

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
May 19, 2021

PROJECT FILES:

Internet:

- All services are now available.
- Mainland is starting to reach out to its initial customers who were installed when only the 300mbps service was available, to offer phone, TV, and upgrades to 1Gbps.
- Roughly 170 customers added so far.

Phase Updates:

- Phase 1 (Route 1 from Comeauville to St. Bernard) – Complete. Now doing installations.
- 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) – Complete. Now doing installations.
- Phase 6 (Concession, St. Joseph, PF Comeau Rd.) – Complete. Now doing installations.
- 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 and fibre mostly complete. Splicing is ongoing.
- Phase 9 (Meteghan River, d'Entremont Rd., Placide Comeau Rd.) - Strand and fibre mostly complete. Splicing is ongoing.
- Phase 10 (Meteghan Connector, Bonnie Rd., Peter Dugas Rd, John Thibodeau Rd.) – Strand complete. Fibre partially complete and ongoing.
- Phase 11 (Saulnierville Rd. to the Maxwellton Rd., along Second Division Rd.) – Strand currently being constructed. Trimming ongoing.
- Phase 12 (the remainder of the d'Entremont Rd. out to the Salmon Lake area) – Trimming has begun. Strand to follow.
- Phase 13 (Highway 1 and side roads from Meteghan Connector to Mavillette) – NSPI has taken over a month to get through this phase. PO has been issued for tree trimming. Should begin in the next couple of weeks.
- Phase 14 (Highway 1 and side roads from Mavillette to Beaver River) – No change. Bell completed scoping April 16th. Awaiting NSPI to start scoping.
- Phase 15 (Salmon River Rd and Hectanooga Rd. and side streets) – No change. Bell completed scoping April 16th. Awaiting NSPI to start scoping.
- Phase 16 (Salmon River / Lake Doucette Rd) - Awaiting Bell and NSPI Scope

- Phase 17 (Clean up areas in light blue, including Thibault Rd) - Bell currently scoping as of May 18th.

Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)

- Funding application to the newly launched Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program (GICB) was submitted on May 4, 2021.
- Applicants with small and medium green and accessible retrofit projects to existing community buildings ranging in total eligible cost from \$100,000 to \$3 million are 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 set at \$537,443.

Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes:

- Participated in the NSIC Meeting on Francophone immigration, which was attended by IRCC Minister, the Honourable Marc Mendicino. The purpose of the meeting was to shed a light on the need for robust French-language immigration services in Canada and the benefits for collaboration between English and French service providers.
- On May 21, CFA de Clare will launch a video regarding immigration and diversity in honour of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
- Also on May 21, CFA de Clare will attend a meeting with IRCC to learn more about the new pathway to permanent residency for essential temporary workers and international graduates. From this, staff hopes to assist locals with the application process in the very near future.
- For this year's Pride Week (June 7 to 12) CFA de Clare will be partnering with Fierté Clare Pride organizers to highlight the realities of marginalized groups in the LGBTQ2+ community around the world and to discuss Canada's resettlement program for LGBTQ2+ refugees.
- CFA de Clare will be hosting Clare's first ever multicultural festival, Les journées multiculturelles de Clare, from June 25 to June 27. All activities abide by current COVID-19 restrictions. The purpose of the event is to offer cultural activities to celebrate diversity in our region.

Breakwater – Belliveau Cove

- An invitational tender has been issued for needed repairs to the lighthouse. This will be discussed further under New Business - Item 12.6
- Insurance payout in the amount of \$10,283 has been agreed to complete this work and replace four benches lost during last winter's storm.
- The claim will be closed once payment is received.

Tourism Public Spaces

- Discussions with ACOA remain positive. EDI (ACOA) funding application in the amount of \$165,000 is being drafted.
- Once the Beautification Program from the NS Department of Municipal Affairs opens later this Spring, an application will be submitted for \$25,000, the maximum amount allowed under this program.
- Municipality has already confirmed its contribution of \$50,000.
- Total project costs, when factoring in federal and provincial funding, is potentially \$240,000.
- Currently planning an in-person meeting in late May with NS Department of Lands & Forests (Maurice Comeau, District Manager and Clinton Pinks, Parks Planner) for site visits and to request in-kind planning/surveying support for detailed design at both Smugglers Cove and Mavillette Beach.
- Develop Nova Scotia (Brian Webb, Regional Lead, Project Planning & Delivery) is also planning a site visit and could help us identify potential provincial funding sources.

Housing Action Plan:

- With the housing action plan complete, the Municipality is now focused on implementation. The following three recommendations have been flagged for implementation:
 - Villa Acadienne – Assessment of development potential including sight specific concept plans, costing estimates, pro-forma statements, etc. which may facilitate any future efforts by the Board to divest itself of this property.
 - REOI/RFP to Secure Land within the Municipality for Affordable Housing Development
 - REOI/RFP to Secure Developer for School Sites
- The CAO has already reached out to the President of the Villa's Board of Directors, Marcel Cottreau, who in turn will discuss this recommendation at the Villa's upcoming May 25th Board meeting.
- SHS Consultants will re-engage with the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations during the week on June 1, 2021.

Asset Management:

- Application to the Asset Management Cohort Program has successfully passed the eligibility review stage.
- It has now been sent for independent peer review which will determine the project's technical merits.
- Once projects pass peer review, they are recommended for funding. In the Municipality's case, a funding decision is expected within the next eight weeks.

Fast EV Chargers

- Advised by the WREN on May 11, 2021 that their application (of which we are a part) to NRCan was not successful.
- Apparently, the application scored well but given strong interest in the program and the number of applications received, it was not selected for funding as part of this intake.
- NRCan has provided the WREN with some feedback on where they could improve their application. It is the intention of the WREN to reapply.
- There are now two streams to apply to, one of which has recently opened, with the other stream opening in two months.
- As a reminder, this project application, if successful, 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:

- To be discussed in Closed Session under Contract Negotiations

Clare Health Centre:

- Generator and fuel tank have arrived.
- Arrangements for installations are being made. Completion is expected within the next 2 weeks.

FINANCIAL:

- As of April 30, 2021, the Municipality has recorded \$7,809,756 in revenues versus \$713,053 in expenses, for a surplus of \$7,096,703.
- As of April 30, 2021, the Municipality has a balance of \$275,814 in its operating fund, \$149,318 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,717,182. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:
 - Operating reserve - \$2,178,129
 - Capital reserve - \$2,710,306
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$334,115
 - Gas tax reserve - \$494,632