

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

Council Members present were: Ralph Groening, Stan Siemens, Leo Kornelsen, Denis Robert, Barry Fraese, Sieg Neumann.

Agenda

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Barry Fraese:

#164/01. Resolved that the agenda for August 8, 2001 regular meeting be now approved as it is now amended or as may be amended.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

Minutes

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:

#165/01. Resolved that the minutes of the July 11, 2001 regular meeting and the July 18, 23, 30 and 31, 2001 special meetings be now accepted as presented by the Municipal Administrator.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

Conditional
Use Hearing
Multi-Pork
NW 14-5-2E

At 10:00 a.m., council held a conditional use hearing for the application of Mr. Leighton Siemens of Multi-Pork Inc. for a 3,000. sow farrow to nursery operation.

Present for this hearing was: Leighton Siemens, Ernie Siemens, Udo Penner, Rolf Penner, James Siemens, Reg Spears and Garry Plohman of Elite Swine.

Mr. Leighton Siemens informed that this application is for a 3,000 sow farrow to nursery hog operation. They currently have permission for a 1,500 sow farrow to nursery operation that was destroyed by fire and they wish to rebuild to this new size. This barn would be 850 feet long and would extend South of the existing barn site. It would have a freezer unit on site.

Mr. Reg Spears spoke that the new barn would be employing 9 workers and there are many positive issues of the barn. With that location, there would be minimal impact on neighbours such as smell, traffic, etc. This operation has a very good location and is positive for the municipality. Multi-Pork has a good track record from the operation of its previous barn and they would operate this new barn properly as well. Multi-Pork was a finalist in 2000 for operation stewardship and he requested that Council approve this application.

Councillor Groening questioned what impact this new larger operation would have on the roads to the site.

Councillor Neumann asked what Elite is doing towards odour, etc.

Garry Plohman commented that they have done research on straw cover for lagoons, plastic covers for lagoons which can cost up to \$90,000.00.

Additives have not had good results and they are now experimenting with aeration of the lagoon.

Leighton Siemens indicated that he does not have any close neighbours and does not want to have a plastic cover on his lagoon. A clean barn greatly reduces smell from the operation.

Councillor Robert asked if there was a smell difference between a feeder and a sow barn.

Garry Plohman stated that Elite does not have a direct program for straw cover for their barn lagoons but they do have arrangements with private contractors. As for the smell differences, he believes that the sow barn smells less. A sow barn is washed for frequently and the feed is less concentrated than that which is used for feeder pigs.

Conditional Use Hearing Continued

Councillor Groening wanted reassurance of straw cover being in place on the lagoon.

Leighton Siemens stated that he never had straw cover in the past. He has trees on the east side and the lagoon will be much higher and he asked not to have straw cover.

Mr. Rolf Penner informed Council that he is a close neighbour and he does not smell that barn much and he has no problem with this application.

Councillor Groening stated that the industry needs to undertake greater initiatives on matter of odour control.

Reg Spears stated that this barn will cost approximately \$1,300. per sow being a total \$4,000,000.00 and animals of \$900,000.00 given a total project cost of approximately \$5,000,000.00.

Councillor Neumann noted that the decision of Council needs to also look at the possible future of the area and potential development.

The hearing was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Legal
Suit

Moved by Sieg Neumann, Seconded by Barry Fraese:

#166/01. Whereas the company of 4310845 Manitoba Ltd. has initiated legal proceedings against the Rural Municipality of Morris concerning the future operation of the barns currently owned by Dunn-Rite Foods and Carleton Hatcheries;

And Whereas a hearing for this legal suit has been proposed for the end of September, 2001;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the R. M. of Morris now engages the services of Margaret Wiebe of Thompson, Dorfman, Sweatman as our legal counsel in defence of this legal suit.

Carried. For 5
Against 2

Public
Works
Foreman
Report

Mr. Don Harder, Public Works Foreman, met with Council and informed them that our gravelling will be finished tomorrow, being from July 11 to August 9, 2001. For the K Line road access, he estimated the cost to be \$28,000.00 per mile and the North/South roads being approximately \$18,000.00 per mile.

Approximately 27 mile of drainage work has been completed and 7 bridges have been removed and there is still 3 left to do.

MEMO inspector is coming out on Thursday to view the straw debris, silt areas and also Ed Friesen road dyke situation for which culvert extensions are needed.

For the Brandt Road paving project, we are still waiting for Centra Gas to move their line.

For the water samples taken, the municipality now has the testing reports back.

Courses are now available for the licencing requirements for our water and sewer plant operator. Council felt that Mr. Recksieder should be sent on these courses at the earliest opportunity.

Council then recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Delegation

Mr. Herm Hiebert, Municipal Assessment Branch, met with Council to review tax comparisons for many of the area Municipalities. Mr. Hiebert had a comparison listing and reviewed this document with Council. This listing was of taxation impact and not assessment.

Added
Assessment

Moved by Denis Robert, Seconded by Stan Siemens:
#167/01. Whereas the Municipal Assessment Branch has submitted assessment additions dated July 24, 2001;
Therefore Be It Resolved that these assessment additions be added to the 2001 assessment roll and taxes for the 2001 year.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

Prior to this hearing, Councillor Leo Kornelsen declared a conflict of interest for this project. Councillor Stan Siemens also declared a conflict of interest and excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

Cond. Use
Hearing
K Line

At 2:00 p.m., Council held a hearing for the amendment to Conditional Use No. 4/2001 and 5/2001. These proposed amendments concerned the composting of dead animals, and the road access into these barn sites.

Also present for this hearing were: Ken Groening, Vickie Groening, Larry Gluck, Wes Penner and Mike Booy of K Line Pigs.

Mr. Mike Booy, of K Line Pigs, requested that they be allowed to compost the dead animals of the operation. Research has shown that composting does work. This is proposed to be done in an open shed building. The composting of these animals takes approximately 6 to 12 weeks (depending on animal size) and the composed material is to be incorporated into the soil. There would be one composting building for each barn. The dead animals need to be warm in order for the composting to start and they may use the services of animals pickup for the winter months.

Mrs. Vickie Groening told Council that they live on the NW of Section 23-5-2 WPM and are close to the proposed barns. The neighbours are in favour of clause 4 as is stated on the original conditional use and do not want it changed. They are not in favour of composting. They live less than 2 miles from the proposed hog barn and the manure spread on the land will have a great impact on their property. The land area floods many springs and these spring flooding will cause danger to the water quality when water is taken from the ditches for their dugout water supply. The raising of the road access to these barns will increase the problem of water flooding as it will not allow the water to flood over the road as it currently does and will increase the impact the flood water flows.

There is concern of the manure being spread on the fields and contaminating their dugouts with these flood waters. They are opposed to composting as it may increase issues to outside animals coming to the area and may also contribute to the contaminating of their water supply. Council cannot threaten water quality of the future with the approval of hog barns. Mr. Larry Gluck questioned why the proposed changes were wanted. The overland flooding of the area is a great concern and this flooding could be caused by spring run-off, or heavy rains.

On the issue of composting, with an accepted mortality of 1%, that would be approximately 30 sows per year and given 4 months to compost each animal, how many animals would be composting at any given time and that does not include the dead baby pigs. What happens to the bones? The composting is a great concern and the neighbours also have concerns to composting.

Conditional Use Hearing Continued

Mr. Ken Groening stated that Council was ignoring the wishes of the majority as there were many people opposed to this barn application and yet Council approved the applications. Council ignored the wishes of the voters and constituents and approved these corporate barns. Council did not fully read the previous presentations and the previous hearing. The citizens of the area have no alternative but to seek legal action. There is also the issue of some members of the Council being in conflict of interest with these barn applications.

Reeve Martens explained that Council does listen to concerns expressed and has done so in the conditions imposed. Council does hope to have an orderly advancement of this development. K Line has previously asked for composting and Council has since received additional information on composting and wishes to bring the issue to the table.

Councillor Neumann stated that a change in the road access to PR 332 would benefit Lowe Farm the most. The ultimate goal of Council is to have a connection road at this location from PR 332 to 336 in the future.

Councillor Groening stated that odour issues caused most of the objections. The industry is not doing enough on the odour control from these barn operations. There is a Provincial movement for the Province to take over such approvals.

He commented on the reality that there is overland flooding of the area and is a concern for many reasons.

Ken Groening asked Council why the people of the Municipality were not contacted for their views to see if they are in favour of hog barns. Council is to represent the wishes of the people and they are not doing so when people do not want a barn. The greatest objection is to the large corporate barns.

Councillor Fraese commented that hog barns do employ people and have the potential of creating employment in that area.

Councillor Groening stated that siting barns is very difficult. The closer the barn gets to residences the greater the negative reaction. The main issue is how are the rights of individuals close to barns are addressed.

Larry Gluck said the these two barns total 5,200 sows and 20 years ago a 100 sow operation was a farm operation and these two barns are the equivalent of 52 farms 20 years ago. Having farm yards in the Municipality is the future, not having large corporate barns. With more large barns being approved, the future of the municipality is that it will not have people but only hog barns as the people will have moved away.

Vickie Groening told Council that they must consider the quality of life for the neighbour people. Flooding may carry contaminated water down stream which includes people in the Municipality and everyone else downstream on the Morris River and the Red River systems. Council should get existing barns in order and making sure that they are not contaminating before considering additional barns. What happens when a large rainfall happens on a compost pile? When hog prices go down, what will be the outcome, will they still operate or will they be abandoned and everything left for others to clean up.

The hearing was then closed at 3:00 p.m.

Councillor Leo Kornelsen then returned for the remainder of the meeting.

Hydro
Tour

Moved by Barry Fraese, Seconded by Leo Kornelsen:

#168/01. Resolved that Herm Martens and Ralph Groening be authorized to attend the Pembina Valley Tourism logo and website unveiling in Carman on August 13, 2001.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

Provincial
Drain
Funding

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Denis Robert:

#169/01. Whereas the Rural Municipality of Morris considers provincial drainage maintenance to be a priority;


And Whereas the provincial funding is insufficient to ensure proper clean out of provincial drains;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Rural Municipality of Morris request that the Province of Manitoba allocate funds adequate to provide for proper clean out and maintenance of all provincial drains.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

Moved by Councillor Barry Fraese:

That the meeting be now adjourned at 4:50 p.m. with Council agreeing to meet again on August 9, 2001 to continue the remainder of the agenda for August 8, 2001.



Reeve



Municipal Administrator.