Town might never put the old waterline back in use, it may prove beneficial at some point to retain access to properties that still have easements in place.

Reports

- Seniors Snow Plowing Program

It was noted that the Engineer's Report had previously been received by Council. K. Proctor, P.Eng., in updating the status of snow removal costs, questioned which account the costs for the Seniors Driveway Program were paid. Deputy Clerk D. Wilson advised she will confirm if it is expensed to the Snow Removal account.

- **Mayors & Wardens Regional Water Study**

K. Proctor, P.Eng., reported that he had presented information at a recent Mayors & Wardens meeting, and noted that this group is looking toward an infrastructure report which would be cost-shared between 6 and 8 municipal units.

Other Business

- **Incoming Co-op Student**

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

“That Council recommends hiring Eric Polkowski as the Co-op Student for the Engineering Department for the period May through August 2009.” Motion carried.

Project Updates

- **Canal Bridge**

K. Proctor, P.Eng. advised that efforts to secure lands are proceeding but with optimistic caution.

The recent Provincial election call was discussed and the impact this would have on the calling of tenders. It was suggested by the Town Engineer that a portion of the project may proceed this year, with actual bridge construction being done in the following year; drawings for the project were then reviewed with the Committee.

- **Water Meter Program**

The Committee was advised that as of May 5, 2009, 289 accounts had been installed with meters. Work is ahead of schedule and on budget, and installations may finish up in approximately 15 weeks rather than the 23 weeks anticipated. Billing for the new metered accounts is expected to begin in September 2009; minor adjustments/corrections are expected.

The cost of metered water versus flat water accounts was discussed and Mr. K. Proctor updated the Committee of possible costs savings for some customers. He noted that a notice to all water meter customers would be inserted with the next billings.

- **Columbus Field Trunk Sewer**

The Town Engineer advised that the Contractor has met on-site with the Recreation Director to review the status of the project. He noted that additional work is still required with an obligation to provide service to the rear of the Victorian Inn.

- **Adam Street – Phase II Status**

The Committee was advised that the project is approximately 97% complete, and that the Town has received all but the final 10% of the cost-shared P-Cap funding.

- **2009/2010 Capital Budget**

Councillor S. Cameron advised the Town Engineer that unless told otherwise, he could assume that proposed Capital Projects would be approved through the budgeting process. Mr. K. Proctor noted that the impending election may impact some of the proposed projects but for now it is unclear. He noted that advertisements will be placed as soon as the Town's budget is finalized. The Committee was advised that the rack price for asphalt has settled down since last year.

- CIP/Strategic Plan

K. Proctor noted that the Province has a 'tool' that municipal units are to use regarding their funding. CAO D. Kampen has set a meeting for Town staff, Council and the Antigonish Regional Development Authority to meet to begin a Strategic Review for the Town.

- Public Works "To Do" List

K. Proctor reviewed a number of items Town Works staff are undertaking which includes water meter breaks, sidewalk repairs, and ongoing seasonal work.

The Committee was advised that the Whidden Bridge needs re-surfacing; at an approximate cost of \$20-30,000.00.

K. Proctor noted that a request has been received to do some ditching in the area of the Landing which has experienced flooding as a result of moving gravels plugging a culvert. Once improvements have been made to the culvert, additional work is to be carried out by the County of Antigonish on their side of the boundary line.

Councillor J. MacPherson questioned whether improvements could be made to Chestnut Street, where one homeowner in particular is experiencing much water on his property following rain events. The Town Engineer noted that it would be difficult as the street is narrow and not much room for the installation of storm sewer without having a negative impact on most properties. He further noted that this matter had been reviewed in the past with previous Council and the decision was to re-surface the street.

- Line Painting

K. Proctor advised that warranty work is presently being carried out, with centre-line painting to follow. In response to Councillor MacPherson's suggestion that Town Works staff upkeep cross-walks, the Town Engineer explained why it would not be feasible.

- Hydrant Flushing

Mr. K. Proctor noted that hydrant flushing is being advertised and scheduled to take place May 20 and 21, 2009. Regular flushing has significantly reduced the amount of time the hydrants need to be flushed before the water runs clear.

- Watershed Boundary Work

K. Proctor advised that work has resumed to re-establish the boundary line of the Town's Watershed. Approximately 50% of the work has been done with an anticipated completion date of June 2009. Additional Crown posts and signage may be erected.

- Source Water Protection Plan

The Committee was advised that sampling water at three tributaries that feed the Town's water system will be undertaken on a more regular basis. It was noted that the presence of 'wind energy' is being seen as an additional set of eyes.

- Sidewalk

Councillor J. MacPherson brought forth a concern from a County resident regarding the lack of a sidewalk from Sears to the TransCanada Highway. K. Proctor advised there are many issues surrounding the twinning of the TransCanada such as roundabouts at intersections.

K. Proctor advised that grade work is currently being carried out at the James River intersection in close proximity to the Town's water chamber and is looking for assurances that the line is not

damaged as work is carried out. Brief discussion took place on the County's wells, well-head protection plan and the Brierly Brook and Wright's River.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.