

Organized Hamlet of Lone Rock

Board Meeting

March 18, 2020

7:00pm

Attendance: Lloyd Ludwig, Donna Woods, Melissa Heney, Candice Blain

- 1. Welcome & Introductions:** Meeting commenced 7:05 PM
- 2. Opening Remarks from the Chairman:** Review update & adoption of last meeting minutes. Discussion regarding Judicial reviews still proceeding & ones received the Supreme Court has made a few decision that effect how Council passes bylaws & nature of consultation that is required to pass bylaw which clarifies as the Ombudsman's office now has a legal guideline to follow in reviewing bylaws & new legislative authority.

New business:

- Mediation offer has been extended with no reply from the RM of Wilton so will proceed through other avenues.
- We still haven't been receiving the RM of Wiltons Minutes. A letter was sent with an informal request as advised by the Minister along with the portions referred to in the Act for requesting minutes as well brought the issue up with the Municipal officer doing the funding review for the RM as it makes up part of the funding requirements.
- No meaningful conversations have taken place between RM of Wilton Council or Administration & Hamlet Board as to 346 Municipalities Act Notice next steps has been taken just waiting on Judge's ruling to finalize. The assessor has indicated preliminary amounts may be lower than requested as comparable amounts from other jurisdictions within & outside of Saskatchewan are 15 – 20% higher due to amount of damage incurred & potential exposure property value decrease.
- Self-government referendums are proceeding to final phase letters have been sent to Federal & Provincial Departments for clarification on paperwork & finalization timeline a finale referendum will need to be completed & the package can be forwarded to the Ministers for review Some negotiations were recommended but with the virus & the RM of Wilton administrator setting off any delegation with council this may have to be done after transition as Intermunicipality.
- A ruling that Tracy Kashuba can't be on the Appeal board but there hasn't been any movement with our replacement appointee so we will look at next steps. Court has advised only critical cases are being heard until October.

- 3. Government Correspondence:** There have been a number of changes municipalities must abide by in order to receive Gov funding. Oversight has been increased as we seen from last couple weeks with Ministry asking for specific information as to budgets minutes & ratepayer notices so we will continue to work with those departments & make sure they are kept apprised as requested.

Budget & Minutes have been sent in as requested we have yet to receive anything from The RM of Wilton as to approval of our budget or a notice that they are bringing it to the Appeal Board as Judge instructed if RM doesn't agree they need to bring to appeal board for a decision or its invalid.

- 4. In Camera Session:** Legal discussion

- 5. SK Water Security Agency:** Discussion resumed on requirements provided by Sask water, Department of Health & Municipal Board as to Water & sewer they are waiting outcome of the Appeal Board as per the Judge's order . We will keep them informed as they can revoke approval at any time & since the matter is still under review they want to be kept in the loop. Also they indicated that they did not provide for double infrastructure costs so that was a matter for the Ombudsman to investigate as it was a "use" based approval along aside from the boil water issue as it also relates to fees.

Sask environment has been contacted on increasing water just outside the south end of the Hamlet send the RM of Wilton notification correspondence they are sending out an Agent to review & advise.

- 6. Rates on Well & Sewage Conversions:** This matter is still awaiting a decision of the courts but as always the Hamlet is still supporting all water /sewer utility remain as part of annual tax notice. Septic pump outs as allotted in previous years taxes has been completed but have been advised the RM has failed to pay for this which could spark an audit request & will follow up with the Minister's office. As it lends to where are the tax dollars actually going & further investigation.

The Judge has set the matter of 2019 Budget, Rates & Billing to the Appeal Board for resolution.

- 7. Tax Rates:** Discussion Hamlet Board still awaiting information that was agreed to by RM Council in mediation & this issue was raised in court application with the Judge making a recommendation as all the material wasn't provided to the court either . Some materials have been compiled but as we heard all those matters would have to be heard in front of the Appeal Board or if failure to do that brought back to the court as they would be illegal. Zoning isn't required within the petition as per the legislation the Hamlet Board sets zoning as per the budget & failure of the RM to roll resolution into bylaw would require

As the matter regarding zoning has not been brought to the Appeal Board by the RM of Wilton & we have not received notice it was brought before a Judge or Minister so as per the Legislation it should have been enacted as per the resolutions to make Lone Rock residential zoning inclusive of all property within.

A special Levy has been advised against all RM purchased property to make sure Tax revenue remains constant an amount of \$3000.00 per demolished property until development returns that amount was suggested.

- 8. Hamlet Communications:** Discussion Ombudsman is aware of all the ongoing matters & now has the court decisions that have been ruled on & will be proceeding accordingly

As indicated an informal freedom of information request has been made regarding all the gaps in the financials as well as the minutes under the public good request in which fees are waived as it is a matter of public record & investigation.

Once we receive back the packages a Please Take Notice notice has to be placed in the newspaper regarding the Hamlet of Lone Rock transition to self- government or territorial separation as per the instructions. This may be slower than anticipated with the Virus but are still pushing for it within the next few months as most Government workers have just moved to home based work.

- 9. In Camera Session:** Legal Discussion.

- 10. RM Tractor & Hamlet Road Maintenance:** Follow up with the minister's office with video as roads are direct liability & lack of snow plowing & maintenance has deteriorated some areas. This is 1 of the 7 areas municipalities must abide by. As per financial statement we still pay insurance on the tractor but have no access to it as it's in the RM compound.

- 11. Street Lights:** Street lights will have to be tabled until transition is completed.

- 12. Trees & Buildings:** Environmental problems persist with the buildings that were obtained by the RM this also lends to the 346 claim as more issues arise & are seeing more effects due to the destruction.

Follow up regarding Application by the Rural Municipality of Wilton to the Municipal Board for conversion & demolition within the Hamlet & if legislative steps were followed regarding Lone Rock Renewal Project has been done with many questions from all parties & is ongoing from what we are hearing back an investigation will be or has already been launched.

The auditor would also like to review the Asbestos issue with the houses now up on blocks & the plan going forward as to their movement & any environmental approvals that have been received but that may require further investigation.

- 13. Resolutions:** Put forward by Lloyd Ludwig Seconded by Donna Woods

- (1) Formal Freedom of Information Request of & breakdown of budgetary expenses 2015-2020
- (2) Formal Freedom of Information Request of all council Minutes & Notes from January 1 to March 20th.
- (3) Follow up with minister regarding how reporting & tax dollars are spent & payment questions as to legislative requirements.

- (4) Follow up with Taxpayer Federation for inquiry.
- (5) Forward the Municipal Board, Ministry & Ombudswoman copies of latest utility bills being sent to Hamlet residents along with the financials for double billing reference & past minutes of Hamlet board as per there request.
- (6) Have the matters of 2018 Budget, Water & Sewer Utility Billing, 346 Claim, Financial audit, Boundary , tax allotment & payment as RM being developer, redevelopment & infrastructure brought before the Appeal board for hearing within 30days or to withdraw them completely from the Appeal board process & have them dealt with through the Courts RCMP Ombudswoman Minister Auditor & other avenues .
- (7) That the water & sewer Utility remains within the yearly taxes as in previous years & reimbursement or credit be supplied to those that have already paid them along with reimbursement for time periods in which loss of service or Boil water advisory in place.
- (8) Follow up with Sask water as to the investigation of South End of Lone Rock water & forward to Ombudswoman & Minister
- (9) Follow up with Real Estate board as to the investigation.
- (10) Special Levy in the amount of \$3000.00 per RM of Wilton lot be assessed until such time as the lots have been redeveloped to previous tax revenue.

Resolutions are hereby voted on & unanimously passed.

14. Next Meeting: Next Hamlet Board meeting to be determined by consensus.

15. Meeting Adjourned: 8:10PM