

O.M.B. asks more evidence for Rockwood sewer, water case

Three main issues were the theme of the Ontario Municipal Board summary which was submitted recently to the Eramosa Township Council regarding the proposed sewer and water installations in the Village of Rockwood.

In their decision to continue the hearing until more evidence has been established the Board showed concern over: (a) The tremendous costs of the project as it affects each individual home owner and residents' ability to meet such costs; (b) The additional expense required to bypass the Conservation Authority lands with the sewer effluent and whether the Village should be assessed with such costs; and (3) The ability or inability of the Eramosa River to handle the volume of effluent from a sewage treatment plant.

13 page decision

In the 13 page decision dated January 20, the OMB adjourned the hearing and reserved a decision until further information is compiled by the Ontario Water Resources Commission, in conjunction with Eramosa township council and other parties concerned.

Board Vice-Chairman H. E. Roberts and member B. E. Smith said: "In coming to a decision on this matter one thing becomes clear, and that is, the existence of serious contamination in a considerable number of the domestic wells within the village.

Whether this problem can be corrected by a complete study of the septic tanks and yepi systems and the implementation of a correctional program as suggested by some, is not known and certainly there was no suggestion as to the cost involved in such an operation.

"The method" continued the summary, "proposed by the municipality to deal with the problem, is one generally accepted for both large and small urban communities where there is a concentration of population such as presently exists in the Village of Rockwood."

Unless the discretion of municipal council to proceed with these works is clearly shown to be erroneous the Board felt that it should not interfere unduly with the exercise of that discretion.

Referring to the proposed system the Board said that the engineering details have been approved by the OWRC who, as a provincial body entrusted with the responsibility, have extensive research facilities and technical staff available for this purpose.

"The project is presented as a modern, efficient waste water

treatment plant employing the latest technology to achieve the best results possible in pollution control.

Review if necessary

Professor Chisholm, an engineering professor from the Guelph university had testified that there are some shortcomings in the design. The Board said, in referring to his remarks "It is not necessary to make a finding on Mr. Chisholm's suggestion for if there is any substance to these complaints the matter has been brought to the attention of the Commission which was represented by both technical and professional staff throughout the course of the hearing." They said that the technical details may be reviewed if necessary and the submissions of Mr. Chisholm and other people knowledgeable in this field can be considered at that time.

"It was suggested that nothing needs to be done until the septic tank wastes which filter through the ground show up in the form of polluted wells and water courses, and then only sufficient measures at the point involved should be undertaken to correct the specific fault. This method may be acceptable where such problems are isolated occurrences claimed the Boards, "but this approach does not appear to be reasonable where the problem is widespread as is the case here, and there is a good alternative remedy available at a cost which is not prohibitive. The question of cost therefore" said the partial summary needs careful examination.

Referring to the brochure "Review of Planning for the Grand River Water Shed" the O.M.B. said that the argument was also advanced that this proposal is in conflict with that report as prepared by the Treasury Board.

"This report has been submitted to the government, but as yet no action has been taken on it. In any event, this application does not appear to the Board to conflict in any way with any of the conclusions and recommendations of this Report, and in particular the recommendation that communities should restrict their growth and carefully plan their development.

Normal growth

According to the consultant engineer, the subject project merely provides for the needs of existing development with an allowance for a normal anticipated rate of growth. Control of development should not be exercised by denying essential services to the existing

residents of the area but rather should be accomplished by comprehensive land use controls and planning programs."

Referring to costs the Board said "It now remains for the Board to consider the cost of the project and it is apparent that these facilities will cost a considerable sum and will represent a substantial additional tax levy on the ratepayers of the municipality. It is of particular burden to those persons on fixed or limited income and there was evidence to suggest that a considerable number of persons within the village find themselves in such a situation.

"It was not established that there is any extravagance proposed by these works, and the plain simple truth is that this sum of money must be expended to provide these facilities with allowance for the rocky nature of the ground. In order to reduce the burden somewhat, a provincial scheme is employed whereby approximately 50 per cent of the capital cost is assumed by the province.

"The determination of this application therefore," says the OMB, "hinges on whether it is reasonable to undertake the expense involved in order to derive the benefits to be received from the works, and whether the charges have been fairly assessed to the residents of the village.

Added expense

"In order to properly consider this question, the Board should have all the financial information available to it and in particular, the Board is concerned with the amount of additional expense required to bypass the Conservation Authority lands with the sewer effluent."

The Board then proceeded to point out that if it was satisfied that this extra cost was small then it could proceed to consider the financial implications of the application. "But" the brief continued, "it was admitted that no studies were carried out to arrive at a figure and the consultant engineer was in fact given instructions to locate the outfall at a certain point.

Evidence was adduced that certain facilities could be eliminated by relocating the point of discharge farther upstream in the Eramosa River, but since the matter was not studied in any detail, figures ranging from a low of \$29,000, to a high of \$300,000, were given."

Mentioning the applicants argument that, notwithstanding this by-pass cost, the point of discharge was chosen for better stream assimilation of the waste water, the Board said that evidence given on that point by Robert Hawkins, an Assistant District Engineer with the Commission, "is vague and, in fact, refuted by the witnesses Hamilton and Lawrence, who both own property downstream from the outfall pipe.

"Both owners" said the brief, "stated, and their evidence was not challenged, that the flow in the Eramosa River is slight and does not represent the considerable volume of turbulent water flowing over a rocky river bed as suggested by the engineer, Hawkins.

No studies

The board submitted that it was admitted that no extensive studies were undertaken to analyze the capacity of the stream to receive effluent from a sewage treatment plant.

"It would seem" it said, "that data on flow measurements would be crucial to such a technical evaluation. It may well be that the head pond of the river dam is a more suitable body of water to receive and assimilate effluent of this nature, and were it not for a desire to accommodate the recreational facilities of the Conservation lands, such a location might have

been selected."

"If" continues the summary, "As it appears, the additional expense is incurred solely for the benefit of a park which the evidence indicates is regional in character, it seems unreasonable to burden the residents of the village with this extra cost."

The Board felt that the users of the park cannot expect a higher degree of treatment than is proposed by these facilities which the OWRC suggests is the most modern and efficient plant available today." The OMB felt that, in this regard they do not have sufficient information to properly determine this point, but felt that the OWRC should be given an opportunity to provide the lacking information.

"The Board does not believe it appropriate to dismiss the application outright" said the summary. "An opportunity should be given to the applicant to provide the information lacking and therefore, the hearing of this matter shall be continued on a future date."

Need time

The reason given by the OMB was so that the OWRC and the objectors would have time to adduce evidence and present arguments regarding the additional cost involved in bypassing the Conservation Authority park and the reasons for the selection of the outfall pipe location.

"This delay" said the OMB, "will also allow council time to decide on the service charge rate to be imposed on commercial users and on the school board."

The Board summarized saying that any reports to be used in

presenting this further evidence shall be exchanged between counsel for the Police Village of Rockwood and counsel for the Ratepayers' Association at least ten days prior to the date set for the continuation of the hearing.

Murray D. Wilson, a supervisor in the Projects Division of the OWRC, had used in his calculations a frontage of 66'. The Board took a more realistic view of this and claimed the Land Use By-Law requires a minimum lot frontage of 100' and therefore it is common to use a double lot in order to construct a dwelling house.

"As a matter of fact" read the findings, "the majority of properties have been developed in this manner."

The objectors therefore argue that a typical lot has a frontage of 132' and not 66' as used by the Commission in their calculations. Consequently a more correct cost on an annual basis would be \$133.07 per year to which must be added the annual service charge of \$60 for water and \$108 for sewers bringing the total annual charges for a lot with a frontage of 132' to \$301.07.

Principals in the discussions were R. B. Hungerford, QC representing the Eramosa township, J. A. Matthews acting for the Village of Rockwood, and George Miller speaking on the behalf of the Ratepayers' Association.

As it now stands the application is adjourned and decision deferred until a further analysis of the cost including that of the by-pass around the Rockwood Conservation Park lands has been established.

Fewer man-hours approved on township works program

Renovation of the Nassagaweya Township Hall may be accomplished this winter under a revised program of the Federal Local Incentives (winter works) Program. The federal government has agreed to a township petition to lower the program's minimum requirement of \$12,000 labor hours to \$8,000.

Notification of the request to the federal government was

made to Nassagaweya Council at its Jan. 3 meeting. Councillor James Watson explained the \$12,000 labor man hours requirement might not be fulfilled before the program's May 31 deadline, because material shortages or weather conditions could cause a temporary layoff. Watson told Council he had met with Nassagaweya building inspector Syd Savage, who had agreed to

write the federal government asking for the labor reduction. The councillor said he was going to contact John Morrison, the Halton-Wentworth MP, to discover if it were possible for the renovation of the hall to begin next November under next winter's program.

Approved

As its Jan. 18 meeting council learned the federal government would allow the labor reduction. Councillor Watson mentioned he had contacted MP Morrison, who said the necessary funds for the project were available. The councillor remarked he would notify the contractor the township is using and file the application forms for the program.

A problem of employing men for \$2.50 an hour, when they could receive more benefits on welfare was mentioned as a second problem at the Jan. 3 meeting. But at last week's meeting, Watson said he felt something could be worked out with the contractor.

"If there's any block work which would require wages above the \$2.50 an hour, we could perhaps subsidize the contractor," concluded Watson.



At their regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18, Nassagaweya council:

—Authorized the clerk to advertise for tenders for the installation of a two-way radio system for the township's road trucks.

—Decided to send a letter to the trustees of the village of Campbellville indicating their request for a three way stop sign at the main corner should be sent to the Halton County Roads Department, as that body is responsible for the street.

—Deferred a request by the Halton County Separate School Board for copies of the minutes of council meetings. Council did not seem to oppose the idea but wanted to know the reason for the request.

—Agreed the implementing of snowmobile by-laws would be rather difficult to enforce. A letter arrived from a Toronto resident, Anne B. Watkins, who owns a house trailer on the

MANY plans are being made for Y week.

TUESDAY'S weather left walkers breathless as winds up to 70 m.p.h. drove snow through the skies. It skidded over sheet ice making walking and driving treacherous.

The reeve also mentioned McDonald was storing the tin and glass until there was enough material collected to make a trip to Hamilton worthwhile. The trucker was also breaking the waste bottles into small fragments to make extra space available on his truck, the reeve said.

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Claims dump will last township for 20 years

A letter written by Fred Andrew of Nassagaweya, which was read at the Tuesday, Jan. 18 meeting of Nassagaweya Council urging that body not to cut off support to the SPIN group and also asking council to be wary of an already overburdened dump, received an angry reply from Councillor Calvin McIntyre.

"It will take 20 years to fill the township dump if the area has a normal population growth" stated McIntyre. The councillor also took issue with a report that two township road department trucks had been used to take a shipment of tin and glass to Hamilton during December, (the township gathered SPIN'S December collection). "At no time was mention made of two trucks being sent to Hamilton, there was only one." This newspaper had said two trucks had been used for garbage transportation to Hamilton.

Subsidize trips

At its Jan. 3 meeting council had agreed to subsidize a private trucker, Basil McDonald of R. R. 6 Milton who had agreed to pick up SPIN'S monthly waste collection and deliver it to depots in Hamilton and Guelph when it was feasible for him to do so. The subsidy was to be in the form of \$25 a month, for a three month trial period.

Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur reported McDonald had gathered SPIN'S January collection and delivered a shipment of waste paper to a factory in Guelph, but was told to leave the shipment with a private vendor, who would take the collection to the factory when there was enough paper collected to make it feasible.

ROBERT R. HAMILTON, O.D.
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HORSE TALK

Q: I hear house people referring to longeing a horse, which seems to be a means of exercising it by inducing it to circle on a rope around the handler. The English riders in this area use this as a form of preliminary training but it seems most unnecessary to me. I plan on riding my two-year-old in a Western saddle and wonder if there are any advantages to longeing or is it a glorified parlour trick?

A: There are definite advantages to training on the longe and should be a prerequisite for the correct schooling of every horse. The horse can start his schooling at the age of a year, if desired, by teaching him to circle at required gaits. With the help of a whip, for guidance. The youngster learns verbal commands such as "walk, trot, whoa, come" which are invaluable aids when the time comes to ride him.

Longeing supplies the horse, teaches him to bend his rigid spine, develops muscles and helps him handle his young body in a more co-ordinated manner. Once learned, longeing is not forgotten, and is extremely useful for exercising an older horse if he is unable to be ridden, needs cooling out, or a refresher course. If your horse is the kind that bucks and hops at the beginning of a ride, ten minutes of longeing prior to mounting often quiets him down.

Do teach your two-year-old to longe, you will never regret it.

Q: I have had a problem of my own lately and have, after extensive questioning, found the solution right at home. One never thinks to ask one's husband!

I have been at a loss to discover the correct technique for teaching the modified stretched Arab stance for halter classes. My young Half Arab filly will stand stock still on command but when asked to move her front feet forward in order to stretch, she would ably bring her hind feet forward also! Very cooperative but we weren't communicating.

I cross tie the filly and stand beside her with two long ships or sticks. I place one whip against her hind feet while tapping first one and then the other front heel to induce her to step forward. Any movement of hind feet is stopped with the whip and a sharp "No", while the smallest forward movement of front feet is rewarded by praise.

She has understood this lesson well. The next step is to stand in front of her after placing the feet correctly, restraining the front legs and gently inducing her to stretch her neck a bit.

I am using separate words for this. "Stand", "place" for the feet, and "stretch" for the neck. The filly learns words well and it is hoped this will enable us to communicate the correct stance in halter classes.

Please send questions to Jennifer Barr, R.R. 4, Rockwood.

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