

Item 5B Regular Council Nov 17th 2022:

Wastewater Sandy Beach 2018-2022

Report and call for action

Deputy Mayor Michael Harney

First off, I would like to thank everyone (residents and Council alike as well as the County and their Engineers including the Darwell Lagoon Commission) for their input over the last few years and especially the last few weeks and months on this very important infrastructure component.

We know that our smaller municipalities are facing very important capital issues that arose from pre-pandemic calls from neighbours and specifically the province to address matters that speak to a paradigm shift from current wastewater operations to a future operational model that centres around green infrastructure that address climate change, ensure reduced emissions and streamline and implement effective and low impact cost effective and environmentally friendly wastewater disposal. The general consensus is that Phase A of the Darwell Transmission Line address these components and as such Sandy Beach has become involved as an active partner in the project discussions starting around Winter 2019.

With our own lagoon requiring extensive capital input (as much as \$4,000,000) to be put back in operation/decommission, our engineers have come up (Nov 2021) with 4 potential options that will require substantial financial grants (both applications in 2021 and 2022 not approved) from the province, which at this point seems not available if we as a legitimate partner do not seriously consider joining the Transmission Line Phase A project.

At this point we run the risk of continuing with a very outdated and high environmental impact model for wastewater disposal that does not carry the support of the province, puts our own access to wastewater capital funding at risk and also greatly increase the potential for individual households incurring large or much higher pump out costs than that which is already in effect (Nov 2022) and has the potential for even higher increases over the next years. Our stringent

reliance on The Town of Onoway to receive our effluent at lower costs and in a competitive market could become extremely risky. Connection to a transmission line establishes the town of Onoway as a committed partner to receiving wastewater from our 2 villages and the included county residences, until the time that the whole system would be diverted to the Greater Edmonton Regional system.

Sandy Beach does however very carefully consider and acknowledge the feedback from our residents especially via the website survey (Summer/Fall 2022) and the November 8th 2022 joint lagoon meeting where the overwhelming opinion was against joining the project due to both the short and long term costs. We politely thank the public for that and appreciate your feedback very much.

It is recognized that just over 1/3 of our properties are full time residences. There are approximately 77 rolls that are basically undeveloped and approximately 115 which would then have a cottage or part time residence. From the survey (85 respondents), it would appear that the majority of households are 1-3 persons and above the age of 45. This might indicate that our village growth is more towards the semi-retirement or retirement resident. (This would indicate a pumpout average of 9-12 yearly. Of course, this is less for any part time resident.) On September 15th at our Regular Council meeting there was legitimate questions about **what the future of Sandy Beach is** and this seems prudent in the light of this Transmission Line Phase A project which is a legitimate capital investment for our municipality.

At the meeting with county Now 14, I did suggest that we might re-evaluate the original Phase A proposal with a truck dump receiving station near the new water station. The County did say that this would require a new cost study, but that would be funded at the 90% rate and would cost our village just over \$1000.00.

Briefly, based on the figures from 2020 , to just put fluid into the line would be an additional 1.2 cents per gallon (\$12.00 for 1000 gal. \$24.00 for 2000 gal.) and there is no guarantee that truck fees would be reduced. Also there is an additional capital cost recovery charge that would be \$173.12 per year per roll for at least 75 years.

This may be the alternative solution, as we recognize the \$100.00 per month per roll, and the potential high costs of hook-up average \$7500.00 and tank

replacement (depending upon inspection) which will be required under a collection system within the village. The long-term benefits of a truck dump station may still outweigh the risk of anticipating the future cost of longer distance trucking effluent. It is also more in line with the green wastewater disposal initiatives and requirements of the province, and would allow for future tie-in of a collection system.

Risks:

- Will we receive funding to address our own lagoon needs if we do not join?
- Will hauling and pump out rates drastically increase if we do not join?
- Could the province apply more environmental pressure on us to address our own lagoon needs without funding if we do not join and deem us to be environmentally not in compliance??
- Will we have long term access to Onoway Lagoon

These are legitimate risk factors that bare far greater costs in the long run to roll owners than joining Phase A of the Transmission Line project.

I politely request that this item and our next steps be discussed at the November 17th meeting under Item 5B and **propose the following options to be moved:**

- A. A motion from Council to join the project in the interest of capital development, community growth and implementing the evolution of green infrastructure in wastewater disposal (either truck dump or collection)
- B. A motion to address Sunrise Beach under their delegations at their next Regular Council meeting about their support for the project;
- C. A motion to take part in the County/Commission open house planned for May 2023 under the strong guise of joining the project early in 2023;
- D. A motion to inform the County and Commission in writing of formally dropping out of the project due to cost concerns to residents as conveyed at the November 14th meeting;

I politely thank Council and the residents for their time and are more than willing to take more questions on the matter.

Deputy Mayor Michael Harney

Nov 17th 2022
