



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Wednesday, July 5, 2023**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**

Livestream Recording: <https://kenora.civicweb.net/Portal/>

**Present:** Mayor A. Poirier  
Councillor R. Bernie  
Councillor G. Chaze  
Councillor L. Koch  
Councillor B. Manson  
Councillor L. Moncrief

**Regrets:** Councillor K. Van Belleghem

**Staff:** Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Greg Breen, Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, David Pratt, Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Janis Pochailo, Director of Planning & Building Services, Stace Gander, Director of Economic Growth & Recovery, Kelly Galbraith, Manager of Customer Services/Deputy Clerk

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Poirier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

***Delivered by Councillor Manson***

As we gather, we recognize that we are on Treaty Three Lands which are steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations and Metis people today. We continue to be thankful for the partnerships with Indigenous people.

We give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in the City of Kenora. We seek wisdom in our minds, clearness in our thinking, truth in our speaking and always love in our hearts, so that we may try always to unite the Citizens of Kenora. Let these principles guide us in our decision making.

**Public Notices**

Take Notice that as required under Notice By-law #160-2022, Council intends to adopt the following items at this Special Meeting of Council:

N/A

## **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature thereof**

i) On Today's Agenda

ii) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

There were none declared.

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### **1. Council to Receive the Geotechnical Investigation Report for Coker Road**

Aron Piamsalee, Associate, Geotechnical Engineer with Stantec Consulting Limited presented the results of the Croker Road Geotechnical Investigation. Coker Road was constructed several decades ago. Historically the road has performed normally, similar to local City owned gravel roads in the area. In certain years, flooding would occur overtop the road. During spring of 2022, an approximate 350 m length of the site was flooded up to 0.75 m above the road surface. Between June 22 and 29, 2022, the City raised the grade of the road in an attempt to repair the spring 2022 flood damage, and to reduce the risk of future flooding. The grade raise reconstruction occurred over an approximate 300 m length, and consisted of raising the road surface by approximately 1 m; from an original elevation of 318.2 m +/-0.3 m, to a new road surface elevation of 319.19 m. No issues were noted by the City following construction. A topographic survey conducted by the City on October 28, 2022 indicated post-construction settlements between 10 and 30 mm (within the normal range of expected settlement following construction). On November 2, 2022, City staff reported settlement of the road surface, located within a portion of the grade raise. A topographic survey was conducted by the City. Headscarps along the northwest edge of the road were visible, and significant bending of the culverts. On November 3, 2022, further settlement was observed by City staff, and the road was closed to the public. Additional topographic surveys were conducted by the City on November 3 and 4, 2022. Between November 6 to 10, 2022, settlement resumed after initially appearing to cease, and expanded to an estimated 25% of the grade raise road length (i.e., approximately 80 m road length). Settlement appeared to cease on November 10, 2022. From November 14 to 17, 2022, Moncrief Construction Limited, a contractor procured by the City, attempted to reconstruct the settled area by building up with geotextile, geogrid and granular B type II. During construction efforts, the City reported the road continued to settle to approximate elevation 318.0 +/-0.15 m. From November 18 to 24, 2022, large volumes of granular B type II were end-dumped in attempts to raise the affected road segment to elevation 319 m, however settlement continued. A toe bulge in the peat, approximately 1 to 2 m high became visible on the southeast side of the road. Drilling with an air-track rig was performed to determine bedrock depths at the site (which ranged from 13.7 to 16.8 m below grade). Following the drilling, end-dumping efforts ceased. November 25, 2022, the road was graded to level surface, but maintained closed to the public. In February 2023, Stantec conducted a geotechnical drill and sampling program. Six boreholes were drilled to depths ranging from 7.4 m to 17.4 m. Samples from the boreholes were logged and laboratory tested. A slope inclinometer (lateral displacement) and vibrating wire piezometer (porewater pressure) were also installed at this time. Croker Road has remained closed to date.

Three options for Council consideration were presented.

- Option #1 – Soil Mixing, with an estimated cost of \$3,395,600  
Ground improvement by mechanically mixing a cementitious binder into the subgrade soils beneath the road. Two potential soil mixing techniques for the site include 1) dry soil mixing, which uses a dry cementitious binder, or 2) wet soil

mixing, which uses a cementitious binder slurry. Both techniques would involve the construction of columns extending several meters beneath the impacted road and would be designed to improve the strength of the weak subgrade soils beneath the road and provide lateral stability against bearing capacity failure. The selection of the preferred technique (dry soil mixing vs. wet soil mixing) would be reviewed during the detailed design process, which would be carried out by the ground improvement specialty contractor.

- Option #2 – Realignment of the Road  
3 route options ranging from \$1,154,400 to \$4,239,300 were presented. Speed limits on each route vary and need to be taken into consideration.
- Option #3 – Minimal Repairs with Monitoring, with an estimated cost of \$29,500  
Can be done by re-grading the road at current elevation, leveling and balancing culverts. A geotechnical engineer would need to conduct periodic monitoring of instruments (slope inclinometers and piezometers) and provide commentary regarding reopening of the road. Periodic surveys by the City to monitor movements would need to be conducted. Temporary closure of the road should be anticipated during periods of high-water level, or if signs of road movements/instability are observed. This option does not restore the road to its pre-failure functionality, but rather provides a comparatively low-cost alternative.

### **Discussion:**

Now that the City has the information about why the failure occurred, looking at the ongoing maintenance and monitoring, we are likely going to see two closures of up to a couple of months when the water level is fluctuating heavily. If the water level drops rapidly and the road is still saturated it can cause the road to sink further. Alternatively, if the road is below water level it can be quite difficult to build it back up again if the road continues to sink. Adding weight contributes to the bearing failure and we could see this recurring, and potentially recurring more often in the future. It was asked if the project can be staggered by making the current road usable, while doing a realignment of the road. It was confirmed the current road can be opened on a temporary basis while construction is done on a new road. Council questioned how long new construction would take. Once Council makes their decision, the design process will start. Blasting and granular surfacing on the road could get done in a year however, there are some approvals such as environmental approvals that the City would require. The more conservative answer would be two construction seasons. It was asked how long it would take to fix the current road with grading and fixing culverts before the road can be reopened. That is dependent on contractor availability. To complete the actual work, it is estimated to take approximately 10 working days. With the option of realignment, it was asked if the land is City owned. The proposed land is crown land. Council requested professional guidance from the City's Engineers. Today's meeting is for information purposes and a report will be brought forward with a recommendation at the July 12<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole.

## **2. Adjourn to Closed Session**

### **Moved by Councillor Manson, Seconded by Councillor Bernie & Carried:-**

That pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization is hereby given for Committee to move into a Closed Session at 4:44 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- A position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality (1 matter-Development proposal)
- Disposition of land (sale of 117 Main St S)

## **2. Reconvene to Open Meeting**

Council reconvenes to open session at 5:30 p.m. with no reports from its closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.