

RM of NORTH QU'APPELLE NO.187
RM of North Qu'Appelle Office
136 Company Avenue South
Finance Committee Monday, July 30, 2018
Agenda 2:30 pm

1. Call to Order

2. July 6, 2018 Minutes

3. *Chronological History of Pasqua Lake Internet site*

4. ~~3~~ Unfinished Business

a. Pasqua Lake Internet Sub-Committee

5. ~~4~~ Adjournment

Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
Finance Committee Meeting held in the R.M. Council Chambers
136 Company Avenue, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan
Monday, July 30 2018

Present:

Deputy Chair:	Division 1	Ron Palmer
Committee Members:	Division 3	George MacPherson <i>via telephone</i>
	Division 7	James Toth

Others:	Reeve	Lee Carlson
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Invited Councillor(s):	Division 6	Garnet Spanier
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Staff:	Acting Administrator Nicole Keith	
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Others in Attendance:	Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board Chair	Larry Bedel
	Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board Member	Dan Dukart
	Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board Member	Carla Taylor
	Pasqua Lake Internet Committee	Paul McLellan
	Pasqua Lake Internet Committee	Rick Minett
	Pasqua Lake Internet Committee	Tim Harding
	Pasqua Lake Internet Committee	Bert Barkwell
	Pasqua Lake Resident	Kate Spencer
	Pasqua Lake Resident	Frank Darke

Reeve L. Carlson called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

Reeve L. Carlson gave a prelude on the meeting then handed the meeting over to Committee Deputy Chair R. Palmer.

A quorum being present Committee Deputy Chair R. Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm.

Committee Deputy Chair R. Palmer announced an addition to the agenda and appointed speakers that would represent all parties involved: Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake, Pasqua Lake Internet Sub-Committee and subdivisions Groome's Vista and Lakes End.

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

3. Chronological History of Pasqua Lake Internet Installation

- a. History of the Internet Project Proposal, attached and forming part of these minutes

DELEGATE APPOINTMENTS BY DEPUTY CHAIR R. PALMER:

- 1. Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board Chair - L. Bedel**
- 2. Pasqua Lake Internet Sub-Committee Member - P. McLellan**
- 3. Groome's Vista and Lakes End subdivisions – Division 6 Councillor G. Spanier**

18F-027 FINANCE MEETING MINUTES / R. PALMER

"THAT the Finance Committee recommend that the minutes of the July 6, 2018 Finance Committee meeting be adopted as presented."

AGREED

Discussion of the Pasqua Lake Internet Project commenced with the with the history of the project. Input of the history was presented from all participants, attached and forming part of these minutes.

Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
Finance Committee Meeting held in the R.M. Council Chambers
136 Company Avenue, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan
Monday, July 30 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PASQUA LAKE INTERNET INSTALLATION:

1. Consensus to proceed with the Pasqua Lake Internet installation from:
 - a. RM 187 Finance Committee
 - b. Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board
 - c. Pasqua Lake Internet Sub-Committee
2. Funding for the internet project
 - a. RM 187 office will review all funding options and report back to the Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board by August 21, 2018.
3. Ensure that all legal obligations are met.

18F-028 ADJOURNMENT / G. SPANIER

"THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:25 pm."

AGREED

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Finance Chair

Acting Administrator

DRAFT

Pasqua Lake Internet History

1. December 2015 SaskTel proposes DSL hardwired Internet, to Paul? To RM?
2. Meetings in 2016
3. August 30, 2016 Information sent by office, RM office?
4. March 2017, Marcy the former Administrator sent out an "e mail" survey to all property owners. The results came back a significant "no". the Hamlet Board should has the results
5. April 1st 2017, public meeting 10:30am, Lutherland Paul to canvas hamlet
6. May 2017 AGM at Lutherland, internet vote: NO
7. Sept 21, 2017, Canvass done Paul gave results to board: 138 interested 4 not
8. May 2018, AGM at Lutherland, internet committee suggested, phone office if interested, motion to come up with plan for Internet.
9. May 14, 2018, The Hamlet board made a motion to form an Internet Committee.
10. June 2018, Internet Committee's proposal, \$923/impr special tax Hamlet approved
11. June 2018 Internet Committee made a recommendation/proposal to RM Council, have a vote to determine if people were in favour of having internet with special tax of, \$923
12. June 25, Finance Meeting Administrator asked to organize mail-in vote for internet – due date for returning ballots, July 16
13. June, Administrator emails Advisory Services (Judy) on the rules for special tax.
14. July, Judy from Adv Ser. emails Admin. One page: Requirements for Special Tax
 - a. Tax must be collected in the year the work is done
 - b. Public Meeting is required
 - c. Takes time to set up, not possible for 2018
 - d. The mail in vote is not binding,
15. July 6, Finance Meeting, what do we do? Now that we know special tax rules. Let's wait for the results of the vote, July 16.
16. July 16, results of internet vote, 122 in favour, 118 opposed. Discussion as to whether or not the results should made public, -- until next Council meeting: July 24
17. July 24 Council Meeting, What Do we do with the Internet? Do what the rules say we must do to have special tax, hold a public meeting, let everyone have a say, and when all this is taken into consideration, all councilors attending the meeting have a vote as to whether or not the RM proceeds with the special tax. Also learned that SaskTel would accept a \$50,000 down payment in Oct. with the remainder to be paid Feb. 2019, 297K.
18. July 25-27, pushback from the Hamlet Board and the NO camp: What's with the public meeting? Why weren't we informed? Why wasn't the vote binding? What's going on?
19. July 27, the Reeve calls for a Finance Meeting with the Hamlet Board and Internet Committee to:
 - a. Determine what to do, a direction, a proposal that would be acceptable to all.
 - b. To communicate this proposal to the ratepayers
20. July 30, What other facts do we know:
 - a. Pasqua Hamlet is carrying a surplus of \$ 141,470.11 (2017)
 - b. Municipal Mill Rate of hamlet is 2.25, Lakes End and Groomes Vista, 5
 - c. Pasqua taxable assessment 106,591,140.00, 1 mill generates \$106,591
 - d. Pasqua **Revenue** 2018 with 2.5 mills is 283 K, - **Expenses** 158 (without pavement) = 125K
 - e. Paving Contract (2018) Budget 170,000, Tendered for 121,000,

Decision Time – We need Consensus

- A. First Question: Are we in favour of trying to find a way to provide the hamlet of Pasqua Lake, Groomes Vista, and Lakes End with SaskTel internet? YES or NO? Even though the results from the mail in vote are not legally binding, I think that we have a moral obligation to yield to the wishes of the majority, no matter how slim. If the answer is NO, then there is nothing else to do, but we do have a lot of explaining to do, to the YES camp.
- B. Second Question: Assuming the answer to the first question was YES, how do we want to pay for the internet?
- a. As originally proposed: \$923 per improvement, or
 - b. Use the hamlet's surplus
- C. Third Question: Assuming the answer to B was b., then the next question would be how much of the internet payment should come from the hamlet's budget?
- a. About half? Special tax \$500 per improvement, remainder comes from the hamlet's budget.
 - b. All comes from hamlet's budget. No special tax would be required. But the RM would have to finance this over one or two years. This would be my choice. We could do this without a special tax and just use the existing surplus. Forgo the paving in 2019, and use the money instead for internet. Might have to do the same in 2020. We could pay for the internet, without a special tax, and without increasing the mill rate. How would the NO camp complain about this? It almost looks like you are getting the Internet for free.
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Chronological Record of Pasqua Lake Internet Project

May, 2015- Brought up at the AGM of the Hamlet. Interest was very high in pursuing.

October, 2015- Administrator was not cooperative or interested in researching as was "too busy". Suggested I do it if I was interested.

Oct. 27/15 –Obtained initial estimates and information from SaskTel. Forwarded on to Hamlet.

Nov. 26/15-Board chair Carla Taylor suggested a presentation/discussion at AGM on May 7/16.

May 7/16- Had a overview and presentation. Overwhelming supported by attendees (30 to 2).

June 30/16-Obtained a quote from SaskTel and forwarded to the Board.

August 8/16- Met with Board to discuss quote etc.

August 30/16- Hamlet sent an email (to those on file) advising of an information meeting to be held in April/17 also with possible cost etc.

Jan/17-Board sent a letter to me about not pursuing because of Federal announcement but this was disproved

April 1/17- Public Information Meeting held. Very well attended (90) with all aspects of the Project discussed. SaskTel representatives attended. All programs and technical issues addressed. "Straw vote" showed extremely strong support.

April 4/18- Hamlet decides to conduct an informal survey prior to AGM.

May 6/17- Project discussed. Results of survey were not available. Approximately 60 people attended. Was mixed reviews of Project.

May 23/17- Hamlet announces that they were not proceeding based on expression of interest results. This was conducted based on interest per lot owned. Not exactly sure of the results either (67/52 or 80/66). No documentation provided by Administrator.

Aug/17- Conducted a campaign to judge the public interest in the Project. Asked for folks to sign up if interested or provide opinion. Ran it for about 3 weeks. Did individual drop off at cottages and a sign. Had a Huge interest with over 123 emails provided (138 lots). There were 4 negative comments.

September 21/17-Met with Board to suggest that a proper vote should be conducted.

September 26/17-Received an email denying request

March/18- I had inquired with Administrator as to how to have a proper vote conducted on this issue, either by plebiscite or at AGM. I never received the information. Please note that Marcy Johnson left the employ of the RM in April/18.

April/18-Was advised of a renewed interest in the project by the Hamlet

April/18-Received an updated quote for the project from SaskTel and forwarded on to the Hamlet

April/18-Subject of the Internet was put on the agenda for the AGM

May 5/18- The Hamlet AGM conducted a vote on the pursuit of the project. It was determined that a proper vote needed to be conducted. Additionally that a Pasqua Lake Internet Committee would be formed to look at the best way to deliver the Project. I was asked if I would serve on the Committee.

May 14/18- A meeting was held with the Hamlet Board. Folks that were interested in sitting on the Committee were asked to attend. The Committee and its mandate was struck at the meeting along with the timelines.

May 25/18-Preliminary discussions by the committee were conducted by email and the first meeting held. Detailed minutes describing recommendations were taken and sent to the Hamlet.

June 21/18-As a result of feedback received from the plan, the Committee formulated a detailed information package and plan to conduct a vote on the Project. This was distributed to the Board and subsequently to the RM Council.

June 23/18-The Hamlet Board approved the recommendations of the Committee

June 26/18- The Council approved the recommendations

June 28/18- The RM distributed the mail out including the ballots.

July 16/18- The ballots were counted (fully monitored) and votes tabulated. 122 for and 118 against.