



[ACTION](#)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Held Tuesday, July 11, 2006
(following Community Services Committee Meeting)
City Council Chambers
5:10 p.m.

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PRESENT: Councillor Poirier, Chair
Councillor Szajewski, Vice-Chair
Councillor McMillan, Member
Councillor Compton
Councillor Wasacase
Mayor Canfield
B. Preisentanz, CAO
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager
K. Brown, Finance & Admin. Manager
J. McMillin, City Clerk

[A. PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICES AS PER BY-LAW NUMBER 14-2003](#)
N/A

[B. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST](#)
There was none declared.

[C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES](#)
Moved by L. Compton, Seconded by C. Wasacase & Carried:-
THAT the Minutes of the last regular meeting held June 20, 2006 be confirmed as written.

[D. DEPUTATIONS](#)
[D. Schwartz Re: Railway Street](#)

Mr. Schwartz advised he is attending today's meeting as he is interested in hearing the discussion regarding this matter, but also presented a further Petition containing more than 85 names with respect to Railway Street, including a letter from a business (KIA & K-Sports) which he provided to the Clerk. Mr. Schwartz reiterated the dangers along Railway Street and explained that while some children would like to walk to school or ride their bike, their parents will not let them because it is too dangerous, and for this reason he doesn't believe Kenora is a 'safe community' as it advertises. He believes there is a great deal of support throughout the community to address the situation along Railway Street, and he referred to Barb Manson, Parks Supervisor, having a lot of information and interest in seeing this area developed. By enlarge the whole area is in bad shape but the Petition relates to the

area in question along Railway Street between the Real Canadian Wholesale Club and the second railway crossing to the east. A 'trail' along this area would serve a multiple-purpose for both walkers and bikers.

Mr. Schwartz was thanked for his presentation.

E. REPORTS

ROADS

1. Railway Street Safety – Petition

Mr. Perchuk commented that the Paving Tender is out already and at this point they are expecting a significant increase due to the cost in asphalt and cement, and he would therefore recommend using the asphalt shoulders rather than going with the concrete option. It was mentioned the City would have to prioritize the various areas before we could determine if these works could be done. It was questioned how prioritizing would be done and what is used to determine which area is more important than another. It was noted the paving should be a safety solution with a view to possibly undertaking a major re-construction to Railway Street in the future. It was recommended to further review the priorities for paving, etc. once the tenders are received and then decide which route to go. Mr. Perchuk would have to submit an informational report to Committee once the paving tender closes at the end of July.

RPerchuk

Councillor Poirier referred to the capital sidewalk project and questioned if there are any additional funds under the 2006 allocation to assist with the decision on this matter.

Henry Rasmussen then commented that with the price of gas increasing on an almost weekly basis, likely more and more people will want to find alternate methods of transportation such as bicycling and walking and one paved shoulder would be better than none if the City is working within budget constraints.

HOLD

2. Heenan Place between Nairn and Valley Drive - Infrastructure Upgrade

Mr. Perchuk advised that this item will be referred as a Capital Project for 2007.

RPerchuk

3. Grinder Pump – Revised Recommendation RECOMMENDATION

THAT the City of Kenora, with respect to the Rabbit Lake Road area, a) will provide each current property owner with one (1) new grinder pump b) will discern which grinder pumps have been replaced, at the homeowner's expense, since the year 2000 and provide reimbursement up to \$3,000.00 and c) the responsibility for the future repair/replacement of the grinder pump will be that of the property owner.

Discussion:

Councillor Poirier thanked staff for participating in the recent public meeting, and noted that about 37 citizens attended with many good points, comments and discussion. He then asked Committee for their comments.

In summary, Councillor McMillan would like a decision made on this item for the August meeting; however he referred to some of the history/by-laws with respect to this matter from the former Jaffray Melick Council, and suggested this information be reviewed and a recommendation brought back to the table. Councillor Wasacase suggested we give ourselves a timeline as to when we want to deal with this issue. Councillor Szajewski sees problems with the various scenarios set out in today's recommendation and asked if we have any record as to how many pumps we have replaced/repared since 2000 and feels we have been very remiss in not addressing this matter sooner. Mayor Canfield explained this is a political decision and that there has been a lot of information provided and discussed around the issue and it is difficult to come up with a solution.

Mayor Canfield referred to the implementation of water meters and that it was met with similar opposition at the outset but now is a popular system, not only here but across the province. He mentioned that one-third of the grinder pumps have a different agreement and reference was made to a grandfathering clause that would exist until the pump is replaced and then everyone is on the same playing field. Mayor Canfield believes the recommendation as presented is the way to move forward, and at the same time, being fair and equitable. He noted the only issue would be the implementation of the policy but he would like Committee to approve the recommendation on the table.

Councillor Compton feels there would be a lot of problems with the recommendation; he believes the solution will aggravate some people but will also keep some happy. Councillor Compton referred to the comprehensive documentation that John Barr provided to Council and Administration and stated it is a good report. He explained he has not heard of anyone saying the facts contained in the report are not accurate so he believes they are. Councillor Compton referred to the end of page 5 and part of page 6 in the report. It was mentioned there are some 311 grinder pump owners that we have to make happy, but Councillor Compton feels the City should take over the maintenance of all 311 pumps, but not the ownership of them. It was explained the bills could be sent into Administration to be reviewed on a case by case basis. The issue of fairness keeps coming up so we have to be fair across the board and try to make the system fair even with a cost to the City. There should be a motion in place to address not only ownership but maintenance of the pumps and fairness for all.

Mayor Canfield stated he is not in favour of funding coming out of Contingency Reserve to address the maintenance and that it would have to come out of the Sewer and Water Reserve and eventually paid back.

Councillor McMillan suggested a concise report be prepared for discussion at the next Committee meeting. Councillor Szajewski believes we should have one system and to take funding out of Reserve knowing it has to be re-paid so in the end everyone will have to pay more and the sewer rates will have to be increased to cover it. Councillor Wasacase stated we should be preparing a sound business plan for consideration.

Mr. Perchuk indicated it would be a 'maintenance headache' because of the many different types of pumps that are out there. It was also noted that people in Keewatin would be upset if certain rules were made for former JM residents only, i.e. new pumps.

At the close of discussion Councillor Poirier indicated we should have sufficient information now to make a final decision and requested a new report come forward for the August 15 meeting.

RPerchuk

ITEMS ON HOLD:

- 318 Mellick Avenue Laneway – Marciniak HOLD for report

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, August 15, 2006 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.