



Mayor's Update April 15, 2019

Hi... Still hoping for spring weather!

As we move forward and continue to work to meet our community expectations, councillors at the council table have become more at ease.

The feedback from the community we have received to date has been appreciated and very beneficial. Response will be given to any direct questions you have on this update. We realize we will not always have everyone in agreement with the direction and/or decisions we have been making. You can be assured there has been good discussion and positive support at the Council table. There is still a great deal of knowledge to be learned as we move forward.

The recent changes (as of March 1, 2019), regarding the accountability of municipal council members state that we, as a group, all need to be aware of these new requirements and act accordingly. We have a responsibility to respect our constituents, keep them informed and provide feedback. Councillors need to know their role and need to treat our employees with respect. Administration must be permitted to carry out their work responsibilities as directed, and we must ensure we walk that fine line appropriately.

Over the next little while, we are excited to see what we can accomplish, as we have some new Administration Team Members in place. Priorities must be set, and staff must be given the appropriate time necessary to carry out tasks. Our goal of having people in all the key positions is getting closer. Staff are committed to the streamlining of processes to ensure most items will be dealt with in a timely manner, rather than falling into a void.

The past inadequate staffing levels created a situation where we may not have responded as quickly as we had hoped to the needs or requests from everyone. We are pleased with the level of commitment put forth. We do apologize, especially for this first round of tax bills using our new VADIM accounting system. In the future, we hope to get things processed and delivered sooner. There will be fewer issues with account numbers, etc. People are reminded that tax assessments are set by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). If you have any concerns, please go online or contact the MPAC North Bay Office.

Council priorities:

We will continue to update as we move forward on the following:

- Preparation and management of grant programs for the Municipality
- Our move to the VADIM System and the decommissioning of the old USTI System
- The development of an Asset Management Plan that reflects current, future, funding plans
- The finalization of a list of policies to be reviewed and the continuence of dealing with with new requirements set out in Bill 68, as well as other Provincial legislation
- The finalization and sending out of RFPs staff were directed to issue, i.e. for Startegic plan, legal, engineering and planning services. IT Services, Auditor, Insurance and Group Benefits will be retendered before year end
- The finalization of a Strategic Plan process and action plan
- The finalization of the 2019 Budget and presentation to Council for approval in May. It may take a little longer than anticipated. We want all councillors to be provided the necessary details and time for a proper review. It is essential to allow time for Public Feedback.
- The establishment of a final plan and application for appropriate funding for the North Lagoon
- Council to meet with Planner to develop a plan allowing second units in approved areas
- A plan or the completion of the Official Plan Review based on a new Provincial Policy Statement from the government and start the process of public consultation this summer
- The finalization of land use permit (LUP) issues with the MNRF regarding Lake Temagami Access point and continue to finalize work in this area
- Meetings with the TFN and TAA respectively, to deal with cost sharing of services and begin working together on projects that are mutually beneficial to all parties
- Downtown revitalization projects to be completed by the end of 2019
- Planning and follow up with required Ambulance Station repairs

To date, we are making some headway on these objectives.

Current efforts are being focused on the following: getting our new financial system up and running, getting our tax bills out, getting the year end and new budget completed. Again, we hope to have the new budget in place by the end of May. Staff are working with auditors to finalize year end. We will be holding community consultation during the finalization part of this process so please stay tuned....

The Province recently announced the Rural and Northern Communities Funding Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The intake opened on March 18, 2019 and is open until May 14, 2019. Applications are being accepted in support of transportation priorities of small, rural and northern communities. For the current intake, the stated objective is to support improved and/or more reliable road, bridge, air infrastructure, or marine infrastructure assets. Project limits are \$5 million and there is the potential of submitting a joint application with another qualifying applicant which could see that total increase to \$10 million. Due to our population, our share of any approved project would be 6.67% of total approved project costs.

At the Council meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2019, Council supported that the Temagami Access Road be selected. As you are aware, the Access Road has been an issue for years and it

could be enhanced by better ditching, and new surface work. There are also areas of this road where sightline deficiencies can be improved (depending on steps required to move road), as well as areas where general safety could also be improved. This project would also have the added benefit of being a possible joint project with the Temagami First Nation, which, if approved by both parties, could be submitted as a joint application with the limit at \$10 million.

We have contacted TFN to gauge their interest in becoming involved with this project.

There has been some feedback about selecting this project over other possibilities. Due to the grant requirements we cannot split the grant and spend a portion on all our roads: it has to be only one project. Council chose this project because we felt the timing was right. Our federal and provincial representatives have told many of us on Council; if we ever want this road to be fixed we need to have the Council, TFN and TAA working together to make it a priority. Then they will get on board with us to make it happen. There have always been reasons why we should continue to ignore this road and Council are now taking the next step to try and make something positive happen. Our Municipality accepted the responsibility for this road years ago. Since then, we have not received much financial assistance for it. Because it serves a fair number of our constituents, it is time to make something positive happen. Council will be committing the time and effort to try and get this approved.

Work continues on developing a local plan as to how we can better position Temagami to take advantage of new funding and planning opportunities for improving broadband services for our area!

The local individuals that we have been working with have some ideas as well as concerns. In the next while, Council will have to decide on what our next steps will be. This issue is an important component to the future of our Community, and we need to “do it right”. Working with the Temagami First Nation is an important factor, as they too have identified this as an important project to work on. Council sees that a great deal could be achieved if we work together. We also may need to hire some professional assistance to help us get ready to submit future funding applications. This would be a good topic to call a Town Hall Meeting for and get some very valuable input and direction from our Community, stay tuned...

Requests have been received asking if we are going to offer the Fire Pump Subsidy this year. This program is seen as something we should continue to offer. At the last Council meeting we approved that the program will be offered this year to all areas in our community without fire service; not just Lake Temagami, and there will be some additional flexibility to allow for the purchase of forestry hose with quick connect links and to buy different models of Honda pumps providing it is equivalent or better to the one noted in the program as it relates to pumping volume or horsepower. The standardization of equipment being used is still considered a good principle, but a little more flexibility was needed. Details on how and when to submit applications will be available soon.

Still waiting to meet with the MNRF and get the leasing arrangement for the Temagami Access

Point worked out. Council has directed Administration to set up a meeting with the MNRF asap, and as Mayor I will be making a few calls and sending a few emails to show our frustration and desire to get this resolved!

A cleanup this spring is being planned in the parking areas throughout the Municipality, so again stay tuned... If you have vehicles or items that could be removed or stored elsewhere, please get them removed. We cannot be expected to provide storage for everything, and people need to be responsible.

Thanks to Public Works staff for the efforts put forth during this very challenging winter. Hopefully we will get spring soon and look forward to a nice summer.

We will be making contact with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and some of the individuals involved in their Fire Smart Program to meet Council and others interested in this program. We do want people to take into account what this program promotes. It is expected our climate is changing and fires will continue to be an issue. We may be faced with another emergency situation again, and it's better to be a little proactive.

For those interested, Council did send a letter to the MNRF regarding the changes they are proposing to the Fishing Regulations for our Area. Attached is a copy of the letter. We did feel our position was a balanced approach and we did encourage everyone to let their views be known. We are awaiting the outcome of this consultation process.

Again, it is hoped that this information is helpful. Please feel free to provide feedback as we are just beginning our term, and in the months ahead, we will continue to assess how we have done things. There are a lot of things we want to do but it all takes time and effort. So far, it is hoped that everyone is pleased with the way our Council is operating.

Thanks Dan O

PS.. The parking bylaw amendment motion in December was not intended to include any change of transport parking status at the station. This was not included in the staff motion recommendations nor was it discussed or read in council. An older version of the bylaw was used as a template for the recommended changes.

The wording on the template differed from the actual and presently accepted bylaw. Council will officially correct this at their next meeting.