

## Reeve Report

Council activity during the winter was mostly limited to Zoom sessions.

Fortunately, Council and staff have managed their health effectively. We are all looking forward to a time when we are able to meet and discuss issues in person. Thanks to our residents and taxpayers for the understanding and patience during this extended time of COVID-19 adjustment.

Council has essentially completed the 2021 budget process and will be presenting information at a public hearing 9:30 a.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Lowe Farm Community Centre. Further details are available in the SE Journal advertisement or by phoning the RM of Morris office. Council will present a conservative operational spending plan which will include tax increase of about 2%.

Major initiative for Council this year has been the creation of an Urban Public Works foreman position. Our goal is to manage, maintain and improve our urban communities. We will provide additional details about our 2021 urban works plan this spring.

Central focus to our 2021 Public Works plan will again be the maintenance of drainage infrastructure. Our agricultural community depends on an effective water management program and our drainage program is central to this goal. The 2021 drainage infrastructure plan will be distributed by mailer in the next 2 weeks.

Council and administration continue to promote and support initiatives that add to our supply of residential properties. The focus of this activity for 2021 will be Rosenort and Lowe Farm. Council will add to the effectiveness of residential development in the RM of Morris with a promotional video. We expect the production to be ready for presentation by early summer.

Industrial development continues to be a high priority for Council and we will aggressively promote business opportunities in Rosenort and Lowe Farm Industrial Parks. Red River Valley Community Development Corporation will be one of the tools we use to communicate development opportunities.

Spring is here and I know that everyone is waiting impatiently for the opportunity to be outside with family and friends. Hopefully we will be blessed with some pre-seeding moisture in the next few weeks.

On behalf of your RM of Morris Council I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy summer.

**Ralph Groening**

Serving the communities of  
Sperling, Aubigny, Rosenort,  
Riverside, McTavish, Silver Plains,  
Lowe Farm, Kane and Sewell since  
1880.

## CAO Report

### ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS & FINANCIAL PLANS

Over the past number of years, we, in the municipal world, have been hearing about Asset Management Plans. The higher levels of Government have been advising us that we must develop an Asset Management Plan (AMP). As an organization we have been working on our plan for the past two years.

We were fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to help us develop our AMP. We are nearing completion of the plan in its current state, however for an AMP to be valuable it will need to be a 'living document' that is updated on a regular basis.

So how does this impact a municipalities Financial Plan (Budget)? We have amended our process to provide for the ability to forecast into the financial planning future process by setting up a 20-year projection. This includes looking at operating items, capital items, reserves, levels of taxation, etc.

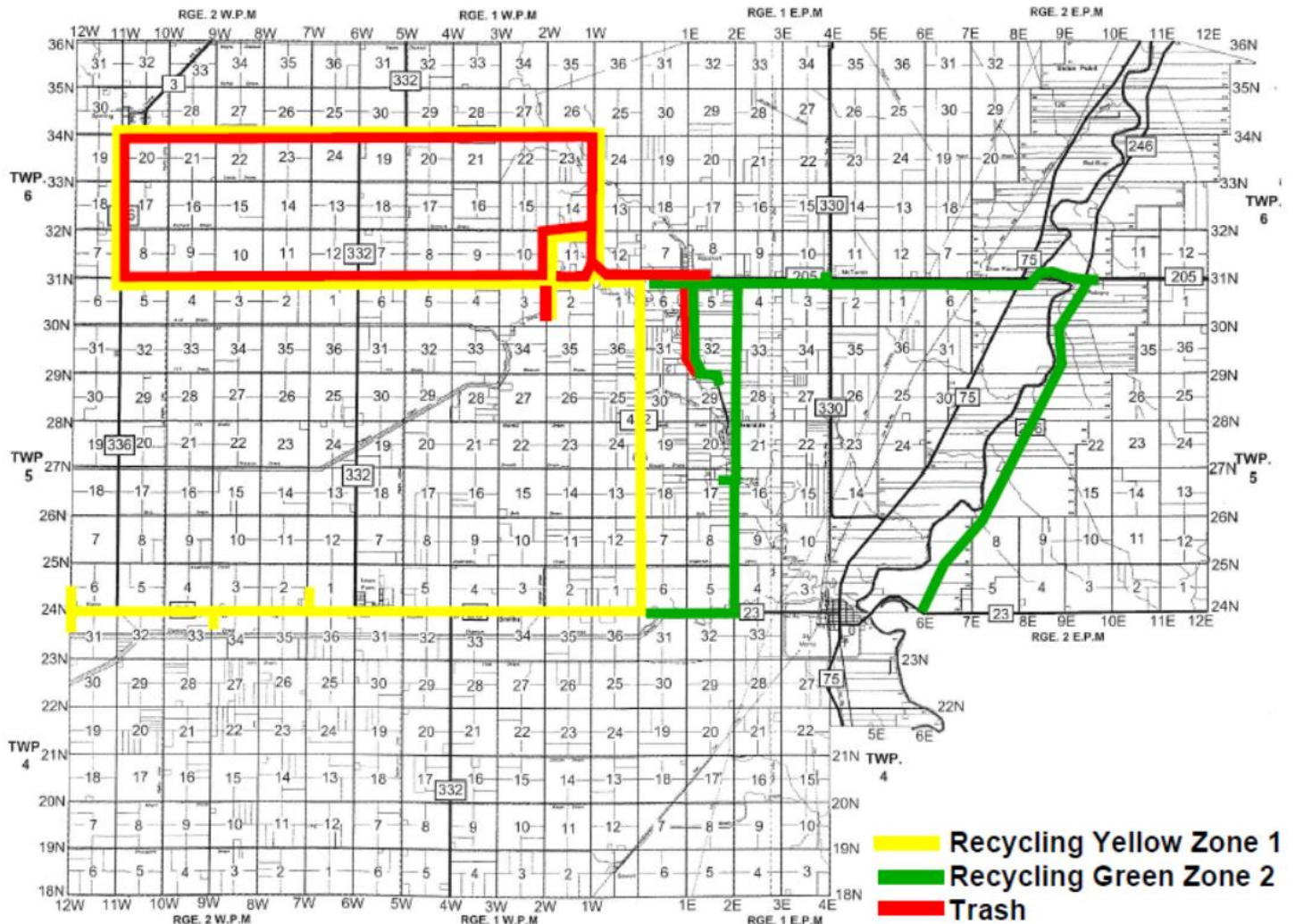
Theoretically, it is advisable if the capital and one-time items can be paid for from reserve funds. Therefore, the proper establishment of reserves and the annual funding for those reserves is important. By funding reserves on a regular steady basis this allows us as a municipality to try to maintain a level tax structure that is not subject to large fluctuations from year to year.

Over time we will be working towards incorporating the projected requirements that will be outlined in the AMP with the 20-year financial planning process. Will we be successful – only time and the commitment of future Councils will be able to determine that.

So, having spoken of Financial Plans, please see information in this newsletter regarding the upcoming Financial Plan hearing.

**Larry Driedger**

## NEW Recycling & Garbage Collection Program – Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021



For more information visit <https://rmofmorris.ca/community/new-recycling-garbage-program/>

### Connect Communications

The RM of Morris is happy announce that we have signed up with All-Net Connect Communications.

Go [www.rmofmorris.ca](http://www.rmofmorris.ca) to learn more and how to register.

### 2021 Dust Control

Applications can be found online, or call our office for curbside pickup. Deadline to apply is May 14th, 2021.

### 2021 Spring Cleanup

- May 25<sup>th</sup> - Sperling
- May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> - Rosenort, Riverside and Aubigny
- May 28<sup>th</sup> - Lowe Farm

### Upcoming Council Meeting

- April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### R.M. of Morris Media

Please take the time to visit our website and check out our upcoming events. We would like to include as many community events as possible, so please forward information to Jennifer at the R.M. of Morris office by calling 204-746-7300 or send her an email at [reception@rmofmorris.ca](mailto:reception@rmofmorris.ca)

### Water Works Emergency Line:

204-746-7300

### Budget Hearing

The financial plan will be presented on April 15th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Lowe Farm Community Centre at 28 Main Street, Lowe Farm, MB.

The financial plan will include the 2021 Operating Costs, the 2021 Capital Budget and a Long-Term Capital Expenditure Program. Council will hear any person(s) who wish to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

More information and pre-registration can be found at [rmofmorris.ca](http://rmofmorris.ca)

### Building Inspector / Fire Chief

Hello everyone!

The spring of 2021 is upon us. The risk of flooding this year is very low. Of course, the other side of the coin is that it is predicted to be a very dry spring. If you are doing any outdoor burning, please use care and have a source of water close at hand.

Although the municipal office is currently closed to the public, building permits and inspections can still be obtained through me. I can be contacted by telephone at (204) 712-0022 during our regular business hours or by email at [trevor@rmofmorris.ca](mailto:trevor@rmofmorris.ca). A reminder that a permit is required for any accessory building larger than 120 square feet, as well as any new construction or additions to existing buildings. As always, I am more than happy to answer any and all permit related questions you may have.

I sincerely hope you all have a safe, happy and prosperous spring season!

**Trevor Dackow**

### Public Works Report

Spring has sprung early! This winter we did under 40 hours of plowing operations. Culvert steaming was also minimal.

2021 Drainage consists of approximately 30 miles that we will be starting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The dust control program will be available again, if you are interested please contact the office at 204-746-7300 prior to the **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021** deadline.

Over winter we had work done on the Road 2E bridge that crosses the Morris River. Again, we ask for residents to slow down over the wooden structures.

**Paul Robert**

Landfill Hours and Price List		
DAYS	Rosenort 204-746-0417	Lowé Farm 204-746-4337
Monday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Tuesday	9am - 4:30pm	1pm - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Thursday	9am - 4:30pm	10am - 8pm
Friday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Saturday	9am - 4:30pm	9am - 3pm
Sundays & Holidays	CLOSED	CLOSED
FEES		
Item	Resident	Non-Resident x3
1-5 bags	\$ 10.00	\$ 30.00
1/2 ton truck	\$ 20.00	\$ 60.00
1 ton truck	\$ 60.00	\$ 180.00
Mattress	\$ 15.00	\$ 45.00
New rates effective January 1st, 2021		

**Council Contact Information**

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Deputy Reeve Rick Giesbrecht (204) 746-5355  
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Councillor Stan Siemens (204) 746-5818  
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Councillor Barry Fraese (204) 746-5824  
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Councillor Scott Siemens (204) 746-4749  
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Councillor Mervin Dueck (204) 746-5010  
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Councillor Shane Kroeker (204) 209-0375  
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CAO Larry Driedger (204) 746-7300  
[larry.driedger@rmofmorris.ca](mailto:larry.driedger@rmofmorris.ca)

### Payment Options

- 1) **At Landfill** – Currently we have a debit machine at the Rosenort Landfill ONLY.
- 2) **Online Banking** – You may process your payments online if your bank is set up for such. Please be sure to choose the RM of Morris, not the Town of Morris as a payee. Always allow 5 business days for your bank to process payments to ensure it is received by its deadline.
- 3) **Dropbox** – Located beside our front office doors.

**We have closed our doors to the public and whenever possible we will be doing contactless service. Please call our office so we can assist you in your needed service.**

**Thank you for your help during this time to reduce the spread, stay safe!**

### **Notice for Animal Owners**

As a municipality, every year we receive complaints about animals defecating (pooping) on properties, both private and public. These could be from horses, dogs, cats, etc. We would encourage people to please clean up after your pets. No one likes to clean up after someone else's horse, dog, cat, etc. poops on the pathway, sidewalk, street, lawn....

**PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL OWNER!**