

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held a public meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

The purpose of this meeting was to have a meeting with the residents and landowners of Aubigny to discuss the proposed Community Dyke.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

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

Also Present were: John Harris of Water Resources and Duane Boutang of PFRA.

Aubigny Residents present were: Guy Saurette, Louis Saurette, Lloyd Wilson, Fran Wilson, Mr. & Mrs Marcel Caron, Louis Palud, Suzanne Richard, Phil Bouchard, Maurice Vermette, Orvil Lilke, Paula Lilke, Joe Chartier, Lucille Chartier, Ron Piper, Dan Berthelette, Jerome Desilets, Ella Roy, Dianne Richard, Paul Kennedy.

Aubigny  
Dyke  
Meeting

Reeve Martens welcomed everyone to this meeting and explained that there were some issues and situations that have arisen that concern the Aubigny Community Dyke and how the future of this project is to proceed. The problem arisen concerns the purchasing of property for the dyke. At this time, it was acknowledged that a letter was received from Diane Richard expressing her concerns of the projects effect on her property. Council was informed that this letter had also been circulated to residents of the dyke area.

Dan Berthelette commented that if the dyke does not proceed, then their properties have little value. Without that protection, it is doubtful that purchasers could get a mortgage and what would be the value of property if you cannot get a mortgage and what would happen to these properties.

It was explained that if the community dyke does not proceed, people still have the option of accessing the individual flood protection plan.

Councillor Robert spoke of meetings that had been held in the past and what was done, or explained or available at these meetings.

Dianne Richard stated that she had concerns over the proposed damage to her property and the amount of land being taken for the dyke. She had not been properly informed of what was happening and was not aware of the extent of her land that was needed.

John Harris said that it had previously been explained to Dianne Richard the dyke process and how it would affect her property.

Councillor Groening questioned Dianne Richard as to what her objections are in referring to her letter.

Dianne Richard responded that the dyke was destroying her pond, all of her north yard area and much of the front yard, as well as destroying the tree shelterbelt across from their house.

Reeve Martens stated that this situation is one of three locations that may require expropriation.

Jerome Desilets asked how far the process had gone, what are costs to date and is the Municipality and the Province ready to write off Aubigny. Without the dyke, the community cannot survive and there should be a process of having a status report available.

Reeve Martens stated the Municipality had worked hard on this dyke project as well as all of the other dykes. For this project to proceed there needs to be a situation of co-operation and support.

Councillor Robert noted that the Municipality had to work very hard to keep this issue alive and to keep the Province interested in continuing with this dyke project.

Reeve Martens stated that with areas of contention, it is impossible to give estimated costs. There are too many unknowns and variables, such as land costs, expropriation costs, etc. to be able to do any cost estimating.

Maurice Vermette requested that the minutes of the April 13, 1999 meeting be read at this meeting.

Guy Saurette stated that Land Management has only met with him for about 5 minutes in the spring when he was busy seeding and they have not met with him since. He felt that they were not far off in price differences and that arrangements could be made.

Louis Saurette informed Council that he owns much of the land needed for the dyke and he has not yet been approached by Land Management to purchase his land. When he last met with Land Management he said he wanted time to contact a real estate person and they have not been back to discuss further his offer. He is the owner of the land needed north of PR 205 and Guy Saurette owns much of the land south of PR 205 needed for the dyke.

Maurice Vermette stated that it is Natural Resources that employees Land Management to conduct these land purchases.

Ella Roy told Council that the dyke was ruining their yard and is there any allowance for the devaluation of their property. The destruction that the dyke would cause to their property is to the point of forcing her to move away. It would destroy the tree shelter belt and many other aspects of their yard. She was informed that Land Management System does have a system of compensating for a devalued amount.

Dianne Richard stated that other locations has visitations by the engineers and Aubigny had none done and that there should have been more done inform the people.

John Harris explained that based on the different scenarios worked on, the current proposal was the best option for the dyke.

Jerome Desilets wanted to know how do we get the truth out and where to go to get information from Land Management Systems.

Page 3  
Aubigny Dyke Meeting  
June 27, 2001

John Harris informed the group present that as far as the Province is concerned the project is proceeding.

Maurice Vermette stated that Dianne Richard and Ella Roy were not talked to at the right time and this is very late in the game to be letting them know what is to happen to their property.

Paul Kennedy noted that Dianne Richard's property is not benefiting by the dyke and is being destroyed by the dyke.

It was then explained that there were different options investigated and an option of putting the dyke behind their house was considered. This would add to the costs, more engineering would be required, the river bank stability came into question and more material would be needed. There was also an option of purchasing Leon Palud's property and have the dyke line being across that property but then there would be one less property to pay for the dyke.

Duane Boutang then explained that there are many dyke projects in the Valley and there is a funding shortage to meet all of those needs. Aubigny has an approval for \$1.1 million and there is no more money for the project. Costs of purchasing other properties are project costs and the project must be built with the money that is earmarked for it.

Suzanne Richard asked when do we go from here? The people are waiting for a dyke.

It was stated that the land issues must be decided upon very soon.

Paul Kennedy stated that Council should be coming to the people and explain the situation and the issues.

Reeve Martens noted that meeting have been held and more for this dyke than other areas. There is a need for co-operation if the project is to proceed and be completed.

Councillor Neumann asked Dianne Richard if they believe that their house would be flooded if the dyke is built and is there a manner of compromise to this situation.

Dianne Richard stated that with the dyke being built their water dugout, garden and shelter belt is being destroyed and where are they going to be replaced to.

Ella Roy said that if the dyke is built, then they need to totally rebuilt their property.

Councillor Siemens indicated that there would be no water flow on the north side of the house because that area is to be filled in and their garden could be located on the dyke connection.

Duane Boutang asked at what price do they want protection. There has already been invested a considerable amount to date. The people need to indicate what they want. Before continuing any further, the people must give that indication. This is the most expensive project per home of all of the dykes being built.

Councillor Groening indicated that the Municipality still wants to protect Aubigny.

Guy Saurette indicated that the offer made to him for his land is close to what he would consider. For him, he is not far from settlement.

Reeve Martens asked Dianne Richard what it would take to resolve the issue, does it have to go so far as to buy out the property or is there a way to resolve the situation.

Dianne Richard questioned why they should be affected by this dyke project. She wanted to know why the dyke is so wide at their location and at the tree shelter belt. Why couldn't the land area needed be taken after the treed land.

Maurice Vermette indicated that Land Management Services had made an offer and he made a counter offer. They are far apart on the matter and he will likely be going to expropriation.

Reeve Martens indicated that because of the discussions this evening, more engineering work would be needed and asked those in attendance if it would be acceptable to spend an additional \$50,000.00 and have more engineering work done. He stated that they should vote on the matter and asked for a show of hands with only one vote per household.

Ron Piper asked about waiving their liability and he was informed that that would not be accepted.

Reeve Martens requested the vote on the dyke project and the vote indication was 10 in favour and 1 opposed with there being 11 households present at the meeting.

Councillor Robert asked the crowd how often they would want to have a meeting. He indicated that he would call a meeting when there are developments and that he would want the people to attend.

Reeve Martens then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and the discussions that have taken place this evening.



Reeve



Municipal Administrator