MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, August 8th, 2024

Highlights from the August 6th, 2024, meetings of
Montague Township Council and Committee of the Whole

- Reeve Jennings opened the meeting with the following acknowledgments:
    - Montague & District Seniors Forget-Me-Not Club "Founders Day" celebration will be taking place on August 11 at the Forget-Me-Not Club property at 1617 Guthrie Rd, Smiths Falls. All ages are welcome at the event.
    - Kidz Klub events continuing Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm at Rosedale Hall until August 28.
    - Upcoming events include the Comedy Hypnosis Show at Rosedale Hall on October 4 and the Kingston Penitentiary tour on October 5. Tickets are available for purchase at the Township Office for both events.
    - Final Tax bills have now been sent out – please contact the Office if you do not receive your bill by August 19.

- Following the Land Acknowledgement and moment of silence, Council approved the agenda as amended to pull items 8a, b, c, d and f from Information to Action. The minutes of the regular meetings of Council and Committee of the Whole dated June 18, 2024, were approved as presented as well, along with the minutes of the June 27 MRCC meeting. The Merrickville Library board minutes from their May meeting were approved as information.

- A report was presented by the Public Works Manager regarding the Burchill Road Culvert contract, which was awarded to G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction Co. Ltd. The purchase of a CSPA culvert from Atlantic Industries will be funded from the savings on the 2024 Capital Road Projects that were accounted for in the 2024 budget.

- The Clerk-Administrator/Treasurer brought forth a report with regard to the slip-in water tank for the tandem truck. Council approved the purchase of a new pressurized system slip-in tank with an upset limit of $40,000.00 to replace the current tank that is leaking and in need of repair. The current tank was last rehabilitated in 2023 for just over $4,000.00, and is used during street sweeping operations, during gravel applications to help with compaction, and for applying water to roadways in extraordinarily dry years. The new pressurized option as approved by Council will also increase the level of service that the Township can provide to residents, as the tank will be plumbed to fit a fire hose, which could provide an alternate water source if required in an emergency situation.

- Council also approved a report that recommended that Staff submit a proposal for the Senior Active Living Centre Program Expansion with support from the Forget-Me-Not Club, as well as provided a commitment of in-lieu contributions of $10,000.00 and in-cash contributions of $5,000.00 for the Senior Active Living Centres program if the Township was successful in the application.

- The final Staff report on the agenda was regarding the award of the Municipal Complex contract. Council awarded the contract to Argue Construction in the amount of $6,498,037.00 including non-recoverable HST and directed Staff to begin the process to establish a borrowing by-law with Infrastructure Ontario for Construction costs. Council also approved purchasing up to $441,000.00 for items designated as “Township Responsibility” as presented in the report. The total projected amount for the new complex, which will house the Public Works and Fire departments, comes in at $8,500,000.00 (8.5 million dollars), which is well under the original Class D and B estimate amounts. Staff are aware that this project will be the largest that the Township has taken on and that there will be a number of moving parts with some disruptions. The project is expected to take approximately 57 weeks to complete.

Action Items

- **8a:** Reeve Jennings requested Council’s backing in supporting the Canal Pursuit and directed Staff to share social posts by the Canal Pursuit onto our platforms.

- **8b:** Council unanimously pulled the Request to Purchase Road Allowance from 2077613 Ontario Inc., but directed Staff to advise the requestor that the Township is not interested in stopping up and closing the unopened road allowance at this time.

- **8c-f:** All three (3) Lanark County Media Releases were pulled by Deputy Reeve Carroll, who spoke about key points in each release

Committee of the Whole

- The meeting was called to order and the agenda was approved as amended to remove item 3P at the request of the Association. Following the approval, second quarterly reports from all departments were approved as information by Committee.

- After hearing a report from the Junior Planner about a request for the conveyance of a parcel of land, Committee directed Staff to proceed with completing a Request for Reconsideration with MPAC to determine the value of Lot 152 on Plan 2707 to be able to proceed with the conveyance of the property to Ivan Ace Pepper for a fair price. Numbers will come back in a follow-up report to Council for final approval.

- A report was received regarding the Montague Business Park, where Committee approved for Staff to investigate options for utilizing the land as parking space for the nearby OVRT and snowmobile trail, as the lands are not viable for development due to the identified wetlands and nearby railways.

- Committee approved the use of up to $20,000.00 from reserves for the replacement of the zero-turn lawnmower, should it be required for the 2024 season due to failure or extensive repair costs. If replacement is necessary, Committee approved for a report to be brought back to provide an idea of total costs, as well as an upgrade from residential-grade to commercial-grade, based on the substantial amount of grass that is maintained by the Township.

- Committee directed Staff to apply to the 2025 Lanark County Tourism Grant when it becomes available, so that funds may be used towards the Forget-Me-Not Club's 50th anniversary celebrations in August of 2025. Staff and Council will be responsible for organizing the event on behalf and in conjunction with the group so that their members can enjoy the celebration for themselves.

- The use of approximately $9,000.00 from policing reserves and/or 2024 surplus was approved for the purchase of two (2) more flashing speed radar signs for the Township to increase traffic calming measures. Township roads currently identified by the OPP as speeding/accident concern areas are Ferguson-Tetlock and Rosedale North. County Roads currently identified are Rosedale Road S and Roger Stevens Drive. With data collected from these signs, it will assist in building a case for the OPP and Township to be able to further mitigate speeding on our roadways.

- Committee approved the use of $15,000.00 in recreation reserves to fund the upgrades to Rosedale Hall, which are scheduled to take place from December 15 of this year to approximately January 1, 2025. Upgrades include the removal of the permanent corner stage, flooring, baseboard and drywall repair, painting of the entire main hall area, and installation of sound barriers (which was budgeted for in 2024). In the report, Staff noted that the hall has had many upgrades paid for through grant funding ($375,244.00 in grant funding upgrades), and that this $15,000.00 is going to continue to bring in rentals at the facility.

- The Carroll Road Crossing update was received by Committee as information, a report which stemmed from an email received by Reeve Jennings from the new Director of Government Affairs and Communications Ontario for CP Rail, introducing themselves. Staff and Council jumped at the opportunity to meet with him to voice their concerns with regard to the issues of the blocked Carroll Road crossing for extended periods of time. It was noted during the meeting that five (5) calls are required to trigger an internal investigation into an issue, and a new phone number was provided to be posted on the signs that were erected at the crossing. Councillor Abbass mentioned the potential for flashing signs similar to those at the Abbot Street swinging bridge in Smiths Falls. Council directed Staff to look into options and pricing for the installation of similar flashing identifiers on Carroll near Kelly-Jordan Road and Mazie Street. Staff and Council are excited at the potential for a positive future with CP Rail and the Township to be able to mitigate any cause for concern at this and other crossings.

The next Meeting of Council & COW is Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 6:00pm

Livestream on YouTube: Montague Township - YouTube

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