

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
November 17, 2021

PROJECT FILES:

Internet:

- More than 400 customers are now online.
- Overpass was resubmitted to NSTIR for approval. Mainland is expecting an update tomorrow, as part of their weekly call with NSTIR.
- Regarding the connection for the St. Bernard Fire Department and Community Centre, Mainland has received pricing from NSP on the pole placement to the firehall. Discussions between NSP and Gerald Dugas and Guy LeBlanc are underway for easements as they are the property owners between the existing pole line and the firehall.

Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)

- **No substantial change from September 15, 2021, CAO Report**
- Staff has reached out on November 8, 2021, for an update as to the status of our application. Unfortunately, Infrastructure Canada is not providing updates on applications currently under review, citing a high level of interest in the program and the need for ministerial review and approval.
- Funding application to the newly launched Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program (GICB) was submitted on May 4, 2021, and is still under review.
- Applicants with small and medium green and accessible retrofit projects to existing community buildings ranging in total eligible cost from \$100,000 to \$3 million are accepted on a continuous basis and funded on a first come, first-served basis.
- The total cost for the proposed CVC project is \$1,990,529 - \$2,330,280, depending on contingencies. Municipal contribution has been set at \$537,443.
- Cement slab for Smart Rink has been poured. Waiting on cement to cure prior to installing boards and synthetic ice. Installation is expected later this month.
- Invitations have been sent to the Chiefs of both the Meteghan and Little Brook Fire Departments to meet on site to discuss proposed plans for needed work to the firehole.

Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes:

- Outdoor rink:
 - Synthetic ice panels have been installed
 - Boards and nets are being installed this week
 - Staff is working out details for maintenance and usage including cleaning, rules, and safety/security.
 - Researching security camera options for site.
 - Order placed with NS Power for additional flood lights installation for increased visibility.
 - Opening is planned for December 5th during Christmas tree lighting event at CVC

- Semaine nationale de l'immigration francophone - A successful week of activities within the municipality, with about 300 people attending our events:
 - A Senegalese lunch on the afternoon of Sunday, November 7 (118 meals served).
 - An information session on winter in Clare for newcomers on Wednesday, November 10.
 - A gala at the Château at Université Sainte-Anne that was organized by the university students with support from our group and Inclusion Clare.

- A joint announcement was made with the RIFNÉ regarding the launch of a campaign to attract refugees to Nova Scotia's francophone and Acadian regions and to offer support to local organizations wishing to participate in their integration. This announcement was well-received by the media and was picked up by local and regional outlets. Nick Barr – Director, Governance & Advisory Services for NS Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing congratulated us for our efforts as well as Maryse O'Neill, Director - Integration, Eastern Region for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Tourism Public Spaces

- At present, 4 RFPs have been issued.
- Of these 4 RFPs, 2 will be discussed later this evening under New Business.
- The remaining 2 RFPs - Cape Saint Mary Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and Wayfinding and Gateway Signage System are both set to close on November 19, 2021.
- All 4 RFPs are subject to confirmation of federal funding

Housing Action Plan:

- Met with representatives of SHS Consultants on October 28, 2021, to review the submissions (i.e., properties), in preparation for selecting the shortlist of proposals that will be contacted for follow-up discussions and/or proposal refinements.
- At this meeting, it was suggested would benefit from a similar presentation, prior to moving to follow-up discussions with individual property owners. This meeting would also serve as an opportunity to discuss Council's preferences in terms of possible ownership structures for any new housing developments moving forward.
- To this end, a second meeting will be scheduled with SHS Consultants in the coming weeks.

Meteghan Sidewalks:

- The GoC has introduced the Active Transportation Fund. Under this program, municipalities can apply for eligible active transportation projects (including sidewalks). The maximum allowable federal contribution is 60%.
- Awaiting launch of online application process
- Meeting with a senior representative of Able Engineering on November 10, 2021. File is currently under review as the previous project lead is no longer with the company and some revisions are being made. Completion date is expected late December / early January.
- This notwithstanding, we do have the needed information to proceed to application under the ATF.
- Anticipated start of construction – Spring 2022 (subject to project funding)

Clare Health Centre:

- RFP for a possible expansion to the Clare Health Centre has been issued with a closing date of November 29, 2021. A coordinated site visit for prospective bidders was held Saturday, November 13, 2021. Have received considerable interest thus far.
- Staff will review bids following closing and prepare a recommendation for the December 1, Council-in-Committee meeting.
- allNovaScotia online news site has already reported on this possible expansion and the reasons behind it.

Washrooms / Parking Lot – Bourneuf Wharf Road

- Washroom foundations are complete
- Portable toilets have been received and will be assembled by staff next week
- Washroom buildings are being manufactured by JD Composites. Doors are on backorder, which may delay installation to Spring 2022.

Washrooms – Maxwellton Road:

- Installation of washrooms will happen at the same time as those on the Bourneuf Wharf Road given same design and contractors.

Track and Field:

- Project is advancing well. Roughly 65% complete
- Installation of concrete curb and electrical conduit is complete
- Artificial turf field, as well as other landscaping material, is currently being installed.
- Asphalt installation below the rubberized track surface this fall is now at risk. Currently considering overall impact on quality before deciding on installation of asphalt at this point in the season. The information supporting this decision is still being received and validated.

Election – District 7:

- eVoting started Friday November 12th. No issues to report. All is going well.
- As of Wednesday morning, 200 electors have cast votes (164 via internet, 36 telephone).
- District 7 has 867 eligible voters.
- Paper ballots will be available on Saturday November 20th at the polling station located at the Meteghan Fire Hall.
- eVoting also continues until end of day Saturday.
- VoterHelp is open at the municipal office for help with eVoting during regular business hours.

FINANCIAL:

- As of October 31, 2021, the Municipality has recorded \$8,981,124 in revenues versus \$5,644,887 in expenses, for a surplus of \$3,336,237.
- As of October 31, 2021, the Municipality has a balance of \$3,835,952 in its operating fund, \$644,896 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$4,867,006. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:
 - Operating reserve - \$2,142,933
 - Capital reserve - \$1,750,390
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$334,958
 - Gas tax reserve - \$638,725