

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

### **HAMLET OF RIVERSIDE ESTATES**

#### **Minutes of April 19, 2011**

*Attendees: Attendance at end of minutes*

#### 1. Call to Order

- 7:00 meeting called to order
- Emil asked if items should be added to the agenda
  - Question about length of time the Lorne Ave detour would be in effect. Resident responded that it is expected to last for 18 months.
  - Request to add discussion on South Corman Park Grade 7/8 potential extension
  - Reeve Mel Henry is in attendance and will give a presentation after Agenda item 6C.
- Motion to approve minutes from last year
  - Question about 2 speed limit signs; response that it was carried over to this year.
  - Motion to accept minutes as read
  - Seconded and Carried
- Financials statements introduced for acceptance, Marie Racine moved, seconded
- Vote and discussion on Financial statements would be completed later in the meeting after the water and roadway discussions.
- Water system discussion:
  - It is the Hamlet's understanding that DRU has contract the RM to finish the water lines; Tammy spoke about an agreement with DRWU to supply water to the reservoir, money has been paid to DRWU in the amount of 245,000.
  - Discussion of previous decision to amortize the 245K of connection fees across tax bills
    - Discussion if 3 or 5 years of amortization would be most beneficial.
    - Discussion if interest should be changed on the amortized amount.
    - Tammy clarified that the water would be a separate bill, arrears charged at the rate of 1% per month.

- Road presentation (Roger)
  - The RM was contacted in the spring of 2010 for cost estimates to chipseal the roads in Riverside. Based on the estimates the board approved chipsealing Pony Trail and Cherry Lane, and repair the remaining roadways as required. The estimate provided by the RM for this work was \$40,000.
  - When the RM performed the work later that summer they also chipsealed Poplar accidentally, which was not part of the original approval. This error was communicated to the RM immediately.
  - During the chipsealing the RM passed along comments from the road crews that there are sections of Pony Trail that in spots had little or no roadbed, and that they were patching directly over top of black dirt, and there were concerns that the patching would not hold.
  - After patching was completed several residents expressed concern over the amount of gravel used and concerns that it would be all swept into the ditch.
  - The RM was contacted prior to gravel removal with these concerns, and arranged for two street sweepers from the City of Saskatoon to remove the gravel. The availability of the removed gravel was communicated to residents via the email list and made available on a first response basis.
  - Additional road repairs were undertaken by the RM in the fall, since some patched sections had already deteriorated.
  - Several residents in the fall expressed concern that the roadwork had not delivered the expected improvement and that significant gravel still existed on the roads.
  - These concerns were passed along to the RM. The RM suggested that the hamlet wait until spring to perform any further sweeping, since winter sanding would also require sweeping.
  - The RM provided the breakdown for the cost of the road repairs and chipsealing a few weeks prior to the AGM. This cost of \$75,000 was significantly higher than the estimates they provided prior to the work being approved.
  - The hamlet board immediately sent a letter to the RM contesting the amount, along with a copy of the original estimates. Unfortunately we have had no response from the RM yet, but the public works division has been very busy with flooding and other issues. At this point the board can communicate that we will be aggressively pursuing this with the RM and expecting the RM to be fair and reasonable, and that we anticipate cost considerations will be made for road work required this year.
  - There are concerns that continuing with the maintenance of the existing roads may not be sufficient and that more major structural roadwork may be required.
  - Emil commented that it is his understanding that most of Pony Trail was paved without the construction of a proper roadbed.

- The hamlet can look at applying for a road infrastructure grant
- The board can look into other road options, but an engineering study of the existing roads may be required, especially if a grant application is being made.
- Concern expressed by residents at the meeting about gravel still remaining on the roads.
- Motion made by Ron Steer that the hamlet will pursue sweeping as soon as possible, and that the hamlet board is authorized to spend up to \$20,000 on interim road maintenance. Seconded (Nancy Baltzan), Motion Carried.
- Motion made that the hamlet authorizes the hamlet board to pursue a permanent solution to the roads with reasonable expenditures as necessary. Hugh second)
- Water Discussion
  - Flushing and cleaning lines is expected to be done in Aug/Sept.
  - Discussion on swabbing the lines for cleaning and request to RM that it be completed before freeze up.
  - Comment made that email is a good way to keep in touch with everyone on the status of the water project and if anyone does not have their name on the Hamlet email list to please sign up that evening.
  - Question about homes that do not currently have water to their house and how to get and infrastructure suitable for potable household connection. Discussion that vertical drilling would be required for houses that do not have an all-season water connection. Residents interested should contact the Board so a group deal could potentially be negotiated with a drilling company to perform the work in parallel with the Hamlet water project.
  - Question about a potential leak in the water main line between 5 and 7 Poplar. Questions have been forwarded to the RM.
  - Motion proposed to pay for the water project arrears over a 5 year period that would be interest free made by Gail, Owen Mitchell seconded.
  - Comment from Tammy that the repayment amount can be adjusted each year, so if the term needs to be revisited next year that could be done.
  - Motion called and carried.
- Called for vote on the earlier motion on the financial statements; carried
- Comment by Emil that he was at the council meeting where council threw out the motion to potentially redistribute the voting districts and “to be democratic”, and that he feels strongly that the RM should be returned to a democratic state with equal representation of votes.
- Presentation by Craig Riddell on population redistributions, concern about uneven population distribution in the division. Recently council threw out the committee to look at changing these

distributions. Currently some divisions have as few as 200 votes electing a councillor, while other have over 2000 with a single councillor.

- 3 potential routes that could be followed to have boundaries changed:
  - Organized hamlets can apply to become independent divisions
  - A petition can be created to have a binding referendum held. This would take a lot of effort. If enough people sign a petition it will force a referendum question.
  - Divisions 1,2,3,4 could split off from Corman park and form their own municipality. He is investigating the feasibility of doing this.
- Craig commented that at the moment there is a completely split council. Councillors in the north in constant disagreement with councillors in the south.
- Emil comments that there is a 9.6 times disparity between votes. Our votes count for 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the votes in the smaller divisions.
- Council is approving a multi parcel development involving Green Briar, this reduces the size of the golf course and puts in 142+ properties. Ultimately if goes ahead will represent another 400 residents on top of the 2000+ currently in the division.
- Comment that this needs to be fixed and we need to be starting on it right now.
- Reeve Henry spoke to provide an update on the RM:
  - In process of doing a complete bylaw review, all bylaws will be reviewed over the next 2 years. The purpose is to review and bring all bylaws up to date.
  - Concerns with Chief Whitecap Park. Significant pushback from residents in the area on the area being abused and problems with stray dogs from the park. A speaker will be at the next council meeting to request that any decision be delayed, and is requesting more time to prepare comments. Reviewing this again without a view that the city should have the upper hand.
  - The Corman park police has a new chief. Want more visibility of the police service in the RM, and that he is confident that residents will appreciate the new direction of the Corman Park Police.
  - The Dundurn water users association has asked Corman Park to put a member on their board this year.
  - Approx 500 miles of gravel roads are being upgraded or serviced this year. Better quality gravel is being used. Corman Park currently has 1.49 million in reserve and have 500K being used for gravel. Only ¼ of reserves being used. If repairs are not made the cost to fix later will be much more.
  - The RM has a new asphalt truck that will better service the communities.

- Reeve Henry indicated that he will ask the RM public works to perform the engineering study required for the roads in Riverside estates. The RM has another engineering study going on this year, and should be able to accommodate our engineering study at the same time.
- Reeve Henry commented on the vote distribution in the RM. This is a thorny issue. Not much public feedback was received. There is a feeling that some people want it, but have not heard from people opposing it. Is confident that all councillors put Corman Park first and will back what is best for Corman Park. Does not feel that a new division will fly. He is not against doing the plebiscite if there is sufficient interest and looking at redefining the divisions if that is what the people want.
- Emil, spoke with the Provincial Government in regards to a new division, was advised that there was no point in going that route since it would be unlikely to be approved by the Province. He commented that he was advised that a plebiscite is binding if a petition is delivered before July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the RM must act upon it before Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Tammy clarified that plebiscite is not binding, but a referendum is, which can be forced if significant signatures are on a petition.
- Reeve Henry commented made that only 14% of people in last Reeve election voted. If a petition is brought to council it will be acted upon.
- Question from floor, was the review not voted upon last year.
- Reeve Henry responded that they need to have people show up in support. Got no feedback or letters to support it.
- Question from floor: Wondering what a “reasonable number” is.
- Question on what is the policy around bylaw review. What are the guidelines around this?
  - Tammy: An independent consultant is reviewing the bylaws. Zoning bylaws in particular. Bylaws being reviewed to not affect the land in Riverside Estates.
  - Part of the review process would be requesting public input.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> question about “doing something about the dogs at chief whitecap park”. Feedback that there should be better fencing, more on leash areas, and larger parking. Keep one trail more as a people trail than a dog trail. RM police only policing force, get no backup from city police.
- Many concerns about owners having no control of off leash dogs.
- Issue raised over the Riverside Golf Course burning trash almost every weekend. Concerned about the smoke and smell from this practice. The Hamlet board will send a letter to the Golf course expressing this concern and requesting they change this practice.
- Nominations to fill two spots on the Hamlet Board.

- o Emil Hallin nominated for an additional term and thanked from all the residents for his work in the past.
- o Ed Lemire nominated, and will let his name stand.
- o Move nominations cease.
- o Ed and Emil elected to board.
- o Thanks to Paul for his years on the board.
- o Recycling and garbage disposal discussion:
  - Loraas disposal was to have a representative at the meeting but unfortunately could not attend.
  - It will be slightly cheaper if the hamlet pays a bulk fee and recovers the fees from residents. All recyclables go into one bin, and garbage in another bin. Question to residents: Do we want a hamlet wide recycling program?
  - Currently the Hamlet would need to contract the RM to then contract with Loraas for a group recycling. Individual recycling is not currently offered by Loraas, but will be offered starting next year.
  - Hamlet wide costs would be \$6/house per month. This would alternate garbage pickup one week, recycling the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. Garbage service would be reduced by \$6.
  - Only way to provide recycle service this year would be to do it as a group.
  - Question if minimum number of subscriptions. Answer that this would need to be referred to Loraas, but none was specified by them previously.
  - Motion from Ed to authorize hamlet board to pursue hamlet wide recycling curbside pickup at a cost around \$6/month. Seconded.
  - Proposed amendment: to simply go ahead and sign a contract with Loraas. 11 voted for, more than 11 against....defeated
  - Original motion voted: passed
- o Discussion about dogs at large. Tammy commented that if a dog is running at large to call the Corman park police. Clarified that the bylaw states that dogs must be under your control at all times outside of your property. Reminder will be sent via email to all residents on the mailing list.
- o Concern raised about people driving above the speed limit and in the ditches. The hamlet board will request the RM post speed limit signs.
- o Slowing down below the speed limit would be appreciated by all residents.

- David Fox, Board member from beaver creek, spoke about Beaver Creek's concern about the current voter distribution, and that this is a shared concern with Riverside. Their board would be happy to work with us in designing a plebiscite to move this issue forward.
- Motion to adjourn at 9:15: carried with great enthusiasm.

**Attendees**

Deb and Keith Adamson

Shirley and Dick Carter

Jan van den Hurk

Gary and Fran Elias

Ron and Sheilagh Steer

Murray and Davida Bentham

Erich Keser

Nancy Baltzan

Hugh Townsend

Michael Pomedli

Craig Riddell

Lori Postnikoff

Mary Ann Walker

Janine Meckelborg

Carol Ingell

Mel Henry

Marie Racine

Violet Dilsner

Susan Johnson

Elaine Pearse

Owen Mitchell

Gail Nowak

Lori Harvie

Edmond Lemire

Wendi Stoeber

James Neufeld

David Fox (Beaver Creek)

Paul Hodgson

Roger Dilsner

Emil Hallin