

Chief Administrative Officer's Report

September 27, 2023

PROJECT FILES:

Clare Health Centre:

- Other than some damage to the security fencing, there was no damage to the building structure as a result of last week's storm.
- Steel fabrication starting October 2nd. Steel walls are going up in the 3rd week of October.
- Considering these delays, sequencing of events has changed to minimize impact on schedule (i.e., pouring of slab, demolition of exterior, etc.).
- Electrical inspection has passed.
- Envelope will be weather tight by December.
- Exterior cladding and insulation to start in early December. To be completed by the end of December.
- Working on a plan to allow a phased occupancy of the new doctors' offices commencing in February / March 2024.

Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)

- Tender issued July 19, 2023.
- Bidders walk-through on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.
- The tender closed August 23, 2023.
- Unfortunately, only one bid was received. It was significantly above budget and subsequently, not accepted.
- Potential bidders identified lack of sub-contractor interest for major trades, schedule (i.e., stipulated start and end dates), and unknowns (i.e., hazard assessment) as risk factors that dissuaded them from bidding.
- Meeting with architects and project managers scheduled for October 3, 2023, to address contractor comments, review proposed design and discuss available alternatives for a path forward.
- Municipal contribution - \$589,124
- GoC contribution - Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program (GICB) - \$2,356,494

Meteghan Sidewalks:

- A revised set of drawings was submitted to NS Public Works (NSDPW) on September 15, 2023. Currently awaiting approval.
- Total GoC funding contribution - \$995,558 (60%).
- Total estimated project cost is \$1,591,009 plus HST.

Meteghan Sewer Extension – Sunset Road:

- **To be discussed under New Business – Items 12.4 and 12.5**
- Agreement regarding housing project deliverables has been signed.
- Contribution agreement with GoC’s Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Green: Environmental Quality stream has been signed.
- In terms of schedule, the plan is to go to tender this Fall (or early Winter), in preparation for a Spring 2024 construction start.
- Total project cost is \$1,558,000.
- Total ICIP contribution of \$1,142,533 (73.33%)
- Total municipal contribution \$415,467

Wentworth Park:

- Project is advancing – grubbing, resurfacing, drainage at boat launch, new accessible walkway to lake, preparation for cement pads, etc.
- Lead time for playground equipment was longer than expected. Delivery and installation scheduled for late September / early October.
- Pouring of cement pads scheduled for October, at which time the bathroom building and picnic shelters will be installed.

Clare & Argyle Acadian Tourism Development Project

- Project application remains with ACOA, under the Agency’s EDI program. Currently at Minister’s Office for review and approval.
- The project will refresh the current interpretative panels in Clare and Argyle and add additional panels to new locations (i.e., 31 existing sites and 9 new sites in Clare, Argyle, Yarmouth).
- New Video vignettes will be added to panels, websites, and social media.
- Total project cost is approximately \$230,000, with roughly \$140,000 expected from ACOA.
- Municipal contribution is \$30,005, divided over 2 years.
- The Municipality of Argyle contribution of \$30,000 is approved.
- YASTA contribution of \$5,000 is confirmed.
- \$25,000 has been confirmed from the Province of NS’ Beautification and Streetscape Program.

Track and Field:

- Lighting equipment landed on site on September 7, 2023.
- Crew was mobilized during the week of September 11th to lay poles out in the desired locations and begin indoor work.
- Underground conduit and bases have since been completed.
- Wire pulls and standing the poles expected this week or next.
- Project completion and handover training expected in early October.

Hectanooga Fire Department:

- New roof complete.
- Truck bay (including new slab and truck bay doors) complete.
- Comfort centre roughly 60% complete.
- Electrical inspection has been passed.
- Gyproc installed.
- Kitchen, washrooms, and flooring remain.
- Anticipated completion – October 2023.

Gran Fondo:

- After an absence of two years, Gran Fondo Baie Sainte Marie was a success.
- 796 total registrations.
- 229 out of province, or nearly 30%. NB 137, ON 29, QC 14, USA 13, PEI 20, AB 8, UK 3, BC 4, Austria 1.
- First time participants = 55%
- Participant testimonials have been overwhelmingly positive.
- Response from travel media has also been very favorable.

Beach Access Project – Grandy Beach Access Road:

- **No change from July 19, 2023, CAO Report.**
- Process has commenced.
- Abutting property owners (2) have been advised in writing, followed by an in-person meeting. Both are supportive.
- Legal boundaries of the road (as they currently exist) will be marked shortly by surveyor.
- An application has been made to NS Public Works, via Pamela Mehlman-Shand, requesting the Province give the road to the Municipality as surplus. This is the same process used for the Placide Comeau Road extension.

Cultural Hub:

- **To be discussed under New Business – Item 12.3**

FINANCIAL:

- As of August 31, 2023, the Municipality has recorded \$10,033,269 in revenues versus \$5,420,930 in expenses, for a surplus of \$4,612,339.
- As of August 31, 2023, the Municipality had a balance of \$5,618,528 in its operating fund, \$38,858 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$2,693,348. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:

- Operating reserve - \$1,832,135
- Capital reserve - \$23,037
- Landfill closure reserve - \$350,539
- Gas tax reserve - \$487,637