

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the Rural municipality of Morris held its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

Council Members present: Stan Siemens, Denis Robert, Barry Fraese, Leo Kornelsen, Sieg Neumann, with Councillor Ralph Groening attended the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Agenda

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Barry Fraese:

#246/00. Resolved that the agenda for the December 13, 2000 regular meeting be now approved as it is now amended or as may be amended.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

Minutes

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:

#247/00. Resolved that the minutes of the November 8, 2000 regular meeting and the November 9, 2000 special meeting be now adopted as presented by the Municipal Administrator.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

In-Camera

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Leo Kornelsen:

#248/00. Resolved that Council now go in-Camera.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

Adjourn

In-Camera

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Stan Siemens:

#249/00. Resolved that Council now adjourns being in-Camera and resumes the regular meeting.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

Sunnydale
Hog Barn
Trees

Council then discussed the hog barn of Sunnydale Farms on the NW 1/4 of Section 23-6-2 WPM and the fact that there are not the required tree rows of shelter belt around the barn and lagoon site. The request for a refund of their performance bond is contingent on compliance to the conditions set by the approval for the barn. Council's opinion is that the 3 rows of trees are needed around the barn and lagoon site and that the refund of a portion of the performance bond will be considered after the required trees are planted.

Red River
Basin
Conference

Moved by Denis Robert, Seconded by Sieg Neumann:

#250/00. Resolved that Reeve Herm Martens and 2 additional Councillors be authorized to attend the Red River Basin Land & Water Conference³ in Grand Forks on January 16, 17 and 18, 2000.

Carried. For 6
Against 0

Public
Works
Foreman

Council then met with Mr. Don Harder, Public Works Foreman, and he informed Council that the excavators were shut down on December 8, 2000 and that there was 5.5 miles of ditching windrow that did not get spread this year. There is also approximately 6 miles of spreading that needs to be redone in the spring. All bridges that were scheduled for removal in 2000 have been completed, being one on South of RL 417, East of 12-5-2 EPM on the Marsh River, and 2 bridges on Drain 111.

Public
Works
Foreman

There was a road slide South of 17-5-1 WPM (to Bill Brandt's) and that has been repaired. However, there was not time to repair the road slide South of 23-5-1 WPM (by Allan Dickson's) and that work is scheduled for 2001. The south Boundary Drain did not get done in 2000 and the work on Drain 111 is ½ done and the ditching work on River Road South is ½ done. Mr. Harder presented Council with 3 prices for a sander unit that fits into a one ton truck and he felt comfortable with going with the lowest tender price being that from Cancade in the amount of \$4,904.00 plus taxes. He then presented Council with a list of culverts in stock and what should be ordered for 2001 and also what bridges should be replaced in 2001. He mentioned that public works had worked on the slope lining of the Lowe Farm lagoon's south cell. During the winter months, there will be 250' of steel purchased for moveable fences to be built for use at the landfill sites, with 100' being at the Rosenort Nuisance Grounds. The frame work for these fences is being donated by the Valley Agricultural Society. Public Works plans to construct a wash bay for the shop with the canvass being purchased from Winkler Canvass and a cost so approximately \$350.00. The track and rail will be built at the shop with 2 curtains being 49' by 14'. He informed Council that he attended a seminar put on by Heavy Construction and another seminar put on by Highways. For employee lay-offs, Peter Weibe, Jack Klassen and Rob Goertzen are being layed off as of December 15th. We should advertise in January, 2001 for a mower operator and also that 2 labourers are needed (one to replace Rob and one to take care of the water plants and possibly doing some mowing in Lowe Farm, Aubigny and Sperling). Andy Friesen will replace Leo Chartier as grader operator when Leo retires in the Spring and Rob Goertzen will assume the excavator operator position.

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

Mr. Don Harder then showed Council a map of what bridges are left in the municipality and what bridges should be coming out. It was mentioned that for 2001, the Equipment Committee would likely be replacing the Foreman's ½ ton truck.

Sander
Unit

Moved by Denis Robert, Seconded by Stan Siemens:
#251/00. Resolved that we purchase a new Monroe sander unit form Cancade Company Ltd. at a cost of \$4,904.35 plus taxes.
Carried. For 7
Against 0

Variation
Board
7 & 8/00

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Leo Kornelsen:
#252/00. Resolved that the Council of the R. M. of Morris now becomes the Variation Board of the R. M. of Morris to consider Variation Applications No. 7/2000 and 8/2000.
Carried. For 7
Against 0

Councillor Leo Kornelsen excused himself from the meeting for the next item on the agenda, due to a possible conflict.

The floor was then opened to a public hearing for variation application no. 7/2000 for Justina Siemens. There was no one present for this hearing.

Variation
7/00
J. Siemens
NW 34-5-1W

Moved by Barry Fraese, Seconded by Denis Robert:
#253/00. Whereas Mr. Ernie Loewen, on behalf of Justina Siemens, has applied for a variation for the site area of Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 of the South 660 feet of the NW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 5 and Range 1 WPM; And Whereas this variation is to allow a site area of 5.0 acres for Parcel 1 and 21.8 acres for Parcel 2 of this subdivision; Therefore Be It Resolved that the Variation Board of the R. M. of Morris does now approve Variation Application No. 7/2000.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

The floor was then opened for a public hearing for variation application No. 8/2000 by Sunnydale Farms. There was no one present for this hearing.

Variation
8/00
Sunnydale
D-10581

Moved by Ralph Groening, Seconded by Leo Kornelsen:
#254/00. Whereas Sunnydale Farms, has applied for a variation for the site area and frontage widths for Lots 1, 2 and 3, being part of the subdivision of Parcel D, Plan 10581; And Whereas this variation is for a site area of 1.63 acres for Lot 1 and 2.05 acres for Lot 2 and 1.94 acres for Lots 3 of this subdivision; And Whereas this variation is for a site frontage width of 200.5 feet for Lot 1 and a site frontage width of 250.0 feet for Lot 2 and a site frontage width of 221.1 feet for Lot 3 of this subdivision; Therefore Be It Resolved that the Variation Board of the R. M. of Morris does now approve Variation Application No. 8/2000.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

Variation
Board
Adjourn

Moved by Stan Siemens, Seconded by Denis Robert:
#255/00. Resolved that the Variation Board of the R. M. of Morris does now adjourn and resume as the Council of the R. M. of Morris.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

Rosenort
Fire Dept.
Hose

Moved by Leo Kornelsen, Seconded by Barry Fraese:
#256/00. Resolved that Council agrees to the Rosenort Fire Department purchasing 4" hose of approximately 1000 feet at an estimated cost of \$10,000.00.

Carried. For 7
Against 0

Conditional
Use 10/00
Public
Hearing

The floor was then opened to a public hearing for a Conditional Use application by Jake Friesen for the property of Dunn-rite Food Products and Carleton Hatcheries. There were approximately 22 people present for this hearing. Mr. Don Waddell, of Dunn-rite foods, spoke on behalf of the application. He presented Council and those present with a sample of composted hog manure that was done by a system similar to the composting proposed by the applicant. He mentioned that this composted product is good for the soil and is environmentally friendly and at present there are approximately 8,000 places composting manure. He then exhibited a number of books on farm composting and similar operations. There is an operation in British Columbia that is doing a lot of hog manure composting. He stated that for the manure turning equipment, the Friesen's plan to make their own equipment. By exhibiting all of this material, he is showing the degree of background work considered in this proposal. This proposed operation is to be a 2,400 feeder hog operation with the manure being composted. He then reviewed the entire written project proposal. This barn was previously in operation and they believe that this conversion is allowable under out guidelines.

Conditional
Use 10/00
Hearing
Continued

This barn site area is dyked and flood protected. The manure is to be composted inside of other buildings that are currently on the site. The manure and straw is to be removed every 3 weeks and placed into the other buildings for composting. This is an aerobic decomposition of the manure and the composting is estimated to be completed in 7 weeks. According to requirements they require 171 acres for the manure spreading and have neighbouring properties willing to take the manure compost. With the straw in the barn, the smell from the barn should be much less than a conventional barn and the odour from the composting barn would be much less than the hog barn. He also mentioned that 2 neighbours have signed a petition in favour of the project.

Mr. Mark Milne, of Shamrock Hogs, stated that he currently runs many hog barns and has done considerable work involving the composting of dead animals. Within 4 months, the dead animals have decomposed significantly to be able to be spread on fields. Proper management is involved and he believes that the Friesen's will do a good job at managing the composting. It is important to maintain opportunities for employment.

Mr. Earl Loewen told Council that he has an existing barn that is right across the road and he has concerns of disease as the barns would be close together. His hogs are on contract and if he has disease, his existing supplier would not continue.

Councillor Kornelsen asked that if the operation does not work as promised can it be shut down.

Mr. Jake Friesen stated that the Province could take action if the operation is not following normal farming practices.

Councillor Groening that for the composting presented, British Columbia and Manitoba do not have the same weather and other factors to properly compare processes. He mentioned that they are trying very hard to sell the project and if it is not managed properly, the composting can have a considerable as was told to him by Mr. Lind of B.C.

Mr. Milne indicated that the composting process is the same in Manitoba as it is in B.C.

Councillor Fraese noted that cleaning the barn out and moving the manure every 3 weeks will cause odour and bad weather will make it longer.

Mr. Barry Klassen then spoke and informed Council that he is the closest neighbour and it would be a shame if he has to move out because of smell. If they want to set up a business, do so somewhere else, and not close to neighbours. He would have to live with the operation and he has children and family and does not want to have to put up with this operation. Much of this proposed operation is experimental. This operation will cause a decrease in property values and will they be compensated for the decreased value of their property. He moved into the property with there being a chicken operation on this property and this is a different type of operation and he is opposed to the proposal.

Mr. Kerry Eidse spoke that there were many names left off their list of residences within one mile of the operation. If this is a state of the art operation, why put it into an old barn. In Ontario, these type of projects are being government subsidized to see how they operate because it is experimental.

Mrs. Eileen Klassen noted that this is their third application for a hog barn at this location and that it has already been turned down twice. They are aware of the smells from a chicken barn but feel that a hog barn is not similar and they are opposed to this hog barn application. This is in a populated area and they keep applying for this barn and have been turned down twice but are now wasting everyone's time with repeated applications. They do not live at this site and have no plans to live there, and would be absentee operators.

Mr. Lonnie Friesen questioned the quality of life issue for the neighbours to this proposed operation. There is no trees on the site to cut down the smell and there is also no room on the site to do any planting of trees to be effective.

Conditional
Use 10/00
Hearing
Continued

Mr. Dennis Friesen stated that the barns are not designed for hogs and these barns are very out of date and obsolete and should be shut down.
Mr. Kerry Eidse questioned as to why they should be responding to proposals that do not meet guidelines.
Mr. Art Friesen questioned if dead animals were part of this composting process and he was answered that they were not.
Mrs. Eileen Klassen questioned the length of storage for the manure.
Mr. Don Waddell stated that there was very adequate storage capacity and they will not have to put any manure outside for storage.
Mrs. Lonnie Friesen indicated that her concern was regarding the smell from the barn and wanted to maintain a clean air quality for residents of the area.
Mr. Murray Brandt stated that this is a populated area and there is much difference in smell from a chicken barn to that of a hog barn.
Mrs. Art Friesen stated that this is their retirement years and they do not want to have to put up with the smell from a hog barn.
Councillor Ralph Groening stated that the composting in 7 weeks is questionable. The concept is likely positive, but the site is not the best for this type of experimentation.
Councillor Sieg Neumann understood the frustration of many hearings. However, the Municipality is currently attempting to rewrite the guidelines. The existing proposal does not meet guidelines, however, for existing buildings, applicants are trying to conform to the guidelines as best they can.
Councillor Barry Fraese stated that these barns are 30 years old and used as a chicken barn and now is wanting to change. Many of the population would prefer that the barns be closed.
Reeve Herm Martens indicated that the shells of buildings are similar for a chicken barn and a hog barn.
Mr. Grant Macaulay informed those present that this application requires an environmental licence and their Winkler office proposed a recommendation the this application be submitted to the Technical Review Committee.
The hearing was then adjourned.

Delegation

Council then met with Mr. Albert Driedger and Mr. Cliff Graydon who are meeting with different Councils concerning hog barns. They are asking Council where sites may be able to get approved and what areas may be receptive to barn development. They are a consulting company and what they are doing is consulting with Municipalities for possible sites and then they works in investors, feed mill companies, etc.. These proposals are for large operations, and if they meet site criteria, Provincial and other requirements, would Council be in favour of the project still realizing that a public hearing must take place. He noted that this is a benefit to local investors and barns have spin offs that are long term and long range. Council indicated that approving sites prior to any public hearings was not something that they would want to commit to. However, Council was somewhat receptive to approach and concept of preliminary barn work.

Adjourn

Moved by Councillor Stan Siemens:
That we now adjourn at 5:00 p.m. with Council meeting again on Thursday, December 14, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.

Reeve

Municipal Administrator