

Mayor's Report, April 23, 2015

Latchford Control Dam Project

As everyone is aware, the dam project is now underway and the changes are coming fast and furious in the area around our water treatment plant. Incidentally, with the project valued at \$25.7 M it has to be the largest single project undertaken by the Government in this District in many years. Attached to this report is the layout proposed for the land that was made available by the Town for use during the dam project. Unfortunately, while the plan was dated March 23, we never received it until April 15 which left no time for comment.

Jaime did remind me that the License of Occupation which the Town extended to PWGSC in regard to this land was so as to have the Town acquire land from them at the conclusion of the project which tempered by reaction to a degree. There remains considerable difficulty in communicating with the contractor because of language differences and Jaime, Jeff Barton and I expressed this in a conference call with Harpreet and Patrice Vermette last Friday. We also advised them that there will be costs incurred by the contractor for the use of services provided by the town such as water.

While we are told by PWGSC that communications should go through them, they do not appear to have told the contractor that as CDB reps continually ask questions of us. We have had to bring THU inspector Doug Metson down to explain where they could put privies and a lavatory trailer. At this point, and hopefully it will get better, they appear to need continuous monitoring to ensure they respect our needs as well as us theirs.

The prefeasibility study on hydro project being conducted by Bill Touzel and Sebastian Vetticog coordinated by Jeff Barton is well underway with completion scheduled for early June. Jay Aspin's office has tentatively scheduled an official sod turning ceremony for the project on June 12 at 10:30 a.m. so please mark that on your calendars. You will be advised of any change.

Fuel Wood Situation/ ONTC Land in Latchford

It would appear that in order to acquire access and permitting privileges for the fuel wood that has been identified as the most suitable for harvesting by residents of Latchford we will have to make a formal request for an amendment to the Forest Management Plant for our area. Jeff Barton has volunteered to help prepare that request.

I have to confess that with baby-sitting job that has developed down at the dam I have not had any opportunity to pursue this further. Once the EDO has been retained for the Cobalt, Coleman and Latchford position, it will be a priority for that individual in support of Latchford.

Debt Retirement Charge

I have exchanged phone calls (3 to be exact) with an individual in the Ombudsman's office with regard to our resolution regarding payment by Latchford residents on the debt retirement charge which Council feels is improper. Her quick answer was that they only deal with

administrative complaints and this was a legislative one. I countered by advising her that we needed an answer in writing because if it is legislative, we will take it to our MMP for assistance and response but insisted the answer must be in writing. In response to that she is now advising me that it requires study and that is what she is doing.

TeMAG discussions with MPAC

Included in your package are the minutes of our TeMAG meeting with MPAC and, if you haven't already, I would encourage you to read them. We had a very enlightening and somewhat revealing discussion with their representatives.

Ad Hoc Committee for TMA/TeMAG

We met again in Kirkland Lake last night to further discuss and identify district services that could benefit from accessing revenues from the PLT that is imposed on property owners in the unincorporated areas of Temiskaming. What it is hoped to realize is a process or system that directs payment from these areas to offset the costs of providing services to them at level comparable to what we in organized municipalities pay for those services.

Freshet Issues and communication

I am pleased to report that we have made tremendous progress in the past three years with respect to receiving timely reports on water elevations and flows from OPG in particular. It is also worth noting that Eric Potvin from PWGSC is also providing daily reports on the Latchford Dam. The MNRF continue to be a bit of a challenge as Jaime will attest to.

May Meeting

I am requesting a change in the date of our May meeting from the 21st if possible. The TMA meeting is being moved to that night and as one of their representatives on the Ad Hoc, I should be in attendance. The next week is not an option as I will be leaving on vacation on the 23rd.

EDF Wind Turbine Proposal

Jaime and I had a somewhat enlightening meeting with two representatives of a firm that has expressed interest in developing a wind farm on the south eastern boundaries of Latchford. They are just visiting area municipalities and First Nations to gauge interest at this time.

GLL

Councillor Perry Livingston
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Public Works

- March 31 meeting in Cobalt with representatives from Temiskaming Shores, Cobalt and Coleman ... re. Group purchase of LED Streetlights. Details of our current street lights (number of heads, wattage and type of head) were submitted. Third party installation of lights appears to be the least expensive direction (\$160 - \$180 per head). We should be aware of the “hidden” costs such as possible wiring upgrades and disposal of old light heads. We are currently waiting to hear any news.
- Sign at Community Centre needs some minor repairs.

Fire Department

- Attended the Northeastern Fire Education Conference in North Bay on March 27.
- Contrary to previous report, the Cascade system has NOT been purchased.
- Training exercise will take place April 25 at Paige's old garage. *5 m 0114/1045 P.*
- Yard sale has been confirmed for June 6.