



Date 9 May 2011

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Karen Brown

Re: Shoal Lake #40 First Nation – Request for Support – Freedom Rd.

Recommendation:

Whereas Shoal Lake #40 First Nation currently does not have secure, all weather road access to their community; and

Whereas travel to this community can be dangerous, costly and / or time consuming, depending on season and weather; and

Whereas, despite potential opportunities, this community is experiencing economic depression and the loss of its band members moving away from their homes because of the lack of secure road access; and

Whereas Shoal Lake #40 First Nation has developed a plan that would enable the construction of this year round all weather road access in partnership with various levels of government;

Now therefore, let it be resolved that Council hereby supports Shoal Lake #40 First Nation in their efforts to construct "Freedom Road" to provide secure, all weather access from the Trans Canada highway to their community; and further

That a letter of support, accompanied by this resolution, be sent to Shoal Lake #40 First Nations, with copies to be sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty (Ontario), Premier Greg Selinger (Manitoba), Greg Rickford, MP (Kenora, Ontario), Vic Toews, MP (Provencher, Manitoba), Minister Kathleen Wynne (Transportation, Ontario), Minister Steve Ashton (Transportation, Manitoba), Mayor Sam Katz (Winnipeg, Manitoba) and Reeve David Turchyn (Reynolds, Manitoba).

Background:

Members of the Council from Shoal Lake #40 First Nation have provided the City with a presentation entitled "Shoal Lake #40 First Nation – Affirming a Human Right to Exist". The presentation provides some history on Band #40,

including the intent of the treaty relationship, the construction of a water supply to Winnipeg from Shoal Lake, and the related impacts on Band #40 and their lands, opposition experienced in their economic development as well as issues related to safe travel to their home and the need for year round "all weather" road access. The presentation is both interesting and informative, and has been attached for Council's review.

Shoal Lake #40 First Nation have developed a plan for the construction of this year round all weather road, which is based on an existing logging road, and will provide access direct from the Trans Canada Highway, around the Falcon Lake area through an existing pipeline road. They are requesting support from the City for the development of this year round all weather road.

Budget:

The request is simply for the City to provide non-monetary support for this project. There is no budget impact.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

A letter of support and supporting resolution would be send to Shoal Lake #40 First Nations, with copies to be sent to the Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty (Ontario), Premier Greg Selinger (Manitoba), Greg Rickford, MP (Kenora, Ontario), Vic Toews, MP (Provencher, Manitoba), Minister Kathleen Wynne (Transportation, Ontario), Minister Steve Ashton (Transportation, Manitoba), Mayor Sam Katz (Winnipeg, Manitoba) and Reeve David Turchyn (Reynolds, Manitoba).