

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held at the Municipal Office
On Wednesday, September 21, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Ziggy Polkowski
Councillor Erwin Butikofer
Councillor Bill Lankinen
Councillor Roger Shott
Councillor Brian Wright
Councillor Curtis Coulson

REGRETS: Councillor Mike McCooye

Rosalie A. Evans, Solicitor-Clerk
Barry Livingston, Working Roads Foreman

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

- (a) **Call to Order:** Mayor Polkowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- (b) **Attendance:** Attendance was recorded.
- (c) **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:** No declarations of interest were received.

2. ROADS MAINTENANCE POLICY

2.1 Report from Working Roads Foreman & Solicitor-Clerk Recommending a Roads Maintenance Policy (Amended as Directed By Council after the Meeting of August 24, 2016)

Mayor Polkowski reminded members present that the purpose of the meeting was to address winter maintenance of roads - however any concerns with any part of the policy were appropriate discussion topics.

Solicitor-Clerk Evans indicated that she had suggested, as an efficiency matter, that Council consider a policy that involved not plowing snow from any roads that do not have year-round residences on them. Past practice in the Municipality was discussed, in which the Roads Crew would plow a road, even if there are no houses there, upon the request of a property owner. They were generally not done on the first pass, or as priorities, but were ultimately plowed. Emergency response obligations for unoccupied buildings (other than residences) were reviewed.

How winter maintenance contributes to the overall condition of the road was discussed, including assistance with spring thaw and plowing effecting as "brushing" by snapping off frozen vegetation. Difficulties with plowing upon request only were raised, including snow-pack caused by snowmobile use, and over-accumulation of snow depth.

Administration drew Council's attention to page 7 of the report, and the need to make sure the lists for 6B Roads (with no residences on them) and 6C Roads (seasonal maintenance only) were accurate, and also to determine what level of maintenance would be applied to the Class 6B Roads. As drafted, the only "seasonally maintained" road (i.e. no plowing) is the Lake Lenore Road from the foot of the hill to the lake. She asked whether more should be added.

Council discussed the requirements of some property owners of vacant land for access during winter - sometimes it is for snow sport or recreation (like snowmobiling) and sometimes it is for clearing trees/hauling lumber. The difference between commercial need and recreational need was reviewed.

In response to a statement that winter access to property is a taxpayer's right, Mrs. Evans advised that Council is authorized to set its own maintenance standards. The Solicitor-Clerk advised Council that if a decision is made to decrease the service level, all impacted property owners would be notified.

After some debate about which roads listed in the draft policy as Class 6B roads should be moved to Class 6C, the Solicitor-Clerk and Working Roads Foreman were directed, on consensus, to come back to Council with a recommended list.

The Solicitor-Clerk next asked Council to stipulate the level of winter maintenance that would be included in the policy for Class 6B roads, once the list was finalized. Will it be "on request", or addressed by depth of snow or frequency in terms of time?

After some discussion, on consensus, Council directed Administration to include plowing "on request" for 6B roads, but also to include some recurring maintenance, such as "once per month" (assuming that there is snow to plow).

Debate then occurred about whether or not the roads that were once maintained by the Municipality (particularly those that extend past roads that we currently maintain) should be categorized as "private roads" or whether they should be categorized as "municipal unmaintained roads".

Administration was directed to review the issue and make any clarifying changes in the next draft to be presented to Council.

The Solicitor-Clerk noted that if a road is (or ever was) an open municipal road, the only way to "close" the road is by passing a road closure by-law, and following all of the required steps (such as notice and public meetings).

The Working Roads Foreman raised questions about appropriate signage for private roads as compared to municipal, but unmaintained roads. Recommendations will be included when the policy is returned for further discussion.

2.2 Resolutions Arising out of the Report

Administration was directed by consensus. No resolutions were passed.


3. ADJOURN THE MEETING:

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Polkowski adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL



Ziggy Polkowski
MAYOR



Rosalie A. Evans
SOLICITOR-CLERK