

Committee Reports
Gas and Utilities Director's Report

Joyce Pierce, Gas and Utilities Director, reported on the operation and maintenance of the gas, water, and sewer divisions, the Rural Utilities and Agricultural Development meeting, and the meeting with the Long Lake residents about the block well management plan. Discussion followed about concerns about the deadline for divestment of the wells and how a deadline is necessary to keep all stakeholders moving toward a resolution of this issue.

Adoption of Report Resolution 180-2010

Moved by Cori Kuzyk that the Gas and Utilities Director's Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Cindy Olchow, Director of Agriculture and Community Services, joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Agriculture and Community Services
Business Arising from Minutes/New Business – Compensation for 2010 Opal Fire

Cindy Olchow, Director of Agriculture and Community Services presented her recommendation regarding compensating staff, volunteers, and County Council for overtime and out of pocket expenses associated with the 2010 Opal Fire/State of Local Emergency.

Resolution 181-2010

Moved by Cori Kuzyk that management and staff be compensated for overtime and that staff, volunteers, and County Council be compensated for out of pocket expenses, both associated with the 2010 Opal Fire/State of Local Emergency.

CARRIED

Correspondence Items

There was no information presented with respect to the Correspondence section for this meeting.

Committee Reports
Agriculture & Community Services Director/Agricultural Fieldman

Cindy Olchow, Director of Agriculture & Community Services, reported to Council with respect to agriculture (on behalf of Clarence Dowhan, Agricultural Fieldman), the 2010 Opal Fire, and the Sodium Hydroxide Incident. She briefed Council on the implications of declaring a State of Local Emergency, planning an appreciation event for the volunteers who helped out, and a debriefing on the outcome of the Emergency Operations.

Adoption of Report Resolution 182-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that the Agriculture and Community Services Director/Agricultural Fieldman's Reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Bylaws
Nuisance Bylaw

Resolution 183-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that the proposed Nuisance Bylaw be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Joyce Pierce, Director of Gas and Utilities, and Cindy Olchow, Director of Agriculture and Community Services, left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Recess

Reeve Charles Newell called for a recess at 10:25 a.m.

Reconvene

Reeve Charles Newell reconvened the meeting at 10:32 a.m. with Rick Nietupski, Director of Public Works, in attendance.

Public Works
Business Arising
from the Minutes/
New Minutes –
Shoulder Pulling
Road Projects

Rick Nietupski, Director of Public Works, brought in a map showing the sections of roads most in need of shoulder pulling repair as recommended by the most recent Rural Road Study. The 12 miles of Opal Road north of Highway 18 will be the first section to be completed which will be a good section to test the effectiveness of the repair.

Size of
Approaches onto
County Roads

Rick Nietupski presented a recommendation to increase the standard minimum width of approaches onto County roads. Individuals are currently charged for any extra width beyond the standard 10 meters. Council saw no benefit to increase this standard at this time and made no resolution to update Policy 909.

Road Bans

Resolution 184-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that the 75% Road Ban be removed from Opal Road south of Highway 18 to Twp. Road 582 and the Long Lake Access Road, effective Tuesday, June 1, 2010, that the Road Bans in the Hamlets of Egremont and Opal are to remain on until further notice, and that the Road Bans on Hospital Street in Radway, and in Northbrook and Pinebrook Subdivisions are to remain on year round.

CARRIED

Correspondence
Item:

Report on Caustic
Soda Spill Road
Repairs

Resolution 185-2010

Moved by Wayne Crosswell that the report presented regarding the repairs to the roads affected by the Caustic Soda Spill be accepted as information and that Administration have the authority to present the report to the party responsible for the spill.

CARRIED

Committee Report
Public Works
Director

Public Works Director Rick Nietupski reported on the following matters:

- Correction Line Road Project Status
- Abee Bridge Project
- Household Hazardous Waste Roundup
- Gravel Crushing Costs
- Public Works Office Complex
- Summer Students
- Grader Tenders

Discussion followed regarding investigating joint ownership of a mulcher with a neighboring municipality or purchasing a used mulcher.

Adoption of Report

Resolution 186-2010

Moved by Shelly Hanasyk that the Public Works Director's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Rick Nietupski, Director of Public Works, left the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Cindy Olchoway, Director of Agriculture and Community Services rejoined the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Notice of Motion

Resolution 187-2010

Reeve Charles Newell moved that Council direct Administration to draft a bylaw to restrict the use of All-terrain Vehicles on designated areas of the County in tandem with Fire Bans and Fire Advisories, which will also be prepared to present as a resolution at the AAMDC Pembina River Zone Meeting on July 26, 2010.

CARRIED

Other Business
2010 Opal Fire
Financial Update

County Manager Dan Small presented an oral report regarding the financial impact of the 2010 Opal Fire. He commended staff for continuing to perform essential functions during the emergency. The County is still committed to completing projects that are budgeted and underway but staff will review new projects. The fire may impact the amount of borrowing that will be needed.

Director of Agriculture and Community Services Cindy Olchowy advised that there is an \$88,000 deductible associated with the fire (\$25 per capita) and that \$500,000 in immediate aid has been requested from the provincial government under the Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program (MWAP).

Recess

Reeve Charles Newell called for a recess at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvene

Reeve Charles Newell reconvened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Other Business –
Newbrook
Provincial
Recreation Area

Resolution 188-2010

Moved by Cori Kuzyk that Administration write a letter to Jeff Johnson, MLA, in support of the deregulation and closure of the Newbrook Provincial Recreation Area that also expresses concern about the inadequate number of rest stops along major area highways.

CARRIED

Thorhild Coop
Fuel Purchasing

Resolution 189-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that the County use Thorhild Coop as its primary source of bulk and cardlock fuel and oil for a twelve month period.

CARRIED

Request for Input
on Changes to
Law Enforcement
Framework

Resolution 190-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that Administration be directed to communicate to the AAMDC that the County of Thorhild is not accepting of paying for policing.

CARRIED

Recess

Reeve Charles Newell called for a recess at 1:20 p.m.

Reconvene

Reeve Charles Newell reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Delegation -
Betty Kolewaski

Reeve Charles Newell welcomed Betty Kolewaski to the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Kolewaski made the following requests of County Council and the CAO:

- a) That the Reeve and Council provide an oral and written public apology to County taxpayers for making expense claims for attending fundraising events hosted by the Progressive Conservative Party.
- b) That the Reeve make a motion to authorize Administration to review all prohibited expense claims since January 2007 and that they be repaid to the taxpayers.
- c) That there be a transparent and public disclosure of the document showing the repayment of all prohibited expense claims. Also that the expense claim policy for breakfasts and lunches before and/or after meetings be reviewed.

Resolution 191-2010

Moved by Charles Newell that Administration be directed to investigate Councillors' expense claims for attending political party fundraising events with the County's auditor and legal counsel.

CARRIED

Cindy Olchow, Director of Agriculture and Community Services, Joyce Pierce, Director of Gas and Utilities, and Cheryl Pasay, Director of Planning and Taxation joined the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Delegation -
Colette Miller,
Wilde & Co.

Reeve Charles Newell welcomed Colette Miller and Debbie Febrowski of Wilde & Co. to the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Ms. Miller and Ms. Febrowski briefed Council on the following matters:

- 2010 was an extremely challenging year for staff in regards to financial reporting due to many complex issues that occurred such as the 2008 fires, switching to reporting using Tangible Capital Assets, the Water Commission, amalgamation of the Village of Thorhild, and the many capital projects the County undertook. Staff are to be commended for successfully handling this complexity.
- Municipalities are not allowed to directly make contributions to political party fundraising events but individual Councillors may do so and then be reimbursed by the municipality. Their attendance at such events is important to networking with government officials who can assist in times of disaster or expedite funding for projects. This should also be confirmed with legal counsel.
- The County's internal controls are tested for compliance with policies that protect its assets. There is a very low risk of fraud because controls are very strong.

Confidential Item –
Draft of Audited
Financial
Statements

Resolution 192-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that Council go in camera at 2:10 p.m. to review the draft copy of the 2009 Audited Financial Statements.

CARRIED

Candace Revega, Accounting Clerk, joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Resolution 193 -2010

Moved by Cori Kuzyk that Council return to open meeting at 3:19 p.m.

CARRIED

Resolution 194-2010

Moved by Kevin Grumetza that the draft copy of the 2009 Audited Financial Statements for the County of Thorhild be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Adjournment

Being that agenda matters were concluded, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.