



Ward Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 7:03 p.m.

North McIntyre Rec Centre

2051 Government Road

1. McIntyre Ward Meeting 03-2023

Chair: Councillor Albert Aiello

2. Resource Persons

Constable Tom Armstrong, Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS)
Lori Wiitala, Council & Committee Clerk - Office of the City Clerk

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided introductory comments.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the McIntyre Ward meeting, held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, for information.

5. Dawson Road - Speed and Weight Restriction Enforcement

Constable Tom Armstrong, Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS) provided the following update relative to the above noted.

TBPS enforcement officers have a rotation schedule consisting of 6 officers total with 2-3 working at any time. TBPS employs one full time collision investigator, Cst. Jeff Carlson, who manages the impaired driving and drone programs.

A 2-day engineering project was conducted on Dawson Road regarding speed enforcement and weight restrictions; a drone was used and proved to be

successful. The total number of accidents has increased by up to 10% since 2022 and 27% since Amazon implemented 2-day delivery service. Many hours are spent on Dawson Ave corridor which offers a wide umbrella for traffic concerns and the area receives more attention than other within the city.

East Ave restrictions have been implemented for well over a year; due to limited resources TBPS only conducts enforcement when permitted. East Ave has proven to be difficult to hide, and the drone is working well.

Discussion was held regarding transport traffic, overnight parking and idling in the shopping plaza parking lot on Dawson Road and East Ave. The plaza has 6 owners, and all owners must agree to enforce parking regulations. The City of Thunder Bay Licensing & Enforcement department is currently understaffed and not all staff have the capability to issue tickets. The city hired APEX to provide enforcement, but the plaza parking lot is not city property, and the contracted workers were not able to issue tickets. The problem persists and little can be done; the city is hopeful the weight restriction sign will warrant more tickets, if enough infractions are issued to any one company they will enforce internally as the entire team rating will drop.

Discussion was held relative to red-light cameras which were considered 1.5 years ago. The cost to install 10 cameras was applicable and only 4 cameras were desired; the cameras are paid for annually, regardless of whether tickets are issued. Considering the camera locations won't change it was determined that citizens will quickly learn where the cameras are located and avoid the areas. A corporate report will be provided to council in February to reexamine.

The citizens expressed concern that Dawson Road and Government Road at Five Mile School are not plowed although it is a school zone; and that the speed zone for the school is not reduced.

A constituent asked why John Street Road to the landfill was paved and not the landfill to Oliver Road and the following response was provided from Engineering department:

Engineering follows a Pavement Management System for the prioritization of road resurfacing work. The factors considered include pavement condition, traffic volumes, rehabilitation strategy and the condition of other underground infrastructure. Engineering models this data to develop the capital pavement renewal program.

Mapleward Road from John St Road to Oliver Road was identified in 2023 as a priority candidate, however due to limitations in the funding availability and other competing priorities throughout the City we were only able to complete half of the section in 2023. Another factor that impacted the limits of this work, was the work being planned by Enbridge Gas. Enbridge advised the City of plans to install a new gas main in 2023 from Oliver Rd northerly to the southern entrance to the landfill.

The remaining section of Mapleward Road from the landfill southerly to Oliver Road is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2024.

6. Rural Zoning

Discussion was held relative to the proposed changes to the zoning by-law. The constituents expressed concern over the proposal for an event centre including the noise level and extra vehicle and pedestrian traffic. When the event centre was proposed 20 events were considered between the months of May and September, which would be approximately 20 events total including weddings, crossfit, and school groups. Additional concern was expressed that the dates would include the entire spring and summer seasons.

It was noted that the Official Plan does not permit an event center, and if the zoning changes are permitted there is concern regarding sale of the property and that the new owners plans for the property.

Concern was also expressed that a public meeting was not held regarding the proposed zoning change to allow citizens to voice their concerns; It was advised that notice regarding the Public Meeting was posted as required, and citizen submissions were received and forwarded to the planning department as per procedure. At the Public Meeting there were numerous speakers and approximately 40 objectors.

A sound study was arranged on Government Road and Community Hall Road at 9:00 p.m. and provided no noise complaints.

The applicant advised that within 35 years owning the property events have been hosted including 2 weddings with 300 guests and no complaints were received.

7. Ward & City Issues

Some constituents expressed upset that Government Road was not included in the minutes of the June 20, 2023 McIntyre Ward meeting regarding road

maintenance. The following information was provided from Administration.

Engineering Division and Roads Maintenance discussed the following issues brought forward at the June 20, 2023 McIntyre Ward meeting.

Concerns were raised about the quality of gravel road grading done roads by City staff. In response to this we had all of our grader operators attend a “gravel road grading” specific course in October 2023 put on by an external training company. We hope to see an improvement this season now that this training has been completed and operators have more experience.

In response to Alice Ave, we are planning to surface treat Alice Ave from Melbourne Rd to Wilen Rd in 2024 and finish the remaining section in 2025. Next steps are to look at re-chip sealing some of the earlier sections of road as they are reaching optimal time to re-apply a single lift; the plan will span 2-3 years, with no current plans beyond that. It is important to note that any work on Community Hall or Government Road are multi year projects; the first few years would involve drainage and underlying soil conditions work, followed by a multi-year program to apply the surface treatment. These streets are outside of the current forecast because of the significant investment involved to properly rehabilitate and surface treat them.

Since this program started we average approximately 1.5 km of surface treatment on gravel roads each year. Considering we had 92 km starting this program it would take well over 50+ years to surface treat them all, as the 1.5 km/yr does not account for any road base repairs and drainage works that are required prior to surface treatment. We’ve prioritized through streets where the road base is fairly good and there is good drainage.

The Chair advised that Government Road will not be paved.

The constituents are requesting that Administration attend the next ward meeting to respond to questions relative to road maintenance and upkeep, rural and urban designation, and rural zoning.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.