

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Morris held a special meeting at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 31st, 1989 in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Dan Thiessen presided.

Present were Councillors: George St. Hilaire, Dave Waldner, Glenn Curdt, Allan Dickson, Bill Martens, Harold Dyck.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Harold Dyck, who was elected as Councillor for Ward 5 on January 25, 1989 took the necessary Declaration of Office and the Declaration of Qualification of Member of Council.

The purpose of the special meeting was to consider the following matters:

1. Snow Plowing policy proposal
2. Letter receive from Councillor George St. Hilaire stating his desire to resign from existing Committee appointments
3. Municipal Bonspiel.
4. Provincial Land and Water Strategy meetings.

Reeve Thiessen called the meeting to order and asked Councillor George St. Hilaire if he wished to provide further explanation to the letter he submitted to Council.

Councillor St. Hilaire gave a brief explanation of his letter to Council. The situation involving the snow plowing policy was not working properly for an area of his ward. He does not feel that the snow plowing policy is working properly or effectively. He feels that because of the conflict arising from this situation, he would have difficulty in keeping a proper perspective for the responsibilities involved.

Councillor Waldner requested that all discussion be recorded so as to have a record of all comments and statements made.

Reeve Thiessen commented on the snow plowing situation stating that he had talked to the operators and they felt that they preferred the way plowing was done and organized in the past. Formerly, the operator contacted the Councillors for the wards they did and got instructions in this manner.

Councillor Curdt stated that in previous years with the previous Councillor for Ward 3, he never felt that there was any conflict or problem with Ward 3.

Councillor Waldner stated that discussion should be kept on a formal basis and that discussion should be addressed to the chair only. At the time of the major storm experienced in the municipality, he had phoned the operator, Leo Chartier, and the operator indicated that he had no previous instructions as to where to plow on the Monday. He was then instructed to plow Rosenort on Monday, however, Rosenort did not get plowed until two days later. The operator did not follow instructions and plow Rosenort as he was told. A letter was sent to the U.V.D. of Rosenort indicating that requests for machine work must be done through the Councillor and contact should not be made directly to the operator. Councillor Waldner felt that this letter should not have been sent as Council knew nothing of the letter and that the situation which caused the writing of the letter was prior to the proposed policy.

Councillor St. Hilaire indicated that he had contacted the operator, Leo Chartier, to also discuss plowing following the major storm and was also told he had no instructions from other Councillors for plowing needs.

Reeve Thiessen asked if all council felt that a meeting should be held with the operators to help resolve the situation.

Councillor Dickson asked that the matter of Councillor St. Hilaire's letter of resignation for Committee appointments be dealt with.

Councillor St. Hilaire asked to resolve that matter of the snow plowing situation as it has a lot to do with his letter.

Reeve Thiessen asked an indication from Council as to which item they would wish to deal with first.

Councillor Waldner stated that the various committees are to do the work prior to matters coming before Council and he therefore feels that revising the snow plowing map should be dealt with by the Roads Committee in discussion by the Councillor and not be the entire Council. He further indicated that the plow map was not the main issue of concern. The issue is the snow plowing policy proposed by the roads committee at the January 12, 1989 meeting.

Reeve Thiessen commented that perhaps there is confusion with the employees concerning their duties and priorities when it comes to clearing snow after a storm.

Councillor Dickson again requested that the letter from Councillor St. Hilaire was before Council and should be dealt with.

Councillor Curdt requested a recorded vote on the following resolution.

Committee
Resignation
St. Hilaire

Moved by George St. Hilaire, Seconded by Allan Dickson:
#28/89. Whereas a letter has been received from Councillor George St. Hilaire expressing his desire to withdraw from the Committee appointments which he currently holds;
Therefore Be It Resolved that Councillor George St. Hilaire's resignation from his Committee appointments be accepted.

For: George St. Hilaire
Dave Waldner
Allan Dickson

Against: Harold Dyck
Glenn Curdt
Bill Martens

Defeated by the vote of the Reeve

Councillor Dickson then gave further explanation of the snow plowing policy and its general operation. At times of snow clearing, Councillor Dickson is in attendance at the shop for a period of time. He is in communication with the operators. Any requests are relayed to the operators, and there was no intention that an operator should leave the work he is doing and do the work stated by the request. He discuss the situation of operator Leo Chartier hauling the crawler to he Rosenort nuisance grounds and the matter of the private work done. While the crawler was cleaning the Rosenort nuisance grounds, Leo was to do other roads in the area and the request of private work only as time permitted. When the decision for private work was made, he had no requests to do other roads. Councillor Dickson is present at the shop in the morning when the plows go out and they are to do the urban centres first and then the rural roads. As Council had agreed to try the snow removal policy and as Chairman of the Roads Committee, he felt it was his duty to implement and coordinate efforts of the snow removal policy. Councillor Dickson stated that on the day in question, he did not keep track of times that people were at the shop, however, Councillor Martens and Councillor St. Hilaire were in attendance for a period of time.

Further discussion in this regard seemed to reflect a confusion as to the date and time of the problem as the plows were out on numerous days because of the frequent blowing and storm conditions.

Councillor Waldner gave reference to the private work which was done. he stated that this road has been done in the past and that the operator never informed his that this road was not in his area.

Councillor Dickson indicated that if Council feels that a different coordinator is need for the plowing operations, then that can also be changed.

Councillor Curdt stated that when the plows are out, they cannot pick and choose which roads to do. The operators have a regular run that they follow when plowing and they should stay on it. There should be a meeting with the operators and possibly have the areas changed from that which currently exists.

Councillor Martens informed Council that the operators has requested extra wages for work on Sunday or Saturday. The operators also expressed to him their concern as to why change the past plowing system.

Councillor Waldner indicated that the Roads Committee should be given assistance from Council to help sort out the problems in a constructive manner and not that of destroying the proposed policy.

Reeve Thiessen questioned the number of miles that were being plowed and that he felt that some of the roads need not be plowed at all.

Councillor Dickson asked if the Councillor should decide what is to be done or should it be the Roads Committee to decide what roads should be plowed or in consultation with the Councillor.

Councillor Martens discussed the reasons for plowing certain roads in his ward. The operators stated that it takes as much or less time to plow for the entire mile than for the operator to plow to the yard site and then try to turn around. He indicated that operators have difficulty operating the machine while plowing and trying to answer the radio.

Councillor Dickson stated that perhaps the Councillor should go with the operator to see if their reasons are valid in doing certain roads in a certain way. He felt that through discussion today that the basic policy was still O.K.

Councillor Waldner told council that the reason for the proposed policy is that after the first storm, one machine was finished after 1½ days plowing and another machine as at least three days in completing plowing his area.

Councillor Martens stated that the operator indicated that when Rosenort is done, it must be redone later because of snow from driveways, etc. being pushed out onto the road.

Councillor Waldner indicated that the operator had never discussed this problem with him and as the Councillor for Rosenort, the operator should have brought the matter to his attention. He questioned at to whether the same situation does happen in Lowe Farm or in Sperling. He feels that he has always dealt fairly with the operators, however, he feels that there is a lack of open communication from the operators to him.

Councillor Dickson requested that some clarification is needed regarding standby pay, Sunday or Saturday pay, long shifts, and other matters involving the plowing situation.

Councillor Waldner stated that as this matter was not on the agenda, it should not be dealt with at this special meeting.

Councillor Martens feels that he needs to maintain contact this ratepayers and have some knowledge of where the plow is working.

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Councillor Dickson mentioned that the operators need to designate starting points and general direction of plowing and that the Councillor should designate the rotation in which the plowing is to commence from.

Councillor Waldner noted that Council must show leadership in deciding which roads are to be plowed or graded in the summer.

Councillor St. Hilaire pointed out that some roads which are now plowed in Ward 2 are dirt roads and the benefit for plowing the road is for the Councillor only.

Councillor Dickson's rebuttal to the plowing of these roads in his ward expressed that they are done because of the school bus route and that they are to be done after other roads are open.

Councillor Waldner stated that the policy should be changed or left as it now stands.

Reeve Thiessen mentioned to Council that he felt a new plowing area map should be drawn up as to area responsibility and have the new map adopted by a resolution of Council.

At this point of the meeting the discussion on the snow removal policy was completed.

Council then gave discussion to the matter of the Municipal Bonspiel. The Secretary-Treasurer informed Council that Wednesdays were the only days available for our bonspiel. Council then decided that the date of March 1, 1989 be booked as a preferred date for the bonspiel with March 15, 1989 being an alternate if March 1st is not longer available. The entry fee would be \$10.00 per curler and a luncheon of soup and sandwich, etc. would be provided. The municipal employees are to be invited for lunch should they wish to attend. As in past years, each ward is required to provide approximately 10 curlers for this bonspiel. One set of trophies are to be obtained and Councillors are to contact for prizes from local businesses and the Secretary-Treasurer to contact Hitrac, Champion, Armtec and West-Man. The registrations would start at approximately 9:30 A.M. with curling commencing at 10:00 A.M.

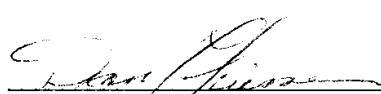
Water
Strategy
Meeting

Moved by Glenn Curdt, Seconded by Allan Dickson:
#29/89. Resolved that Reeve Dan Thiessen be appointed to attend the Provincial Water Strategy in Portage la Prairie on February 1, 1989.
Carried.

The Secretary-Treasurer then informed Council that requests had come into the office for special meetings with Council. The Disaster Board and Water Resources wish to meet with Council to discuss a new study which will be done concerning dykes in the area. And also that Mr. Jay McCullough would like to meet with Council to discuss the 1989 grasshopper situation as Morris is noted to have potential infestation in 1989.

It was decided that a special meeting would be held on Thursday February 23, 1989. If times could be arranged, Council would meet with Mr. McCullough at 1:00 P.M. and with the Disaster Board at 2:00 P.M.

The meeting was then adjourned at 4:30 P.M.


Reeve


Secretary-Treasurer.