



Village of Chester Commission

Minutes:

Special meeting of Council, March 26, 2012

Warden Webber opened at the meeting 9:00am by inviting Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA to address the group. She gave the purpose of this special meeting, which was to address the winter maintenance of the roads in the Municipality, including the Village. She then invited Steve MacIsaac, District Director, Western Nova Scotia to address the group. Mr. MacIsaac began by bringing an awareness of the problems of DOT. He advised that at present, the Village of Chester is not a normal set up. They receive lots of calls expecting more. He acknowledged they could do better, but that their hands are tied with what he believes is a water quality concern in the Village. He then began a brief presentation, beginning with the standards for winter road maintenance in Nova Scotia (available on their website). There are no standards for sanding paved roads as it is used as a last resort typically. Salt is not as effective below -10 C and does not work at all under -23 C. Normally there is a 5% salt content in sand, however he informed the group that there is NO salt content in the sand placed in the Village. It takes 6 runs to sand the streets in Chester. One truck of sand does 5.6 km, one truck of salt does 105 km, so essentially, sand is more costly and is not as safe. He also said there are no salt contaminated wells on record for the past 20 years. He is unsure why there are 33 km of paved roads in the Municipality that are "sand only" (of the 33km, approximately 1/3 are in the Village)

Mr. MacIsaac proposed that DOT do an inventory of the types and locations of wells that may be susceptible on all the "sand only" roads. DOTIR does have a well contamination budget and he suggested it may be feasible to drill wells on the properties that are at risk for surface contamination. He proposed to hire consultants and as Denise Peterson-Rafuse suggested, have a public education program for all residents concerned. Brenda Mulrooney offered to put a notice in our next newsletter, as did Alan Webber on behalf of the Municipality. Mr. MacIsaac reminded everyone that the change initiative was not DOT's alone and suggested that it be a joint effort. All present were agreeable to this. He suggested that the study be done over this

summer and then to have a public meeting in the early fall to present an overview and make recommendation. Brenda Mulrooney invited him to come to the Commission meeting to present the finding to the Village residents. He entertained questions from the various councilors around the table. Brad Armstrong made special mention of issues on Freda's Hill as well as at the Parade Square. He had a list of other streets that were a concern and Mr. MacIsaac asked him to email him a copy.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Denise Peterson-Rafuse brought up an unrelated subject that dealt with the designation of the Old Stone Bridge as a Heritage Property. There are plans for new signage as well as a public celebration this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Thank you.

*Iris Tolliver
Clerk Treasurer*