

**January 20, 2016**  
**Septic Informational Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Glen Desjardine, James Kowalchuk, Dick Bartell, Rand Stromgren, Ben Pergent and Shelley Mathes

**18 Residents in attendance**

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Glen Desjardine.

Desjardine informed residents that there are some upcoming concerns with the septic fields. We are looking at replacing some of the fields as they are aging. To upgrade all fields we are roughly looking at \$900,000.00. That works out to \$6200.00/household, \$446.00/year or \$111.00/qrt. It's either pay now over a period of time or be hit with a large amount. This is a rough quote and it would go out to tender.

How often are the studies done to find out what condition they are in? There currently aren't regulatory checks on the fields other than daily rounds. We would certainly prioritize which fields would need to be done and only do the fields that are requiring it. Not all fields are in need of replacement. Who provided the quote? Twin Valley provided the rough quote and it would certainly go out to tender to see which would be the best quote.

Are there no grants that we can apply for? That's a lot of money for the residents of Rayleigh to have to pay. A lot of people can't afford that. We can certainly work with the city to try and obtain some support on grants. The relationship is improving with the City. The grants take time. The Administrator has already spoken with Jen Fretz to inform her that we would like to have support in applying for some future grants regarding finding out the state of the infrastructure. Barrier just got a large grant for their septic system. Because we are an Improvement District we aren't eligible to apply for grants without having the City of Kamloops submit them for us.

What happened to the city putting sewer in? This has been discussed with the City of Kamloops before. Currently they show no interest in it. The Administrator has asked Jen Fretz to have some rough numbers for residents at the AGM for bringing City Sewer to Rayleigh. Years ago there were meetings with the city and they had provided a price per household to have City sewer brought out. It

was going to be in the neighbourhood of \$10,000.00 per household. At the time residents were willing to put \$6000.00 in hopes of having a grant. The process of moving forward didn't continue. A resident would like to see working with the city of Kamloops to potentially bring city sewer out. A sub committee could be created to go to the Council to further discuss the interest in having City sewer brought to Rayleigh. The reason Rayleigh Waterworks didn't get involved in city sewer is because not all residents are on community septic. Even if the City does provide City sewer, the stipulations around the use of City Property for the septic fields states that the land has to be brought back to its original condition. As a long term perspective why would the residents pay for septic field replacement if we aren't guaranteed that we have use of the City parcels of land for septic use? During the negotiations with the city for Rae Mor we were able to lock down the use of the land. Part of the agreement was that we would have Statutory right of way placed on the land. The city verbally agreed but it does have to go to council. We will need to follow up on it. Is the board agreeing that unless we obtain the stat right of way we will not be charged a levy for field replacement? The board is trying to be proactive to have money in the bank if or should a field need to be replaced on short notice or in the future. We are here to inform the residents of the options. We have to recognize that the systems we are using are old and infrastructure is aging. Grants should be being pursued. Administrator has been in contact with the city to let them know that we would like to have their help and support in applying for grants. Part of the stipulations with grant application is that you still have to have money in the bank to be able to carry out the projects within a short period of time. You need to be able to prove that you can do the project, the appropriate studies have been done and have the funds to carry out the project to completion. That brings us to the money in the bank. There is \$360,000.00 in the bank so there is some money in the bank to move forward. Moorhead would like to see a sub committee started to discuss with the city about various items.

What are the sewer costs in Rayleigh compared to City of Kamloops? Barlow stated that the City of Kamloops is slightly lower than the RWWD is currently. The city could potentially have interest in the system as a whole. The ministry has stated that if the system dissolved it would go to the Province and then potentially to the City of Kamloops. The city doesn't have to take it over. The City would look at the state of the system and do a study on the state of the system, any costs would be dispersed to the residents but over the years it would even out as a whole of Kamloops. A resident suggests that the board brings forth the expected costs associated with a 25 year plan and see if they are okay with it.

There should be engineered studies that can give the residents a picture as to what its going to cost to be sustainable. Are we fooling ourselves? Is this system sustainable beyond five years? The studies that need to be done to find out the state of system are going to cost money. We are trying to have the City work with us on obtaining grants to do engineered studies on the system. It's a catch 22 because you need to have money in the bank to do these studies. Is there map of the septic system available to the public? There is one in the office.

The fields have the ability to divert the service so while a field is being replaced the service can still be provided. Is there anyone in Rayleigh that could help out with some of the skill sets that would be required to save on some costs? We would need to be able to have qualified people. There may be people in Rayleigh that are qualified. If there are, then we would certainly consider them as we like to keep work and services in Rayleigh.

There are a couple of fields that are having problems, Paul doesn't think that all of them need replacing. What was provided was worst case scenario for all the fields. Some tanks have been replaced. Field 6 is deteriorating. It's difficult to tell how bad. A camera is needed to look inside of the tank. The fiber glass tanks are fine. There are five fiber glass fields currently.

The trustees just want to inform the residents about the state of the septic fields. If the residents would like the RWWD to go to the city, where are you going to go with the system? The trustees are not here to dissolve the system and have the City of Kamloops take it over. We are here to act on behalf of the residents. If we weren't able to make payroll then we would be looking at dissolving but we are not in that situation.

The next step that the Trustees are to take is to have the appropriate studies done on the fields and then be able to provide the more information to the residents.

A geotech engineer is needed and at that point it will be known which fields need to be replaced and what it's going to cost.

Which fields do you think are in rough shape? The tot lot is in rough shape. Is there the same amount of homes feeding into each field. No, they aren't. There are other options out there than just replacing the fields. Residents could approach the City, a sewage treatment plant could be built or slowly replace the fields.

Desjardine asked if there were any other questions?

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.**

**M/S- Bartell/Pergent  
Carried**