Southern Victoria Village Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2024

Present: Mayor McLaughlin; Deputy Mayor Shaw, Councillors - Sheila Cummings, Paul Legace, Tami McPhail, Todd McQuire, Sara Plant, CAO Dan Dionne, and Assistant CAO Justine Waldeck.

1. Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Discussion and Direction Items

a) Garbage Cans We are still awaiting the price quote from North West Sanitation. The challenge lies in determining the number of replaced cans and the remaining balance on those owned by North West. Additionally, we need to assess the value of a 12-year-old garbage can.

b) Christmas in the Village Dan has included the schedule of events in the package.

c) RSC Budget Dan provided an overview of the RSC budget, which decreased this year due to a surplus and the takeover by Circular Materials. There is a question regarding the large tourism budget number and what that line item includes.

d) Aroostook System Review Update – Utility Board Dan reviewed a presentation given to the Light & Water Commission, highlighting issues with the Aroostook System. The main tank urgently needs repairs, and there is a new issue at one of the wells. An improvement cost table was presented, showing a commitment of $373,800 after leveraging provincial and federal funding. There is a shortfall of $82,000 after gas tax and capital reserves. The Utility Board recommends a $55.73 annual increase for water customers in Aroostook, and a $5 annual increase for the water and sewer customers of Perth-Andover.

The electrical rate recommendation from the Utility Board is a 9.5% increase April 1, 2025. Even with this increase, our customers will save $585,043 in 2025 in comparison to the NB Power customers. This is a savings of 12.4%.

e) Provincial Rebate on Residential Power Bills Dan reviewed the Provincial Energy Rebate, which offers a 10% rebate on residential consumption. The Perth-Andover Electric Light Commission will invoice province monthly for the rebate payback.

f) Trailer Park Update Staff have had productive meetings with tenants. Three tenants are opting for the rent-to-own option, and W.E. Hodges Surveying has set the pins on those three lots.

g) Budget Items for Consideration The 2024 User Fees Guide is included in the package. There was a request to increase the Mini-split rental fee by $1 due to rising installation costs, which the council agreed to. Employee wage increase options were presented, and Dan/Justine will send staff salary ranges to Council this week. The council decided on a three-year agreement for the raise.

h) Staff Dinner The Staff & Council Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th. Social time will begin at 5:30 pm, with dinner served at 6:00 pm. All of Council confirmed they will be attending.

i) FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference 2025 - Fredericton, NB | February 10-13, 2025 Sara, Sheila, and Cindy will be attending. Dan has booked four rooms.

j) FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show 2025 - Ottawa, Ontario | May 29–June 1, 2025 Several council members expressed interest in attending this nearby event. Dan will compare the costs of driving versus flying for 2-3 attendees.

k) Vehicle Accident There was an accident near the Aroostook water tower, resulting in a gas and oil spill. The Department of Environment is currently monitoring the scene.

l) Recreation Strategic Plan A final push for survey completion is underway. OCL is offering prizes, including two passes to the Gathering of the Scots & Hullabaloo Festivals as a chance to win for those who complete the survey.

m) Flood Mitigation Project Update We are still waiting for the First Nation sign-off. Dan will meet with RDC on Wednesday. The wellhouse project rafters have been purchased to start the project. Engineer consultants have been asked to have the final documents ready for the December 9th meeting so that Council can decide on which firm they will hire for the engineering, architectural work and project management.

n) Municipal Electric Utilities Funding Application We are collaborating with the Municipal Electric Utilities to leverage federal funding for new initiatives, including substation twinning, a new meter system, and grid improvements totaling $2,470,000. The MEU's share is 50% ($1,235,000), and if ACOA cost shares, it will be 25%, making the MEU's contribution $617,500.

o) Community Connection Session The Community Connection Session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 27 at 6 pm at the Elks Lodge. This session is for all organizations and members of the public looking to become connected and involved in the community.

p) Insurance RFP Dan updated the council that we are still working with Canoe Insurance to receive their quote.

5. **Review & Updates, For Information, and Current Projects**

Dan reviewed the current projects that are ongoing.
These projects include:

- DTI re Tree Issue
- Well House
- Trailer Park Redevelopment Project
- DTI re Retaining Wall Design
- Animal Control By-Law

- Stats Canada Building Reports
- Land Transfers
- Recreation Master Plan
- Fire Truck & Pick Up
- Energy Management System
- Christmas in the Village
- Freeze Fest
- BIA Grant Application
- Electric Line Improvements Perth Feed
- 911 Dispatch Improvements
- Back Up Plow Truck
- SCADA System Improvements
- Flood Mitigation
- Utility Board Meeting
- Municipal Plan Update
- Donation Committee Meeting
- Lease for Aroostook Park
- Unsightly 5–properties (3 demo complete)
- Tender Equip Well House
- Village Budget
- Light Utility Budget
- Water Budget
- Collaborative Healthcare Clinic
- Zoning By-Law Update
- IT review with Brunet
- Other Funding Muni Building
- Crosswalk Request – Follow Up with Engineer
- MEU Federal Funding App

Cindy asked about the crosswalk across from the Elks. We are awaiting the engineer to get back to us. Dan did discuss with the Elks Lodge if they would be interested in cost sharing, and they did express some interest.

6. Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2024, at 6:30pm. Sheila ***MOVED*** to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm