



Rural Municipality of St. Laurent  
Regular Meeting  
May 19, 2021

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**MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 in the Council Chambers, located at 16 St. Laurent Veterans' Memorial Road, St. Laurent, Manitoba.

Present: Reeve Cheryl Smith, Councillors Frank Bruce (left at 12:17 p.m.), Phil Mathews, Jerry Combot, Vern Coutu, and A CAO Bernice Kitsch

Regrets: CAO, Hilda Zotter

**Call to Order**

Reeve Cheryl Smith called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Res #145/2021 Bruce – Coutu

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for today's date be hereby adopted as amended.  
....Carried

**Confirmation of Minutes**

Res #146/2021 Mathews - Combot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of:

- Special Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2021
- Public Meeting – 2021 Financial Plan – April 29, 2021
- Special Meeting Minutes – April 29, 2021

....Carried

**Committee Reports:**

CAO (Hilda Zotter)  
- None

#### MEC and ACAO (Paul Belair)

- Met with Electrician to measure for electrical from generator to Parish Hall. Electrician will also trench and install regular service power to generator, awaiting on a new quote. Hoping to have things done by August, 2021.
- Christmas Lights - Have a quote from Richman Electric to do the 10 Christmas lights for 2021. Can we use Richman Electric because it would be an extension and a continuation of the original job? Council indicated that the process began some time ago and this would be acceptable.
- Presented the correspondence and pricing from MI regarding Municipal Boundary Signs and Community Service Signs. Asking council to make a choice regarding community symbols on the signs and if they wish to proceed to order.
- Presented situation of stumble on stairs at Welcome Centre. The individual who stumbled did not use the railings. Recommend we look at replacing stairs, not necessarily because of stumble but because they need to be strengthened to handle the enormous traffic at the Post Office. We also have a foundation issue every winter with the south side railing lifting and falling off. This will be looked at further in next years budget.
- St. Laurent Welcome Sign - We have the go ahead to clean up the sign area and put a welcome sign there. Received a quote from Fast Signs and presented to council.

#### EDO (Guy Dumont)

##### **Eco-West – Zevip (Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program)**

Zevip is an initiative of Natural Resources Canada that provides grants to municipalities or private enterprises for the installation of electric car battery chargers. Eco-West is making an application on behalf of member municipalities. We may make a resolution to have one installed at an appropriate location of our choice or support a private enterprise that wishes to participate. Eco-West prefers that the RM be the applicant. They need a resolution in order to proceed with more definite plans and their deadline for application is June 22. We should invite Danny Robidoux to make a full presentation either in person or via Zoom at our June 2 council meeting. He is very willing to do this, bearing in mind COVID restrictions. (see handout)

##### **Dentist Office**

Last month I was contacted by a Dentist who is interested in opening a dental practice in St. Laurent, at least on a trial basis and asked if I could find him office space. The only suitable space I could think of was the portion of the Welcome Centre that is also intended as Phase 1, Storage and Mechanical rooms for the MHC. We indicated that we might be able to offer him a 2-year lease on that facility for now and that hopefully we could accommodate him further when and if we proceed with the rest of the building and the new office spaces for IERHA. (See handout)

##### **CDEM Community Profile Tool**

CDEM, in partnership with Anna Mondor, have developed a Community Profile tool, similar but somewhat superior to **Townfolio**. The one-time cost is about \$12,000.00, of which CDEM would pay \$5,000.00. The service is permanent and Anna Mondor would enter all census data, which is about three quarters of the work involved. The rest I would have to enter. Payment could be divided over two years. In contrast, **Townfolio** has a recurring annual charge of \$2,000.00, 50% of which is funded by the RM. Not sure of current status but page is still up.

### **Driftscape**

Driftscape is an online app that people use for purposes of touring, typically vacationers who want to know what attractions might be worth checking out when they are in any given area. It is offered to members of the Interlake Tourism Association but as we are currently do not have a membership, we can still have some benefits of it through CDEM, who would pay the \$300.00 fee for one year. We would need to pick 3 attractions that we want included in the app for our municipality and get back to them. I did a bit of research and It costs \$1,788.00 to subscribe independently.

### **Old Town Hall**

We still have no word on this year's application to Manitoba Heritage Resources Program regarding the restoration of the Old Town Hall. However, we have been advised by FDEFO that we were not successful in our application to them.

I am putting together a work description for the completion of the work from last year that will include the re-installation of the restored windows and door, as well as the closing up of the north wall. We should be able to start looking for bids next week.

### **Healthy Communities**

Our application to Healthy Communities Program for the Park Attendant booths was not successful. They opened a new intake last Friday and we will try again.

### **Building Sustainable Communities Program**

Still no word about this program. Both Assisted Living Centre and the Rec Centre have applications in.

### **Green Team**

We were approved for \$19,000.00 under this program and we plan to have interviews on June 10<sup>th</sup> for hiring. Should yield 4 positions in addition to Rec Commission and TLBA position.

### **Canada Summer Jobs**

We have not heard back from this program regarding Park Attendant positions for Gros Arbre. ALC was approved but on for \$5,000.00. I have inquired as to why MERCs were excluded but they have not gotten back to me.

### **Universal Broadband Fund (Rapid Response Stream)**

Still no word from this program either regarding our plans for hooking up to Starlink.

### **Green and Inclusive Community Buildings**

I am studying the ins and outs of this program as it looks very accommodating for the type of project that we have in mind for incorporating new office space for leasing to IERHA with our Metis Heritage Centre. CDEM has offered the assistance of Robert Paquin to help make application, if viable.

### **Sewage Lagoon Sludge removal and UV filtration system.**

We have an engineer's report and estimates that I will be sharing with our MLA who has indicated he will forward to all relevant departments for alerts should funding become available. The estimates include sludge removal and automatic gating system for controlling and tracking usage.

### **Economic Development Training**

I have one more module left, being Module 7 to complete this training. It has been problematic due to Covid restrictions and they have not developed an online version of the training.

### **Assisted Living Centre highlights**

The yurt is up and looking good. Still need one set of steps and either floor paint or floor covering. In any event, we will not be able to use it under current restrictions.

I had the basement floor and ceilings repaired as requested by IERHA.

Met with Tammy Hiebert re: applying to the Manitoba Trails Program for a walking trail on the ALC property.

All residents have been fully vaccinated and I believe all workers now have at least their first shot.

### **Other**

I have been attending meetings of Community Futures West Interlake, both the regular board meetings and the Investment Review Committee mtgs. Been very busy with the RRRF applications.

Also, meetings of the CDEM Board of Directors via zoom.

Attended 2 days of Strategic Planning for IERHA via zoom.

### **Public Works (Donovan Boudreau)**

- Graveling will begin next week, then dust control
- Maintenance completed on mower
- Welcome Centre all cleaned up

### **Waste Transfer Site (Ron Colliou)**

- Created Educational pieces for the RM website/Facebook – Ray did a good job putting all the information together
- Baler received its annual servicing
- Electrical issues with the skid steer, repaired broken wire
- Just a note with the Quonset and the wind, there is a 10-year life on straps, in the process of obtaining quotes
- Oil building – we are currently cleaning it up, getting quoted for excavation of site in safe manner, in the process of getting quotes and looking at moving the building
- Have recently noticed the larger volume coming in
- Looking into a conveyer system, after researching, crushing glass is not feasible

### **Fire Department (Roger Leclerc)**

- None

### **Rec Commission (Tammy Hiebert)**

- None

### **Councillor Phil Mathews**

- Community Futures meeting and couple of other meetings

### **Councillor Jerry Combot**

- Meetings at the office, fixed garbage tarp

Councillor Frank Bruce

- Worked on the Christmas and streetlights
- Dust Control – should look into the budget next year, perhaps creating an application where people can apply and pay for their driveways
- Attended a by-law committee meeting; Flo’s septic meeting, virtual Interlake caucus meeting; Tour with by-law officer

Councillor Vern Coutu

- Looking at concerns with an abandoned well, and will look into solution

Reeve Cheryl Smith

- Quite a few interviews with the Still Standing Program
- Attended a number of meetings at the office
- Participated in the IERHA Strategic Planning sessions
- Good meeting with Flo’s Septic Service
- By-law committee meeting – Intro with RCMP and By-law officer
- Attended virtual Interlake caucus meeting
- Went on the town tour – was really good
- Attended the WIPD meeting reviewed the auditor report, lots of building permits, public hearing to be held by zoom on June 15<sup>th</sup>, new Building Inspector will be discussed further in-camera

Media Report (Reeve Smith)

- None

**Finance & Accounts**

Res #147/2021

Coutu - Combob

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council Indemnities for May 2021 and Expenses for April 2021 be approved as follows:

	Cheryl Smith	Phil Mathews	Frank Bruce	Vern Coutu	Jerry Combob
Indemnity	1000.00	800.00	900.00	800.00	800.00
Hourly	1112.50	575.00	700.00	0.00	0.00
Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mileage	90.00	78.00	71.30	0.00	0.00

Blue Cross (BC)	-399.91	-159.76	-399.91	-399.91	-399.91
BC (paid by RM)	399.91	159.76	399.91	399.91	399.91
CPP Deduction	-99.24	-59.04	-71.30	-27.70	-27.70
Fed/Prov Tax ded	-207.68	-61.78	-150.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	<b>1895.58</b>	<b>1332.18</b>	<b>1450.00</b>	<b>772.30</b>	<b>772.30</b>

..... Carried

Res #148/2021                      Bruce – Mathews

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Accounts Payable to May 18, 2021, written under cheque numbers 30051 to 30092 and totaling \$81,225.63 be hereby approved for payment.

..... Carried

Res #149/2021                      Combot – Mathews

WHEREAS the RM of St. Laurent has advertised for the Cleaning & Maintenance of the Park Porta-potties.

AND WHEREAS the portable washrooms at Meindl, Big Tree (Sandpiper) Park will require extensive cleaning and maintenance during the 2021 season, once Provincial Response Level “Critical” is removed. The start and end date is currently unknown however, this will be closely monitored and notification will be provided to the service provider once known.

AND WHEREAS tenders have been received and reviewed by Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the quote given by Cameron Belair in the amount of \$7,000.

..... Carried

Res #150/2021                      Coutu - Combot

WHEREAS the RM wishes to install Christmas Lights along the Ludovic Road and Ducharme Road in St. Laurent.

WHEREAS an estimate has been received for installation of power supply for Christmas lights on selected hydro poles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the estimate received from Richman Electric in the amount of \$12,224.30 plus applicable taxes.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT ten poles are to be done this year at that price.

..... Carried

Res #151/2021 Mathews - Combot

WHEREAS charitable donations have been received by the R.M. of St. Laurent to be paid out as follows:

- a. From Murray and May Robins in the amount of \$100.00 to the Oak Point Community Club for the hall rebuild in memory of Lloyd Clegg;
- b. From Rose Anderson in the amount of \$150.00 towards the Oak Point Community Club for the hall rebuild in memory of Lloyd Clegg;
- c. From Davilyn Eyolfson in the amount of \$50.00 towards the Oak Point Community Club for the hall rebuild in memory of Lloyd Clegg.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the above payments be made.

..... Carried

Res #152/2021 Mathews - Combot

WHEREAS the RM wishes to update the Welcome Sign heading into town near the Lambert Baseball sign.

AND WHEREAS Council has reviewed the quote for an 8' x 16' replacement sign in the amount of \$1,516.67 plus applicable taxes, including \$107.00 per hour design work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the above quoted price from FASTSIGNS Winnipeg.

..... Carried

#### **DELEGATIONS**

- None

#### **ZONING AND SUBDIVISIONS**

- None

Regular Matters:

- None

Notices:

- None

## **TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS**

Res #153/2021                      Coutu - Comboto

WHEREAS the RM wishes to have the Municipal boundary sign and Community Service sign updated.

WHEREAS Council has reviewed the Manitoba Infrastructure sign replacement cost recovery as follows;

Municipal Boundary Sign – install for \$800 each plus applicable taxes;

Community Service Sign (with 1 row of symbols) – install or \$500 each plus applicable taxes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the above price to purchase the 2 sign replacements.

.....Carried

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- None

## **New and Unfinished Business**

Res #154/2021                      Coutu – Comboto

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law #2/2021 being a by-law to provide for the 2021 Financial and Tax Levy be hereby given second reading.

....Carried

Res #155/2021                      Mathews – Comboto

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law #2/2021 being a by-law to provide for the 2021 Financial and Tax Levy be hereby given third reading.

....Carried

Res #156/2021                      Comboto – Coutu

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 3/2021 (Public Parks), being a by-law of the Rural Municipality, be hereby given first reading.

....Carried

Res #157/2021                      Coutu – Comboto

WHEREAS due to the current public health orders regarding Provincial Response Level “Critical”.

AND WHEREAS the municipality parks cannot be monitored to achieve social distancing.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT all municipality parks close effective immediately, and no porta toilets be placed to encourage gatherings until further notice.

....Carried

Res #158/2021                      Mathews – Combot

WHEREAS the Municipality and the Jodi Buors, operating as Flo's Septic Service wish to enter into an agreement for the provision of certain services.

AND WHEREAS Council has reviewed the attached agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agreement between The Rural Municipality of St. Laurent and Jodi Buors, operating as Flo's Septic Service be hereby approved by Council.

....Carried

Res #159/2021                      Coutu – Mathews

WHEREAS Eco-West Canada reached out to the municipality regarding the Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP).

AND WHEREAS ZEVIP is a partial reimbursement program where the municipality will be reimbursed 50% of the cost, the program would be in effect for 2022.

AND WHEREAS Eco-West Canada is currently looking for participation confirmation and location.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the RM participation and the location to be determined.

....Carried

Res #160/2021                      Mathews – Coutu

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of municipalities on policy, advocacy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdictions.

WHEREAS FCM's 2021 Annual Conference and Trade Show will be held virtually from May 31, 2021 to June 4, 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the participation of Phil Mathews, Cheryl Smith, Vern Coutu, and Frank Bruce in the FCM's 2021 Annual Conference and Trade Show.

....Carried

**Correspondence/Information/Minutes from Others**

**Correspondence/Information:**

- Interlake District Meeting – June 10, 2021

**Minutes:**

- None

**Committee of the Whole in Camera**

Res #161/2021                      Mathews – Combot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole in Camera.

.....Carried

Res #162/2021                      Coutu – Combot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Committee rise and that Council reconvene once again.

.....Carried

**Adjourn**

Res #163/2021                      Mathews - Coutu

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting now adjourn at 1:27 p.m.

.....Carried

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Reeve

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CAO