

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
February 19, 2020

PROJECT FILES:

Rural Internet:

- Province of Nova Scotia, Mainland Telecom and the Municipality of Clare announced the phase 1 roll-out of its fibre optic network on February 7, 2020.
- Fibre-op to the home.
- Network spanning 278 kilometres within the Municipality of Clare
- Reaching an estimated 4,600 residences and business
- Project cost is \$9.95 million and can be broken down as follows:
 - Province of Nova Scotia - \$4.4 million
 - Mainland Telecom - \$3.1 million
 - Municipality of Clare - \$2.45 million
- The Municipality's portion is funded over 4 years using its federal gas tax funding allocation and as such will have no impact on residential and commercial tax rates within the Municipality
- In terms of speeds, Mainland will be offering two packages: 300-Mbps or 1-Gbps
- Pricing will be on par with what's offered in rural centres
- The 278 km network build is scheduled to commence this Spring with an estimated timeline for completion of 18-24 months.
- Transformative project with far-reaching implications across many sectors – economic, cultural, education, immigration, health, etc.

Belliveau Cove Wharf

- The wharf in Belliveau Cove sustained considerable damage during the high winds and storm surge of February 7, 2020
- The wharf is owned by the Municipality and is covered under its insurance policy (\$5,000 deductible).
- Discussions with the Municipality's insurance carrier are ongoing.
- Lighthouse has been secured.
- Claims adjuster was onsite earlier today to assess the damage and will be seeking quotes from local contractors to determine the cost of necessary repairs to both the wharf and the lighthouse.
- As part of the necessary repairs to the wharf itself, Council may wish to consider further upgrades (i.e. armor stone) so as to prevent similar events in the future.

Capacity Assessment – Meteghan WWTP

- Work Authorization was signed on January 23, 2020.
- Data collection and survey is now complete and the assessment of the Meteghan WWTP's capacities is now underway
- Project is on schedule. Estimated deadline for completion is March 31, 2020 or sooner.
- Capacity assessment has been quoted at \$9,850 + HST

Conseil Sigogne (Clare Columbus Club):

- As discussed with Council, staff has met with representatives of the Conseil Sigogne to discuss their proposed capital project, review their proposal and offer guidance in terms of both content and possible funding sources.
- To date, the group has applied to CCH's Community Facility Improvement Program and to Credit Union Atlantic (CUA).
- The CCH proposal is for a total of \$54,288 and can be broken down as follows:
 - CCH - \$38,859
 - Applicant - \$5,429
 - Municipality - \$10,000
- The CUA application is for \$5,000 and focuses specifically on repairs to the roof.
- The group will also be applying to the Province's Community Access-Ability Program which will launch in the new fiscal year. The first application deadline will be May 20, 2020.

Tourism Public Spaces Development and Improvement

- Chosen sites include – Park Joseph and Marie Dugas (Belliveau Cove), Cape. St. Mary Lighthouse Park, Mavillette Beach and Smuggler's Cove.
- Project has been amended to include architectural services for possible exterior redesign of the Clare Veterans Centre with a focus on modernizing the overall look of the building, increasing the energy efficiency and increasing accessibility.
- Looking at the possibility of adding Wentworth Park to the list of public spaces included in this project.
- Conference call with Upland has been scheduled for February 25th. Larry Peach and I will participate.

Eco-parc and Havelock Community Centre:

- To be discussed in-camera

FINANCIAL:

- As of January 31, 2020, the Municipality has recorded \$9,147,414 in revenues versus \$7,809,040 in expenses, for a surplus of \$1,338,374.
- As of January 31, 2020, the Municipality has a balance of \$1,761,376 in its operating fund, \$56,693 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,626,664
 - Operating reserve - \$453,134
 - Capital reserve - \$3,433,797
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$327,929
 - Gas tax reserve - \$1,411,804

INTERNAL:

Meetings since January 15, 2020:

- Several meetings with Mainland leading up to and following the February 7th project announcement
- Energy Planning Workshop (WREN) – January 23, 2020
- Jean-Guy Vienneau – CDÉNE Strategic Plan – January 24, 2020
- Seacrest Fisheries – February 5, 2020
- Cermaq – Public Consultation – February 6, 2020
- Audit Committee Meeting – February 11, 2020
- MP Chris d’Entremont – February 13, 2020
- A. F. Thériault & Son Ltd. – February 18, 2020

Upcoming Meetings:

- EMO Coordinator (and municipal EMO staff) – February 25, 2020
- Upland (with Larry Peach) – February 25, 2020
- Annual Insurance Renewal Report – February 26, 2020
- Municipal Tax Sale – March 7, 2020 (33 properties remaining as of Feb. 19th)
- Liaison and Oversight Committee – March 9, 2020