

**Chief Administrative Officer's Report**  
**By CAO Stéphane Cyr**  
**April 21, 2021**

**PROJECT FILES:**

**Internet:**

- As a general update, Mainland is now doing residential service connections, for internet services only.
- Television services are now being offered. Phone services will be available with 1-2 weeks.
- The 1 Gb service will also be available within 1-2 weeks.
- Roughly 135 customers have been added thus far. These are mostly in the New Edinburgh, St Bernard, Townshipline/340 area. The feedback so far has been very good and I think people are very happy to have a good connection and local service.
- In addition to their employees, Mainland has hired a local contractor to help complete installs.
- Mainland is looking forward to having some community events to increase awareness about its network footprint, service offerings, and the Municipality's participation.

**Phase Updates:**

- Phase 1 (Route 1 from Comeauville to St. Bernard) – Complete (except for two splice locations)
- Phase 2 (New Edinburgh / Bas-de-la Rivière) – Complete. Now doing installations.
- Phase 3 – (Ohio to Hassett) – Complete. Now doing installations.
- Phase 4 (Side roads along Phase 1) – Complete. Now doing installations.
- Phase 5 (Concession, Patrice Rd, Little Brook Station) – Highway crossing make ready work completed April 19<sup>th</sup>. Vista Care running cables and splicing this week and next. Will open up installations in parts of Concession and Second Division Road.
- Phase 6 (Concession, St. Joseph, PF Comeau Rd.) – Waiting for highway crossing to be completed. Have begun booking installations for May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Phase 7 (Cultural Hub to Amirault Road / Saulnierville Road, Second Division Road, Eustache Comeau Road) – Strand complete. Fibre being run.
- Phase 8 (Saulnierville, Saulnierville Rd., C. Saulnier Rd.) – Strand construction and fibre construction ongoing.
- Phase 9 (Meteghan River, d'Entremont Rd., Placide Comeau Rd.) - Strand construction and fibre construction ongoing.
- Phase 10 (Meteghan Connector, Bonnie Rd., Peter Dugas Rd, John Thibodeau Rd.) – Strand construction has begun. Most of the trimming is complete however the Spring weight restrictions have impacted this particular phase.

- Phase 11 (Saulnierville Rd. to the Maxwellton Rd., along Second Division Rd.) - NSPI completed their scope week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. Make ready and trimming to begin where possible during Spring Weight Restrictions. Strand & fibre to follow.
- Phase 12 (the remainder of the d'Entremont Rd. out to the Salmon Lake area) – NSPI Scope completed late February. Make ready and trimming to begin where possible during Spring Weight Restrictions. Strand & fibre to follow.
- Phase 13 (Highway 1 and side roads from Meteghan Connector to Mavillette) - Bell completed scoping late March. Awaiting NSPI to start scoping.
- Phase 14 (Highway 1 and side roads from Mavillette to Beaver River) – Bell completed scoping April 16<sup>th</sup>. Awaiting NSPI to start scoping.
- Phase 15 (Salmon River Rd and Hectanooga Rd. and side streets) – Bell completed scoping April 16<sup>th</sup>. Awaiting NSPI to start scoping.

### **Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)**

- Funding application is being prepared for submission to the newly launched Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program (GICB)
- The GICB program aims to build more community buildings and improve existing ones – in particular in areas with populations experiencing higher needs – while also making the buildings more energy efficient, lower carbon, more resilient, and higher performing.
- This five-year \$1.5 billion program will support green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly-accessible community buildings that serve high-needs, underserved communities across Canada.
- Applicants with small and medium retrofit projects to existing community buildings ranging in total eligible cost from \$100,000 to \$3 million will be accepted on a continuous basis and funded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The total cost for the proposed CVC project is \$1,990,529 - \$2,330,280, depending on contingencies. Municipal contribution has been at \$537,443.

### **Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes:**

- The 40' x 80' artificial community rink has been ordered. The proposed location is the Clare Veterans Centre. A tender will be issued shortly for the concrete slab.
- CFA Clare is working with the *agents de développement scolaire et communautaire* from our local schools to develop projects to encourage diversity. These activities will get underway before the end of the school year.
- On April 13 and 14, the CFA Clare team, as well as other community stakeholders, met with the architect Harry Jost to discuss the Rendez-vous de la Baie Welcome Centre. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 5, where Mr. Jost will present an initial concept.
- CFA Clare has engaged the services of Georges Liboy and Désiré Nyela, who will develop and deliver a series of workshops for various community stakeholders on the subject of immigration, diversity and discrimination. A voluntary workshop will be scheduled for municipal council and staff during the month of May.

## **Tourism Public Spaces**

- To be discussed under New Business – Item 13.6

## **Housing Action Plan:**

- Final draft was present to Advisory Committee.
- A few very minor revisions are being completed at the Committees request
- Final plan will be received by the Municipality next week.
- The plan will be made public shortly thereafter, following Council approval.
- Change order to include completion of key activities related to plan implementation will proceed using available project funds. Awaiting proposed scope of work from the consultant.

## **Asset Management :**

- **No substantial change from November 2020 CAO Report**
- Asset Management Cohort Program is complete. Awaiting final documentation from AIM.
- 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 375 to 425. 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**

- **No substantial change from January 2021 CAO Report**
- In speaking to the WREN, they were supposed to receive word from Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) mid-March. No word was received. NRCAN later indicated it would be additional two weeks. It has been four weeks now.
- A follow-up email has been sent to NRCAN regarding project timelines.
- If successful, this project application would yield 3 Level-3 EV Chargers (i.e., Fast EV Chargers) in the Municipality at the following locations:
  - Joseph and Marie Dugas Park
  - Clare Veterans Centre
  - Cape. St. Mary Lighthouse Park

### **Meteghan Sidewalks:**

- Preliminary design was review by Council and the Municipality's Public Works Supervisor. No proposed revisions.
- Cost estimate and recommendations to follow shortly.
- Tender and specification package is already prepared pending final adjustments to quantities, as well as budget and design approval.
- Next steps for the Municipality:
  - Submit copies of the plans to NSTIR along with an application for Work Within Highway Right of Way and their required security deposit (amount to be determined by them after they receive the application).
  - Identify project funding sources and/or secure financing.

### **Clare Health Centre:**

- **No substantial change from March 19, 2021 CAO Report**
- Generator is on order. Due to delays brought about by COVID-19, delivery is only expected during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May.
- Ventilation and oil tank installation will proceed following receipt of generator.
- Wiring from the Health Centre to the shed is complete.
- Core drilling in the foundation is complete.
- Transfer switch has been installed in the electrical room.

### **FINANCIAL:**

- As of March 31, 2021, the Municipality has recorded \$9,822,713 in revenues versus \$9,378,931 in expenses, for a surplus of \$443,782.
- As of March 31, 2021, the Municipality has a balance of \$727,894 in its operating fund, \$168,071 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,710,142. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:
  - Operating reserve - \$2,175,447
  - Capital reserve - \$2,706,969
  - Landfill closure reserve - \$333,703
  - Gas tax reserve - \$494,023