

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
October 20, 2021

PROJECT FILES:

Internet:

- More than 350 customers are now online.

Phase Updates:

- Phase 1 (Route 1 from Comeauville to St. Bernard) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 2 (New Edinburgh / Bas-de-la Rivière) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 3 – (Ohio to Hassett) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 4 (Side roads along Phase 1) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 5 (Concession, Patrice Rd, Little Brook Station) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 6 (Concession, St. Joseph, PF Comeau Rd.) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 7 (Cultural Hub to Amirault Road / Saulnierville Road, Second Division Road, Eustache Comeau Road) - Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 8 (Saulnierville, Saulnierville Rd., C. Saulnier Rd.) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 9 (Meteghan River, d'Entremont Rd., Placide Comeau Rd.) – Complete. Now completing installations.
- Phase 10 (Meteghan Connector, Bonnie Rd., Peter Dugas Rd, John Thibodeau Rd.) – Complete. Now completing installations
- Phase 11 (Saulnierville Rd to the Maxwelton Road, along Second Division Rd) – Splicing ongoing. Still waiting for highway crossing at Second Division Road.
- Phase 12 (the remainder of the d'Entremont Rd. out to the Salmon Lake area) – Splicing ongoing. Still waiting on highway crossing at Second Division Road. CSP cabinet has arrived and awaiting placement.
- Phase 13 (Highway 1 and side roads from Meteghan Connector to Mavillette) - Strand and fibre construction ongoing.
- Phase 14 (Highway 1 and side roads from Mavillette to Beaver River) - Strand and fibre construction ongoing. Pole work taking place this week. Salmon River water assessment ongoing.
- Phase 15 (Salmon River Road and Hectanooga Road, and other side streets as outlined) – Trimming started week of October 11th.
- Phase 16 (Salmon River / Lake Doucette Rd) – No update. Still awaiting NSPI scope.
- Phase 17 (Clean up areas in light blue, including Thibault Rd) – Trimming started week of October 18th, which should in turn allow more work to get completed.

- Phase 18 (Norwood Rd, Peter LeBlanc Rd and Cranberry Lake Rd) – Scoping submitted early October. Neither Bell nor NSP have had a chance to review
- All things considered, project is advancing well
- The bottle neck continues to be the make ready work. Crews are currently working in Mavillette but will be coming up to fill in some gaps around Victor Lake, Stuart Street, Charles Rd, etc., as phase 17 gets completed.
- Mainland is hoping to open Phases 11 and 12 in November.
- Mainland continues to push NSP to expedite the Second Division Road highway crossing.

Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes:

- September 19 - Participated in the Disability Pride Festival with Inclusion Clare, where we funded the international meal of the month (Lebanese food), with the support of Nadine Abou Mrad El-Jakl, a resident of Clare who was born in Lebanon. These monthly meals are catching on, and CFA is getting requests from community members to participate. This week, we are serving Filipino food with three employees from Riverside.
- September 25 - Co-hosted the inauguration of the pétanque court (boulodrome) in Belliveau Cove
- October 13 - Held our first Bienvenue en Clare information session for newcomers from outside and within Canada.
- October 19-21 - Taking part in the SNA's Colloque sur l'immigration francophone
- October 28 - The beginning of weekly conversational English classes, which will be held on Thursday evenings at the RDV de la Baie.
- November 7-13 - Semaine nationale de l'immigration francophone, a week of activities in the community in partnership with Université Sainte-Anne, RANÉ, RIFNÉ, and the Conseil des arts de la Baie, among others. Programming will be unveiled this week.
- Collaborating with RIFNÉ and other provincial partners to explore the possibility of welcoming Afghan refugees to Nova Scotia in a Francophone setting.

Tourism Public Spaces

- Previous RFP has yielded only one bid, with two other firms having backed out at the last minute. This bid was subsequently declined, and the decision made to breakdown the project into smaller, site-specific RFPs.
- At present, 4 RFPs have been issued:
 - Geotechnical Surveys – Viewing Platforms (October 22, 2021)
 - Parc Joseph and Marie Dugas and Major's Point (October 29, 2021)
 - Cape Saint Mary Lighthouse Interpretive Centre (November 19, 2021)
 - Wayfinding and Gateway Signage System (November 19, 2021)
- All 4 RFPs are subject to confirmation of funding

Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)

- **No substantial change from September 15, 2021, CAO Report**
- 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.

Housing Action Plan:

- REOI/RFP to Secure Land within the Municipality for Affordable Housing Development has closed. Responses are currently being evaluated. Meeting with consultants some time next week to discuss responses and plan for next steps.

Asset Management:

- **No substantial change from September 15, 2021, CAO Report**
- AIM Network representatives met with municipal staff to commence detailed inventory of municipal assets. To date, meetings have been held August 18th and September 14th. Work is ongoing.
- Plan completion is tentatively earmarked for late December 2021, with the possibility of extending into January 2022.

Meteghan Sidewalks:

- **No substantial change from September 15, 2021, CAO Report**
- 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 next week with Able Engineering for update on the specifications. Staff turnover has created delays. 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:

- Alarm system has been ordered. Expecting delivery shortly.
- VOIP phone upgrade expected to commence in the coming weeks
- Project application in the amount of \$12,710 has been submitted to the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation for the purchase of exercise equipment. The purpose of the project is to enhance current service offerings, increase accessibility to preventative health initiatives, introduce small group fitness programs to at-risk patients, and promote and facilitate good lifestyle choices.
- A second project application in the amount of \$20,938 and focusing on community vaccination promotion was submitted via the Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres and subsequently approved. The goal is to promote vaccine awareness and education and provide health care practitioners with additional bilingual resources to educate patients and promote vaccines to vulnerable populations in our rural community.

Washrooms / Parking Lot – Bourneuf Wharf Road

- Washroom foundations are complete
- Portable toilets have been received and will be assembled by staff next week
- Waiting on washroom buildings from JD Composites.

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
- Removal of unsuitable material (USM) is complete and sewer pipes have been rerouted.
- Installation of concrete curb and electrical conduit in progress
- Asphalt for track surfacing and artificial turf field scheduled to start November 8th.
- Project approximately 50% complete.
- Substantial completion expected is late Fall 2021, with the installation of the rubberized surface delayed until Spring 2022.

Garbage Collection:

- Currently in our 3rd week of a new contract with a new hauler
- Residential collection is going well. A few minor, isolated issues on the commercial side.
- Met with Waste Check and the new hauler on October 20, 2021, to discuss strategy to address these issues. Focus is private sector awareness and education

FINANCIAL:

- As of September 30, 2021, the Municipality has recorded \$8,544,196 in revenues versus \$4,856,630 in expenses, for a surplus of \$3,687,566.

- As of September 30, 2021, the Municipality has a balance of \$3,814,027 in its operating fund, \$247,160 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,359,238. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:
 - Operating reserve - \$2,142,024
 - Capital reserve - \$2,499,359
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$334,816
 - Gas tax reserve - \$383,039