February News . Budget Edition

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February 2018

Open House

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 2:00 to 8:00 pm

Information on:

- South St. Clements Activity Centre presentation at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- Drainage and Water Management presentation at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- 2018 Roadworks
- Narol Fire Hall Expansion

Mayor, Council, project consultants and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Council is considering borrowing for the South St. Clements Activity Centre, Narol Fire Hall expansion, and drainage. If you have questions please come and ask them!

Drainage and Water Management

Based on drainage data gathered over the past few years by surveying areas with overland flooding issues, five problem areas have emerged: Gunns Creek, Bunns Creek, Ashfield, Grand Marais and Devils Creek.

In 2018, the RM will start fixing trouble spots, continue to gather data, and work toward a long term sustainable water management plan to prevent future overland flooding.

Council is considering borrowing money for this project.

Pre-Budget Consultation Narol Fire Hall Expansion



building and is considering expanding, mainly to include a classroom but also to improve workplace health and safety and store modern fire/rescue equipment.

The proposed expansion is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. Council is considering borrowing for this project.

Narol Fire Hall has 25 volunteer firefighters and is located at 5121 Henderson Highway. Narol Fire Hall serves southern St. Clements and other areas when extra help is required. They generally receive between 90 to 100

service calls per year on average.

In 1985, it was the third fire department to be established in the RM of St. Clements.

Landfill and Transfer Station Winter Hours Wed Fri Sat Sun Mon Tues Thur Libau Landfill Closed Closed 9 am to 5 pm 5 pm 5 pm 5 pm 5 pm Closed **Dunning Transfer** 9 am to 11 am to 11 am to Closed Closed Closed Station 5 pm 5 pm 5 pm Clark Transfer Closed Closed Closed Closed Closed 11 am to 9 am to Station 5 pm 5 pm **Grand Marais** 9 am to Closed Closed Closed Closed 11 am to Closed Transfer Station 5 pm 5 pm Closed Closed Closed Gull Lake 11 am to Closed Closed 9 am to **Transfer Station** 5 pm 5 pm

South St. Clements Recreation Centre Landscaping Begins

The Heart of the Community

The site of the new South St. Clements Activity Centre on Donald Road will soon be humming with landscaping and site preparation activity thanks to a generous grant from the province.

Selkirk MLA Alan Lagimodiére confirmed a \$250,000 Community Development Initiatives provincial grant with RM of St. Clements Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn and Council on Monday, February 12, 2018.

The RM of St. Clements and the province finalized this matching

grant at the end of January and will be starting work on Phase 1 any day now. The RM will match this amount with reserve funds set aside for this purpose and use municipal resources when possible as an "in-kind" contribution to maximize the grant.

The RM and project consultants will be giving two presentations on the South St. Clements Activity Centre at their Pre-Budget Open House on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 2:00 pm and again at 7:00 pm. Staff, mayor and Council will be on hand to answer any questions.

Mayor Debbie Fielbelkorn says, "The long-awaited new south St. Clements Activity Centre will serve as a hub for the community and promote activity among its residents, as well as attracting visitors to the area. We are grateful to the province for their financial support."

Phase 1 will consist of site preparation, additional community consultation, conceptual design services and building site preparation.

After a thorough public engagement process and extensive efforts from volunteers and RM Councilors, a gap was identified in South St. Clements recreational activities.

The RM has selected a low-lying agricultural site that has traditionally had drainage problems and will be developing a retention wetland that will not only provide recreational activities such as tobogganing and skating but will help support Gunn's Creek Drainage improvements.

Building Plans and Conceptual Drawings















Roadworks 2018

In 2017, the following roadwork was done:

- McKay Road from Henderson to the railway tracks
- Hard surface area on Marven Gardens was completed
- Ferry Road from Colville to the north end of the developed area was resurfaced
- · Usual gravel road maintenance.

In 2018, we are tentatively planning the following roadworks:

- Rebeck Road south from Donald Road to 400 meters north of Dunning Road
- · Roman Drive
- · Leah Avenue

- Parkview Avenue
- Strathcona Road.

In addition, we are planning the engineering for future works of Donald Road from Henderson Highway to the track, Dunning Road from Henderson Highway to the tracks, and Church Road South, from Henderson Highway to the railway tracks as well as the usual gravel road maintenance.

The RM of St. Clements has 900 km of roads. Most of the roads are gravel. Gravel roads require constant maintenance. Gravel, grading and dust control make up a large part of our budget.

Significant resources are dedicated

to maintaining, repairing and upgrading the road system.

Hard surface roads require less maintenance but are very costly to construct. This is the reason that these projects are usually done over a two-year period.

Engineering and base preparation is done in the first year and the actual hard surface is applied in the second year. To better manage hard surface roads we reviewed all hard surface roads in the RM and created the 2016 Hard Surface Road Assessment and Ten Year Capital Plan which we use as a guide.

Curbside Pickup 2018

Curbside Pickup Public Hearing

A Public Hearing on Curbside Pickup was held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the East Selkirk Hall in East, Selkirk, Manitoba. 226 people attended with 148 opposed to curbside pickup, 47 in favour, and 30 undecided.

At the meeting, Mayor Debbie Feibelkorn addressed the group and CAO DJ Sigmundson gave an overview of the proposal and addressed concerns raised by objectors. A Curbside Pickup Fact Sheet was distributed (view below*).

Residents were then allowed to speak. 33 residents chose to speak with 24 opposing curbside pickup and 9 supporting it.

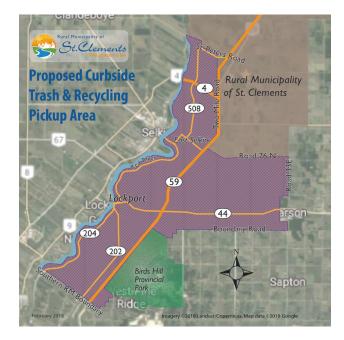
The main reasons for opposition were long driveways, added expense, safety concerns, physical inability to move carts, not trusting that the cost won't rise, wanting to be able to opt out. Many people opposing

curbside were very environmentally concerned and strong recyclers and would like the RM to install 24-hour-a-day-access recycling, much like what the RM of St. Andrews has at the Donald Road Fire Station and Harry's Foods.

Next Steps

Mapping: We mapped the location of homes of the 244 residents opposing curbside

pickup that we know of through the Public Hearing, letters of objection and two petitions, one online and one local. We are working with this map and the proposed contractor to see if there is a possibility to cut out areas and/or allow residents to



opt out of curbside pickup without raising the proposed base cost of \$105/year.

When council has that information, they will determine whether to proceed with curbside pickup.

Curbside Pickup 2018

Curbside Pickup Fact Sheet*

Distributed at Public Hearing on Monday, January 29, 2018.

The RM is proposing to implement curbside trash and recycling pickup in the southern part of the RM due to strong public demand. Some people have concerns over this proposed service.

Thanks to all the residents who shared their concerns as it has helped us more fully develop some of the details of this proposal.

Top Concerns of Residents

Not required/not wanted, happy with current system

Many people are happy with their current system for waste and recycling which includes using the transfer stations, private pickup, taking it to work/a family member's home or burning. The problem:

- Because of escalating costs, transfer station fees are onethird lower than they need to be to cover costs. That mean everyone is subsidizing trash at the transfer stations.
- Private pickup in St. Clements does not include recycling so many people throw their recycling away.
- Burning is not only illegal but today's garbage releases toxins that harm health.

Physical impairment or elderly and unable to get carts to road

Upon hearing this concern we investigated what other RMs do in this situation. Some offer a free 'set back' service for residents with a doctor's note so they don't have to take their carts to the curb. We can consider this service.

Carts unsightly on road, don't want to handle and store

This is part of having curbside pickup. Fortunately it is only one day per week.

Too expensive

The cost for curbside pickup works out to between \$2.01 – \$2.23 per week (about the same as a large coffee from Tim Hortons) over the 5-year period of the service contract and includes two high quality carts valued at \$125 each.

Many people don't consider the cost of driving to the transfer station/landfill. We created an example to calculate the cost of gas pretending we are driving from the RM office to the nearest transfer station, which is Clarke Road, once a week with one bag of garbage in a 2013 Honda Civic.

Distance: 8.5 km (17 km round trip)
Frequency of trip: once a week
Total distance per year: 884 km
Car's gas consumption: 7.6 litres/100km
Litres used per year: 116
Cost per litre for gasoline: \$1.11

Cost of gas per year: \$129 Cost per bag of garbage: \$1.25 Cost of garbage per year: \$65 Total cost for year: \$194

This doesn't include wear and tear on your vehicle and other vehicle-related costs.

Don't want 'city services'

The majority of residents do want this service and 9 out of 12 municipalities around Winnipeg have curbside pickup service including West St. Paul, East St. Paul, Ritchot, Macdonald, Springfield, Tache, Rockwood, Hanover.

Should be able to opt out

Because of the demand for the opportunity to opt out of service, the RM is exploring if it is possible to offer an opt out option at an efficient price.

Long driveway

We have contacted other RMs that also have homes with long driveways to see how they have handled this. None of them receive concerns about long driveways and they said these concerns fall away after service has been operating a few months. Other RMs also have a special service option available for people who are physically unable to move their carts.

In some cases, residents store the carts near the end of their driveway and use their vehicles to transport garbage and recycling to the carts. Hitch attachments to transport the carts are available online and someone in East St. Paul also designed one when curbside pickup was implemented there.

Biweekly recycling is not enough

The 360 litre (95 gallon) recycling cart has been shown to be adequate for bi-weekly pickup in other municipalities. Bi-weekly pickup costs half of what weekly pickup would cost.

Curbside Pickup 2018

Top Concerns of Residents con't

Safety: carts blowing over, cars hitting carts, snow plows and windrows, no shoulders

Wind: On very windy days, carts do blow over but it is an occasional problem at other RMs.

No shoulders: The carts do not require a lot of space to be set out, because the base of the carts is only a little larger than one square foot. The RM and contractor anticipate that the shoulders in most areas should be sufficient to accommodate the carts

Don't generate enough garbage & we recycle and compost

We have many residents who are very environmentally-responsible with their waste; they recycle and compost everything they can and thus have very little trash.

Unfortunately, there are many who don't recycle or compost at all and much of this ends up in the landfill.

- Organic waste in the landfill creates the greenhouse gas methane, which is 86 times more potent than CO2.
- Recycling put in the landfill wastes resources and fills the landfill cell guicker.
- Cells are very expensive to build and that cost is paid for by all taxpayers.
- The RM gets paid for recycling and must pay a fee for all garbage disposed of in the landfill.

Curbside pickup of recycling has been shown to increase recycling rates by 30%-50%. Recycling carts are purposely bigger than the trash carts to encourage recycling.

Why does the RM want to implement curbside pickup now?

The curbside pickup initiative came out of the review of the RM's solid waste management practices that was done as part of the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

The RM of St. Clements has one of the lowest recycling rates in Manitoba but some of the highest costs for waste management. Many residents have expressed an interest in having curbside pickup.

Curbside recycling pickup has been shown to increase recycling rates by 30% to 50%. Here are more reasons:

- Costs of managing waste have escalated due to increased regulation, enforcement, transportation and other demands.
- The RM is charged a tax of \$10 per tonne of garbage put in Libau Landfill.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) gives the RM a rebate based on weight of recyclables collected.
- Recycling converts our old products into new products which saves resources and helps reduce air and water pollution. In other words, it is good for the environment.
- Keeping recyclable outs of the landfill means the landfill fills up more slowly. Creating new capacity for garbage at the landfill is very expensive and the RM (thus taxpayers) must pay for this.
- Reduces the amount of garbage-burning homeowners do which is actually illegal and potentially releases toxic gases into the air



Curbside Pickup 2018

Top 3 Myths

1. Transfer stations are less expensive

It is true that transfer stations currently charge a low rate to residents at \$1.25 per bag for the RM to transport trash and recycling. However, transportation and related costs have skyrocketed over the past several years and the real cost for each bag of garbage from Clarke Road and Dunning Road Transfer Stations is \$4.50. At this time each bag is being subsidized by all taxpayers by \$3.25. User pay is not covering the costs.

2. This survey doesn't represent the will of the people. Why didn't you mail it out to everyone?

There is a misunderstanding that the Service Options Survey is the final word in this process. This is not the case. The RM must follow a legislated process including a public hearing and approval from the Municipal Board before being allowed to implement curbside pickup.

The electronic survey was a quick and economical way to reach a large proportion of people in the service area to get a general idea of the preferences of the people. The RM has consistently found that

consulting with citizens helps us make better decisions that reflect what residents really want.

The survey, analysis and promotion was all done in-house at a low cost. To mail it out to the entire service area would have cost at least \$4000, with no quarantee of a better response.

There are an estimated 2600 properties withhomes in the service area and we reached about 1000 people, using readily-available tools, through email, Facebook, our website, the RM readerboard, and two mobile signs. 565 people responded. This response is considered 95% statistically accurate plus or minus 4% for a population of 2600 people and in fact we would have only needed 488 responses to get this level of statistical accuracy.

3. Curbside pickup is a "done deal" – the plan to start curbside pickup has already been decided

Curbside pickup is a proposal at this stage. The RM must follow a legislated process including a public hearing and approval from the Municipal Board before being allowed to implement curbside pickup.

Why don't you install 24-hour central recycling depots like they have in the RM of St. Andrews?

The RM of St. Clements collects recycling as well as household trash, e-waste, used oil, tires, yard waste, car batteries and propane tanks at all four transfer stations and the Libau Landfill, but with limited access.

The 24-hour-a-day access recycling bins in the RM of St. Andrews that collect regular household recycling are certainly convenient and in our survey, many residents of St. Clements said they regularly take their recycling there. The RM of St. Clements considered this option but found:

- The RM of St. Andrews has higher recycling rates (in 2015, 56.9 kg per person per year) than the RM of St. Clements (25 kg per person per year) but it is still well below the provincial average (73 kg per person per year).
- The system is inefficient because, unless bin contents are compacted, a lot of space is taken up by air; bins fill faster and you are paying to transport air. RMs are paid for recycling (by Manitoba Waste Reduction and Recycling Support) by weight, not volume. The cost of transport diminishes/eliminates income from recyclables.
- Bins are unsupervised and thus prone to vandalism and misuse with people disposing of garbage

