

RM of Springfield Committee of the Whole Meeting

December 10, 2019 1:00 p.m.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

NOTE: There were only two items on this meeting's Agenda under new Business and the delegation. Without the delegation, the meeting would have last approximately 15 minutes. Committee of the Whole meetings are where issues that require decisions by Council are discussed and the public has an opportunity to speak to them. Is this a case of very little decision making being required or that the majority of decisions are being made in CLOSED SESSION. A fine example would be the Parrish and Heimbecker bulk fertilizer storage facility on Pioneer Road where construction had started before it ever became a matter of discussion in a Council meeting. There is currently a STOP WORK ORDER on that property.

Hillside WDG Groundwater Investigation - Year 2 Program - Santokh Randawa Singh - We had the Year 2 Program from KGS back in July. **NOTE: Actually it was the June 11, 2019 COW Meeting.** When that program was presented, there were some concerns from residents about the garbage site and that the flow might be on the north east side as well. Based on those concerns, I was directed to get a revised program from the KGS. So I have received a revised program. Under that program, they will install, in the original program there were 6 monitoring wells they were installing, they have proposed 3 multi level ones that can be installed in the direction of the plume as advised in the Year 1 report. Then there is a proposal to install one new sentinel well on the one road east of the waste disposal ground to see if there is a flow direction going that way. There is one sentinel well going down on Heatherdale Road south of that site they will determine. And then they will do a desk top historical site review to investigate if there's another waste site over there. **NOTE: This was discussed a long time ago and Don Rocan volunteered to show Santokh Randhawa Singh exactly where to look. What happened to that idea? Is he saying a desktop historical site review would be superior to the experience of a long time resident?** And if that site is identified, then they will take further investigation of that. And so that's the year two program and they will submit the findings of the wells that will be going in. They will try to test if the plume is exactly there based on what they told us in the last Year 1 Report. There will be actual samplings to identify the leachate markers that they will test for. And with all the regional programs, extra cost will be \$30,100. if we want to add those "add-ons". If not, then there is a savings in the Program. The previous Year 2 Program cost was \$67,000. and now they are proposing \$48,100. but if we add the things that we are going to do, it will be \$30,000. extra. **NOTE: In the many years, in excess of 11, that we have been throwing money into the remediation of the old Hillside Landfill and tracking the contamination and threat it poses to our aquifer, I am asking what is the total funds expended on this project to date and what exactly is the progress that has been made? I feel Council and the Manager of Finance should be providing that information to taxpayers and then coming up with a plan that yields more positive results than just tracking a plume of contamination and determining what it contains.** **Councillor Williams** - I have a question about the difference between Plan A and Plan B. **Santokh Randawa Singh** - Plan A was that if Glacial did not allow us to build on their site, then they were saying Plan B is less because you are not actually testing the plume so....I would say we will go with this Program with Plan A and if that does not work, then I would like to come back to Council. **Councillor Wilson** - Plan A presents the real proof approach so we actually know for sure what is going on. **NOTE: There was no report attached to the agenda but from the conversation at the Council table, it appeared Council had received a written report. Back in June according to my notes the extra work was going to cost \$4,700. and \$26,000. During the presentation, Mr. Singh stated he would be preparing a written report for the next Council Meeting. Committee of the Whole meetings are supposed to be where the public can discuss the items being considered but it is a little difficult when no information is presented prior to the meeting and no microphone is used, making it difficult for the audience to hear what the speaker is saying.** **Darryl Speer** - I talked with Scott Aitken of Glacial and he said we had the clearance to do the inspections and drilling on their property. Could you respond to that, Santokh? **Santokh Randawa Singh** - I did not understand. We haven't asked them for the drilling and if KGS asked them, I am not aware of that. KGS did not say they had received the permission. **Darryl Speer** - We had this discussion before, it should have been cleared up before now. **NOTE: I have two comments here. One is that I don't particularly see the need for Councillor Ralke to act as a translator between Mr. Singh and Mr. Speer. I am quite confident they both understand what each other is saying without any assistance. Further this discussion occurred at the June 11, 2019 meeting and this is an excerpt of my notes in this regard from that meeting. Darryl Speer - What I want to know is, we've had this identification of the possible leachate creep into Glacial, has there been no conversation with Glacial about having access to their property to confirm the creep of this leachate? (Neither the Mayor or Santokh had an answer.) It was identified, KGS identified the**

prospective creep of the leachate on to Glacial's property. That's already been established by the report of February. Has there been any discussion with Glacial about access to their property to confirm this? Santokh Randhawa Singh - The report was shared with them but there has been no discussion with them so I was waiting for the progress report they were asking for and now they have submitted that, I will start asking them. Mayor Fell - As a comment, though, I have chatted with the gentleman at Glacial and they have no problem working with us in regards to this. I actually had met with him yesterday and he brought it up so yes they are more than willing to work with us on this issue. Surely by now our Chief Engineer would be aware of Glacial's willingness to allow access to their property. This causes me to wonder if Mr. Singh would prefer the cheaper Plan B option that does not include the wells on Glacial property and is not being completely forthright with Council. He also seems unclear even now about the additional waste site which was discussed at that meeting as per my notes. Santokh Randhawa Singh - I would need some guidance from the people who know where that site can be before I can even start with this because I don't have any idea where that site was. And so what should I tell the consultant that they are to look for so I will need that information in order to go on with that. Mayor Fell suggested that Don Rocan who was in the audience would provide that information as to where that area was and Mr. Rocan was agreeable. Santokh Randhawa Singh - So then in that case that will be only the first part of this, the site review, and they are asking for \$4700. for that. So once that review is established and it indicates there is a site, then we may, at that time I can bring it back to the Council. In short, there does not seem to have been any progress since the June report and discussion.

Annual Groundwater Monitoring Program Extension - Santokh Randawa Singh - It is a requirement of the Hillside Landfill Disposal site plan. Every year we submit a test report to the Province. A tender was recently awarded in 2016, before that it was Stantec, and at that time four companies bid and WSP was the lowest and was awarded the contract. We extended it in 2017 for 2018 and 2019 and it dropped a little in price. I asked them about an extension and they are asking for a \$2,000. increase based on lab companies and I don't see the value in putting tenders out again. I would like to extend it for another 3 year term. **Mayor Fell** polled Council and it seem to be in agreement with them.

Springfield Public Library Budget (Cherie Denorer) and Carlyn Lintot - Gave an overview of the year and submitted their proposed budget. They are asking for the same amount as last year, \$143,500.00. They also had a request for Special Capital Expenditures: They would like to see the new flooring installation continued and completed in 2021. **Councillor Wilson** - Wanted Council to have a year over year comparison of actual versus budgeted. Seemed that might be difficult to come up with without a significant amount of time and money and research. **Carlyn Lintot** - Asked that the policy regarding length of tenure on the Board be revised so that even though 2 years is the limit, the terms could be renewed up to 3 terms to ensure continuity of good service. **Vince Bennici** - Asked if any effort made to do an accounting of missing funds in 2014 and 2015 identified some year ago. **Mayor Fell** - I cannot comment on that. **NOTE: Taxpayers have a right to a complete reporting of both the fact that funds were misappropriated, that not all the missing funds were returned, and the new Board should be making every effort to retrieve the missing revenue. The library is funded mainly by municipal and provincial taxes.**

Council then passed a resolution to go into Closed Meeting to discuss "Legal and Personnel" matters. The majority of Department Heads were present in the audience during the meeting and remained for the Closed Session.

ADJOURN

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT - As you know, recently residents had the option to challenge their property assessments which led to a resident looking into the assessments of the property of people sitting on Council. This is all a matter of public record. They happened upon some interesting information in the Provincial records of Property Assessments insofar as a certain property which turned out to belong to **Mayor Fell** and her husband, **Mr. Mohamed**, as identified by that particular Roll No. which can be found in the book on the table in the foyer of the Administration Building. Mayor Fell built a new home in 2013 and appeared in the record in 2014 at an assessed value of \$1,044,700. It remained the same in 2015, rose to \$1,150,600. in 2016 and then dropped to \$875,800. in 2017, increased to \$895,500. in 2018, remained the same in 2019, and has increased to \$918,200. for 2020. Just a question, what would cause a brand new home to drop \$274,800. in one year?