

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
December 16, 2020

PROJECT FILES:

Rural Internet:

- Project is advancing despite some delays. Many of these are related to NSPI, specifically the water crossing in Grosses Coques and the highway crossing in New Edinburgh. Both have now been completed
- VistaCare is filling in behind them and is finishing the splicing and testing of the fibres.
- Mainland is hopeful that they will be serving customers in January
- Phase 1 (Route 1 from Comeauville to St. Bernard) – Strand and fibre construction is complete. Some splicing / testing is ongoing. To be completed before doing some basic network testing & subsequently turning up customers
- Phase 2 (New Edinburgh / Bas-de-la Rivière) – Strand and fibre is complete. Splicing and testing is mostly complete.
- Phase 3 – (Ohio to Hassett) – Complete
- Phase 4 (Side roads along Phase 1) – Strand and fibre construction is complete. Splicing and testing mostly complete.
- Phase 5 (Concession, Patrice Rd, Little Brook Station) - Make ready and trimming complete (minus the Little Brook Highway crossing assessment work). Strand and fibre construction are ongoing
- Phase 6 (Concession, St. Joseph, PF Comeau Rd.) - Make ready and trimming complete. Strand construction ongoing.
- Phase 7 (Cultural Hub to Amirault Road / Saulnierville Road, Second Division Road, Eustache Comeau Road) Make ready and trimming ongoing. Strand and fibre to follow.
- Phase 8 (Saulnierville, Saulnierville Rd., C. Saulnier Rd.) - Make ready and trimming ongoing. Strand and fibre to follow.
- Phase 9 (Meteghan River, d'Entremont Rd., Placide Comeau Rd.) - Trimming complete. Make ready work is on going. Strand and fibre to follow
- Phase 10 (Meteghan Connector, Bonnie Rd., Peter Dugas Rd, John Thibodeau Rd.) - Bell has scoped. NSPI began their scope on Dec 16th. Trimming was started ahead of this. Strand and fibre to follow.
- Phase 11 (Saulnierville Rd to the Maxwelton, along Second Division Rd) - Bell has scoped. NSPI began their scope on Dec 16th. Trimming was started ahead of this. Strand and fibre to follow.
- Phase 12 (the remainder of the d'Entremont Rd. out to the Salmon Lake area) - Submitted for Bell and NSPI Review.
- As previously mentioned, Mainland was successful in being awarded ~20km in extensions, which should increase coverage by 120 homes, with DNS contributing up to \$495,000.

- VistaCare will be working through the winter (weather permitting). They do not really stop unless traffic control says so. Traffic control has been a bit of a challenge this fall. Dexter bought McLeod (who Mainland uses) and they were prioritized to finish road work on the south shore ahead of winter. With this road work now complete, Mainland believes they may actually have better resources in terms of traffic control and trimming in the next few months compared to the fall.
- No details so far on the Bell project along the Highway 340.

Tourism Public Spaces Development and Improvement

- Draft conceptual plans for all sites included in this project were reviewed by the CAO, Tourism Manager and Recreation Manager on December 9th and feedback provided to the consultants shortly thereafter.
- Looking for a date in early to mid January to present these same plans to Council.
- The consultants will be returning to Clare in January to present these plans to key stakeholders. Format and dates are TBD.

Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)

- Rhad, and all related sub-trades (i.e., engineers, cost estimator, etc.) are working on finalizing the needed design work, including specifications, to move this project forward.
- Estimated completion for this phase of the project is February 2021.
- All needed roof repairs referenced in the November 2020 CAO Report have been completed.

Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes :

- Took part in a discussion about immigration and access to health services in Nova Scotia on December 10th.
- Met with Emmanuel Nahimana of the RIFNE on December 15th to touch base regarding the ways in which his group can help support our project.
- Hired a cultural animator (animateur culturel), Marc-Alexandre Lagacy, who will report to Natalie Robichaud of la Société acadienne de Clare. He will start January 4, 2021.
- Took part in YREACH's event From Newcomers to Neighbours-Celebrating Rural Nova Scotia, which ran from December 6 to 12 (<https://www.facebook.com/109677350934993/videos/2074956212639833>)
- Taking part in meetings regarding the Almnajer family, a family of Syrian refugees who will be moving to Clare at the end of December
- Begun preliminary work on crafting a French as a second language class specifically for newcomers to Clare

Breakwater – Belliveau Cove

- The job was started on November 19, 2020
- Since then, 3,000 tons of armour stone have been placed on the inside of the breakwater in order to stabilize the structure. At present, a little over half of that side is complete.
- Some armour stone has been temporarily placed on the outside of the breakwater to protect the lighthouse. These stones will be properly placed once the contractor works his way to that portion of the structure.
- Weather permitting, project completion is expected in mid-February.

Housing Action Plan:

- To be discussed under New Business – Item 11.2

Asset Management :

- **No substantial change from November 2020 CAO Report**
- Asset Management Cohort Program is advancing with 5 of 6 sessions completed thus far. Final session to wrap up program is scheduled for December 22, 2020.
- The Municipality’s Asset Management Policy has been approved by Council.
- Application for funding assistance to help offset the cost of drafting the Asset Management Plan (80% up to a maximum of \$50,000) has been submitted.
- This is a highly sought after national program. FCM is processing an average of 30 applications per month.
- Currently processing applications 150 to 200. The Municipality’s position is 491.
- No further action is required at this time. FCM will advise once they begin processing the Municipality’s application.

Fast EV Chargers

- To be discussed under New Business – Item 11.3

Meteghan Sidewalks:

- Project is advancing nicely
- The collecting of existing information on the site including record drawings, mapping, design plans, etc., is complete.
- The topographical survey of the site using GPS, for use to develop a base plan for design, is complete
- The base plan of existing conditions (contours, roads, ditches, utility poles, trees, driveways, drainage infrastructure, landscaping, etc.) has been completed.
- Engineers are currently preparing detailed design plans/profiles for the proposed sidewalks (complete with detail sheets) to standards of Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (In progress- 7%).

- In terms of timeline, Able hopes to have 50% of its design review submitted to the Municipality by mid-January in order to discuss the remainder of the plan and whether or not the Municipality would like to address any other issues within the scope of this project.

Track and Field Project

- **No change from November 2020 CAO Report**
- Application was submitted to NS Department of Municipal Affairs on September 30, 2020 for consideration under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Plan.
- The project is comprised of an 8-lane running track with rubberized surface, at the center of which will be a regulation size soccer field complete with artificial turf.
- Total project cost of \$3,488,705.
- Municipal contribution of \$400,000.
- Discussions to date have been positive. Currently waiting on confirmation of federal contribution.

FINANCIAL:

- As of November 30, 2020, the Municipality has recorded \$8,929,922 in revenues versus \$6,869,430 in expenses, for a surplus of \$2,060,492.
- As of November 30, 2020, the Municipality has a balance of \$2,256,613 in its operating fund, \$176,160 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$6,285,686. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:
 - Operating reserve - \$2,164,663
 - Capital reserve - \$2,798,988
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$332,049
 - Gas tax reserve - \$989,986