

Messenger – January 2020

COUNCIL NEWS:

Council wishes you a Happy New Year and hopes the Christmas Holidays were memorable for you and your family.

Thank you to the many committed volunteers who made our Christmas Parade a success. Thanks to Santa for making a special visit in our parade and Photos with Santa at Woodland Arena; adding smiles to many of the children in our area, as well as adults.

Council would like to welcome Holly Bottenfield to her new role with our Public Works department. Holly has extensive knowledge and experience in Highway maintenance; operations; repair; and construction.

A YEAR IN REVIEW - Council Activities - Objectives and Progress:

1) 2019: Regular interaction and communication with public:

- a) 2019: Regular interaction and communication with public; open forum after 2nd Council meeting each month; utilize Machin Messenger; Municipal Facebook Page and Website.
- b) 2020: Continue further utilization of Municipal Facebook Page and Website.

2) Municipal Landfill Capacity - Eagle River & Vermilion Bay sites:

- a) 2019: Review and re-calculation of landfill capacity and life expectancy with Municipal Consultant Engineers in discussions with Ministry of Environment (M.O.E.); reviewed options and possible expansion.
- b) 2020: Continue discussions and sharing of information with Municipal Consultant Engineers and Ministry of Environment.

3) Canadian Pacific Railway - Invoice Hanslips Road Crossing:

- a) 2019: Discussions with C.P.R. and government officials relating to what Council considers an excessive invoice for rebuilding the railway crossing.
- b) 2020: Continue discussions with C.P.R. and government officials

4) Building Inspector:

- a) 2019: Resignation of Machin's Building Inspector; solicit and negotiate with other regional Municipality's to share their Building Inspector, hired interim shared Building Inspector from the Municipality of Red Lake.
- b) 2020: Pursue permanent hire/solution; review apprenticeship programs.

5) Relief Operator - Municipal Water Treatment Plant:

- a) 2019: Hire Relief Operator, build Municipal in-house operating capacity versus third party agent, reduce costs.
- b) 2019: Relief Operator hired; cost savings realized versus third party agent; Objective completed.

6) Woodland Arena - Improve efficiency; cost reduction; increase usage:

- a) 2019: Monitoring of expenses; new LED lighting (2.5 years payback); hydro usage monitoring; servicing of ice plant/software; expansion of canteen menu; installed ATM machine.
- b) 2020: Increase usage of facility - Recreation Committee; brainstorming; marketing; expand winter usage and potential summer usage.

7) Eagle River Recreation Centre - Increase Usage; maintain costs:

- a) 2019: Monitor expenses; new LED lighting (2.5 years payback); minor repairs and painting by volunteers in gym area; marketing of facility through Machin Messenger.
- b) 2020: Continue minor repairs and painting in upstairs sports area; Inventory and declutter storage areas; increase usage of facility -Recreation Committee; brainstorming; continue marketing through Municipal Facebook page and website; possible brochure.

8) Townline Road - Rebuild grant:

- a) 2019: Completion of rebuild, resurfacing and grant finalization.
- b) 2019: Completed.

9) Crown Land Acquisition - Increase available development Property within Municipality (crown land adjacent to Highway 17 in Vermilion Bay):

- a) 2019: Letter of intent and general discussion with Government agencies.
- b) 2020: Continued discussions with government agencies.

10) Crown Land Acquisition - Ely Lake Cottage Lake Development area:

- a) 2019: Re-activate dormant file from May 2008; new discussions and re-application to Government agencies.
- b) 2020: Continued discussions with government agencies.

11) C.P.R. Property Acquisition - Property within the community of Vermilion Bay:

- a) 2019: Letter of intent and general discussion with C.P.R. officials.
- b) 2020: Continued discussions with C.P.R. officials.

12) Municipal Office - Develop Plan/Options:

- a) 2019: Review of old Credit Union building purchased in 2018 for potential adaptation to new Municipal Office; further action placed on hold; new discussions with KDSB and government agencies on other options.
- b) 2020: Continued discussions and with KDSB and Government agencies.

13) Seniors Complex - Additional Seniors Housing:

- a) 2019: Significant need for additional Seniors Housing within our community and region; Initial discussions with KDSB and Government agencies sound favourable.
- b) 2020: Continued discussions with KDSB and Government agencies.

14) Municipal Services & Delivery - Review of current practices:

- a) 2019: External consultant review of our Municipal services; discussions and brainstorming with staff.
- b) 2020: Continue review of service delivery; develop and streamline services where possible.

15) Nuisance Beaver - Develop a more timely efficient management program:

- a) 2019: Reduce damage to municipal roads; culverts and flooded land; reduce costs; development of program with MNRF approval; partially implemented mid-summer.
- b) 2020: Further refinement and full implementation in 2020.

16) Machin Volunteer Fire & First Response Department - Financial support from Unorganized and Unsurveyed Areas serviced by Department:

- a) 2019: Shared factual data and information on Department Call Out; budget and related costs to the general public through the Machin Messenger. Donation request letters sent to residents of three Local Roads Boards with support of Road Board officials (positive response back in support of the shared Fire Department; A big thankyou to everyone who donated).
- b) 2020: Contact remaining Local Road Board areas serviced by Machin Volunteer Fire & First Response Department to request donation letter mailouts to their residents

17) Economic Development - Promote and develop open communication with the Municipal business community; promote retention and growth:

- a) 2019: Council participated in Economic Development Training in March; public Open House held in April to brainstorm and discuss ideas; Business owners attempting to start a Business Association to continue open communications.
- b) 2020: Regular communication with residents and businesses; assist business community where possible; apply for grants for Economic Development assistance when available.

18) Revitalization Committee: Main Street Revitalization Grant:

- a) 2019: Implementation of Committees recommendations approved by Council; completion of new flagpoles; planters; signs for Eagle River Fire Hall and Recreation Centre.
- b) 2020: Completion of remaining projects.

19) Culvert Calculations/Sizing - Develop process for Municipal Road Network:

- a) 2019: MNRF assistance in calculating culvert size required for Mason and Berglund Road washouts; MNRF offer to share and assist Municipality in development of our own system.
- b) 2020: Work with MNRF to develop Municipal system/procedure.

20) Municipal Airport Property - Highway 647:

- a) 2019: General discussion into potential options/growth
- b) 2020: Review and develop potential options for property; airstrip and adjacent Municipal owned property.

21) Making V.Bay Dock Accessible for all Ontarians:

- a) 2019: Grant approval; tendering completed; adjustment of plans with contractor to ensure proper design and construction; Contractor started work in December.
- b) 2020: Completion of project.

22) Other - Major storm events (June and September)

- a) 2019: Application for provincial emergency funding assistance; June report submitted.
- b) 2020: Submission of September application; monitoring and additional repairs of roads in the spring as needed.

Mayor and Council