

Organized Hamlet of Lone Rock

Board Meeting

May 20, 2020

7:00pm

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

- 1. Welcome & Introductions:** Meeting commenced 7:00 PM
- 2. Opening Remarks from the Chairman:** Review update & adoption of last meeting minutes. Judicial reviews still proceeding some developments have come up as to review of how RM is passing bylaws & their legality as well as RCMP has direction as to councils following of the Legislation with charges being laid for violations. Consultation & Transparency has become crucial as Minister advised infractions would affect any transfer payments made to Municipalities so need for resident input is important especially in pointing out infractions. Ombudsman's office now has a legal guideline to follow in reviewing bylaws & new legislative authority as well as focus as indicated in annual report.

New business:

- Government Relations has provided directions for moving ahead as a situation Hamlet Board is encountering with RM becomes more transparent.
- We still haven't been receiving the RM of Wiltons Minutes. There was no response to the formal letter we included the Minister & Premier in on the correspondence A Freedom of Information request was sent in for both Minutes & Financials this has moved along to the Commissioner as well as directed a formal statement is need to be sent to the RCMP.
- The Municipal Board has made a ruling as to Lloyd's property as it is declared Residential without need for further permits also there were a few issue that came to light regarding Bylaw scope & implementation which will also have to be addressed as they invalidated those bylaws. A formal letter to the Minister & Municipal Board will have to be forwarded. SAMA contacted.
- An adjustment has been noted to increase 346 Notice as per assessor's instructions by 15-20% although this is also a growing curve due to RMs delay in addressing.
- With the recent responses received from the RM we may be able to have the Lieutenant Governor address the delays in Appeal Board assembly or allow us to proceed without the RM delegate. Will follow up with the new correspondence & request alternate course.
- With the COVID measures returning to pre norms we can proceed with Self-government referendums & to final phase letters will have to be sent as to new dates to Federal & Provincial Departments.
- Federal & Provincial Environment departments are looking into the house demolition as well as the lot clean-up of all of the houses that were

demolished as well as their demolition at where some of them were taken the agents will be out in next few months to review all lots & assess as COVID restrictions ease.

- Water security has been contacted regarding water & potential flooding which they want to be kept updated on.
- RM was directed & provided with time to align with the provisions of the various legislation which the RM ignored so as directed statements of violations were forwarded to the RCMP, Dept. Justice for investigation.
- We will also be undertaking a review of all the properties that have had tax exemptions attached so those can be removed as that is a negotiation to be had annually with the RM & the Hamlet Board.
- As the RM of Wilton has not forwarded the resolution the Hamlet Board made as to special levy on all property purchased by them to the Appeal Board that amount will be added to the hamlet budget.
- Also the percentage amount of transfer into Hamlet account for taxation was set at 75% & 85% for the special Levy the amount proposed by the RM wasn't agreed on & RM of Wilton did not bring it to the Appeal Board so it reverts to Legislated amounts. This will also have to go into previous years reviews & audit.
- Contact Urban Municipal Administrators association regarding violations.
- Contact Mediation Board regarding fines & penalties of RM council for violations of Tax Enforcement Act as per the water billing.

- 3. Government Correspondence:** Ongoing & further reporting has been done since last meeting with numerous directions on proceeding from growing list of departments. Some of the issues will have to be addressed in next few days as the Minister looks at providing transfer payments in June & changes municipalities must abide by in order to receive Gov funding with the oversight increase.

We will have to send in revised budget as to the increases of special levy amounts & removal of exemptions. As per Judge's ruling the 2018 & any subsequent RM of Wilton budgets relating to Lone Rock are invalid until they have been heard by the Appeal Board unless the Hamlet Board & RM of Wilton come to an agreement.

- 4. In Camera Session:** Legal discussion

- 5. SK Water Security Agency:** Discussion resumed on requirements provided by Sask water & they have provided direction as to flooding & pumping procedures as well as where onus as per legislation resides. Department of Health has provided instruction as to boil water advisories as well as disruption procedures & follow up was done as directed. Municipal Board was contacted as to Water & sewer & they have requested the RM of Wilton provide information as the RM of Wilton did not proceed through proper steps in making the request to the Municipal Board & first proceed through the Appeal Board they are addressing a revocation of their water /sewer billing allowance & validity of the bylaw. Double infrastructure costs is also being reviewed by the Ombudsman as it was a "use" based approval & with boil water issue there should be a credit as to the schedule to everyone's bills which is also a question as to actual validity of those bills & potentially another RCMP matter.

There is also questions arising as to where the money is going as the money from these invoices is supposed to be placed in an account directed by the Hamlet Board as per the legislation & the RM of Wilton has yet to provide financials & invoices in that regard.

- 6. Rates on Well & Sewage Conversions:** This matter has been directed by the Judge to be heard in front of the Appeal Board but as always the Hamlet is still supporting all water /sewer utility remain as part of annual tax notice. Septic pump outs payment has been made by the RM of Wilton. Further follow up with the Ministers office are needed as there seem to be a number of inconsistencies with the budgets provided & what is being collected.

The Judge has set the matter of 2019 & subsequent Budgets , Rates & Billing to the Appeal Board for resolution the RM of Wilton has indicated they are delaying for invalid reasons so we will forward a letter to the Judge in that regard .

- 7. Tax Rates:** Discussion Hamlet Board still awaiting information that was agreed to by RM Council in mediation & as indicated by the Municipal Board zoning has to follow procedure first being consultation with the Hamlet Board the if not agreed Appeal Board process.

A special Levy has been advised against all RM of Wilton purchased property to make sure Tax revenue remains constant an amount of \$3000.00 per demolished property until development returns was agreed on in last meetings resolutions.

- 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

Formal freedom of information request was 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. It has now proceeded to formal review & as advised also forwarded to RCMP for 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 & the reopening plan has been implemented so we will be able to resume pre virus procedure.

- 9. RM Tractor & Hamlet Road Maintenance:** A number of issues have come up in this regard as directed we have submitted all the deficiencies in road maintenance as well as taxation amenities & there is a problem which also may lead to audit & investigation although roads are direct liability so everyone could have a potential claim due to deterioration & as referred this is 1 of the 7 areas municipalities must abide by for transfer payments.

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

- 11. 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.

Asbestos issue with the houses is an ongoing issue with a total look now from the 1st house demolished to the last basement being removed with further investigations ongoing.

12. Resolutions: Put forward by Lloyd Ludwig Seconded by Donna Woods

- (1) Follow up with minister with information as to budgets & Tax dollar spending as well as Hamlet Minutes & Water/Sewer billing & the removal of property tax exemptions in the Hamlet.
- (2) Follow up with Taxpayer Federation for inquiry.
- (3) Follow up with Municipal Board, Ministry & Ombudsman as to rescinding water/sewer utility bills & follow up with RCMP as to charges against Wilton Council & Administration under 123 & 126 of criminal code. Provide ratepayer form to submit.
- (4) Forward the matters that haven't been resolved by Appeal Board to agencies as they are invalid as per the legislation & will be reviewed by them as to legality. Advise & provide information as requested by the constable.
- (5) 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. Confirm with SK water a rate of \$13.00 a day for Boil water & or service disruption & set that as rate for compensation to be reimbursed to each ratepayer after 72 hr forward to RM for implementation.
- (6) Follow up with Real Estate board as to the investigation.
- (7) Forward Budget with Special levy of \$ 3000.00 per RM property to the Ministry so that it can be included in the review & in future budgets going forward as described in previous minutes & municipal correspondence .
- (8) Forward Letter & Information to the Lieutenant Governor for alternate Appeal Board process.
- (9) Set a time for self-governance plebiscite & set a Hamlet meeting.
- (10) Follow up with Judge as to RM of Wilton's further delay in assembling Appeal Board.

Resolutions are hereby voted on & unanimously passed.

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

14. Meeting Adjourned: 8:05PM