The United Counties of Prescott and Russell
Report
Public Works Committee

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Warden’s Office, L’Orignal

Members Present: Guy Desjardins, Committee Chair
Robert Kirby, Warden
Normand Riopel, Committee Vice-Chair
Stéphane Sarrazin

Staff Present: Jérémie Bouchard
Justin Bromberg
Marc Clermont
José Lortie
Valérie Parisien
Stéphane P. Parisien

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Committee Chair, Mr. Guy Desjardins, called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

3. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Normand Riopel
Seconded by Stéphane Sarrazin

Be it resolved that the Agenda be adopted with the following amendments.

Add item 5.4 Report of the meeting with MTO

Add item 5.5 Request from the Mayor of Champlain to talk about the study for a set of lights on the County Road 17 in Hawkesbury near Canadian Tire.

Carried
4. Petitions and Delegations

5. Subjects

5.1 Request from the City of Clarence-Rockland for a sidewalk on County Road 17

The Director of Public Works explains that the Department has received a request from one of the councillors through the Mayor of the City of Clarence-Rockland for a sidewalk along the north side of County Road 17, between Edwards Street and Chamberland Street, in Rockland.

Mr. Clermont explains that under the Municipal Act a sidewalk is under the responsibility of the local municipalities.

He further explains that an option would be to pave the shoulder, however, the Counties policy is to pave the shoulders only when the road is being repaved. Even more important, during the establishment of the policy, it was decided by Council that shoulders would not be paved along County Road 17 because of safety concerns along this highly travelled highway.

He continues on explaining that the Environmental Study Report for the widening of County Road 17 did foresee Multi-Use Pathways on each side of County Road 17, but these would be separated by a median acting as a physical barrier. A profile of the preferred solution of the Environmental Study Report is shown.

Mr. Clermont mentions that installing a sidewalk or a paved shoulder with a physical barrier would be extremely expensive due to the fact that drainage control would be required. He also mentions that on the north side, the road narrows in and the shoulder is narrow due to the presence of the creek flowing along County Road 17 in front of the Canadian Tire Store. If the Committee agrees to do so, he recommends to do the section from Edwards Street to the Food Basics/Rockland Manor traffic lights on the south side of County Road 17 where it is wider. It is estimated that it would cost approximately $50,000 to pave the shoulders on that section of road. There are no monies foreseen in the budget for these works.

Moved by Stéphane Sarrazin
Seconded by Normand Riopel

The Committee recommends to deny the request due to safety concerns for pedestrians along County Road 17.

Carried
5.2 Mud/clay deposited on roads

The Director mentions that for many years now the Department has had many complaints regarding mostly farming leaving either mud, dirt and/or manure onto the roads in the fall and in the spring. Although, some farmers are very cooperative in cleaning up their mess, some others have just no respect. He continues on explaining that the situation this fall has been worse than the last few years. He explains that there was an accident that occurred on County Road 8 due to a large amount of clay left on the road.

Mr. Clermont explains that in 2017, Council adopted the Committee’s recommendation to warn the owners to clean up the road and should after the second warning they not resolve the issue, the Counties would proceed on cleaning the road and send the invoice to the owners. It was decided to send letters to the different farmer’s associations to advise them of the new policy.

In many instances and in the case of the recent accident, two warnings do not deal with the issue in a proper way.

He continues on explaining that it is hard to administer the issue because under the Highway Traffic Act, clay, dirt or manure is not considered as litter or refuse therefore rendering the OPP unable to apply the Act. Some municipalities have adopted a by-law that legislate this issue, but the Counties have no enforcement staff to enforce a by-law or the power to do so. The local municipalities’ by-law enforcement officers would have to be named to enforce the by-law. Some type of by-law without set fines could be adopted to enforce the necessary cleaning and invoicing the landowners.

Mr. Clermont recommends that in the case where the culprit is obvious, that they be advised verbally to clean the road and if there is cooperation, that the Counties clean the road and invoice them for the related costs. Should they not pay the invoice, then the municipalities would add the invoice on the owners’ tax bill.

Moved by Normand Riopel
Seconded by Stéphane Sarrazin

The Committee recommends to meet the different farmers association in order to address the issue for a longer term solution and in the shorter term to change the policy to grant the Counties staff to clean the road and invoice the landowners dirtying the road should they not be cooperative in addressing the situation.
And, the Committee also recommends to invoice the landowners that was responsible for the mud that needed cleaning on County Road 8.

Carried

5.3 Joint application with Champlain Township - ICIP - green stream

The Director explains that under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Green Stream, municipalities can apply for funding for storm sewers work. He further explains that the Counties Policy TP – 001 Policy of shared services on county roads stipulates that the United Counties are responsible for 50% of the cost of the storm sewers works. He mentions that under the ICIP guidelines a joint project between multiple eligible applicants are encouraged and additional consideration will be given to joint projects as part of the assessment. The guidelines also requires the United Counties of Prescott and Russell Council to pass a resolution stating the project names and the Counties contribution to the project.

He continues by explaining that Champlain Township is applying under the program for the replacement of sanitary sewers, watermain and storm sewers replacement on King Street and on Bay Road both being County Road 24.

He further explains that the Township of Russell is also applying under this program for storm sewer works on Craig Street in the Village of Russell.

The Director has inquired to the ICIP team, if more than one joint application can be made. He is still awaiting a response from them.

Moved by Stéphane Sarrazin
Seconded by Normand Riopel

The Committee recommends adopting two resolutions so that the United Counties of Prescott and Russell submit joint projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Green Stream for 50% of the cost of the replacement of sewer works for both the Township of Champlain and the Township of Russell; and should only one joint application be possible, that the project for the storm sewers replacement on King Street and on Bay Road be the project submitted as a joint project for the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

Carried
5.4 Update on the Department’s meeting with MTO

For information purposes, the Director explains that Jeremie Bouchard and he met with the MTO last week to discuss about the newly proposed stop at the intersection of the westbound onramp and County Road 17 included in the County Road 17 bridge replacements at Highway 34.

Mr. Clermont explains that at the meeting it was mentioned that the Counties had hired a consultant to do a peer review of the MTO’s Environmental Assessment study and design of the proposed onramp. The MTO did recognize that the channelized right-turn is doable with some restrictions, however, it was again reiterated that the newly proposed stop at the intersection of the westbound on-ramp is their preferred solution and unless the Counties can show otherwise, that this is going to be the recommended solution for the on/off ramp. He continues by explaining that the Department will submit to the MTO the peer review findings and once these are reviewed another discussion will be held.

He finalises by saying that the Environmental Study Report is expected to be completed sometimes in January 2020 and the study will be subject to a 30 day review period and that the municipalities, the Counties and the public can submit their objections to the report.

5.5 Study for street lights on County Road 17 in Hawkesbury near the Canadian Tire

Mr. Normand Riopel, Mayor of the Township of Champlain explains that he has received a copy of an estimate to design street lighting along County Road 17 in Hawkesbury.

Mr. Jeremie Bouchard explains that the Department is undergoing the design of the improvement to County Road 17, from Highway 34 to 800 metres east of Tupper Street, and that in the original mandate street lighting was not part of the mandate of the designing consultant. He further explains that under the Counties policy, street lighting is the responsibility of the local municipalities. After discussion with both, the Township of Champlain and the Town of Hawkesbury requested quote for the design of the street lighting.

Mr. Riopel questioned some details of the proposal and Mr. Bouchard mentioned that he would make a follow up of Mr. Riopel questions to the consultant. Mr. Riopel asked if the cost of the design could be split three ways between the Counties, the Town of Hawkesbury and Champlain Township.
Moved by Normand Riopel
Seconded by Stéphane Sarrazin

The Committee recommends to proceed with the design of the street lighting and that the cost attribution will be discussed further once the questions have been answered.

Carried

6. **Next Meeting**

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be in 2020.

7. **Adjournment**

Moved by Normand Riopel
Seconded by Stéphane Sarrazin

Be it resolved that this Public Works Committee meeting be adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Carried

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Guy Desjardins, Committee Chair

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Robert Kirby, Warden

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Mélissa Cadieux, Clerk