



Municipal District of St. Stephen Information Report to Council



To: Jeff Renaud, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Sean Morton, Deputy CAO
Resource Staff: Supervisor II, Supervisor I, Treatment Plant Operator, Dillon Engineering, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, Animal Control Officer
Date of Meeting: Wednesday, November 27, 2024
Subject: Deputy CAO Report

Recommendation: That this report be received for informational purposes

Public Works

1. Water System (Month of October)
 - a. Dug two service leaks (Duke and Prescott).
 - b. Reading industrial water meters.
 - c. Shut off splash pad, Milltown Museum, Milltown Pool and one apartment building.
 - d. Repaired meter buttons and wires.
 - e. Winterized hydrants.
2. Streets (Month of October)
 - a. Patching potholes ongoing.
 - b. Picked up debris from windstorm (Duke, Amstrong and St. Croix).
 - c. Getting equipment ready for winter season.
 - d. Wall Street paving preparations.
 - e. Re-painted Pride Crosswalk.
3. Wastewater (Month of October)
 - a. Cleaned storm lines and catch basins on Wal Street.
 - b. Worked on lift station #6 (Milltown Blvd).
 - c. Videoed sewer lines (Spring and Porter).
 - d. Cleaning off catch basin grates.
 - e. Dug sewer on Spring St.
4. General (Month of October)
 - a. Put Legion Banners up.
 - b. Picked up park benches and garbage cans.
 - c. Repaired arena front doors.
 - d. Getting barricaded and flags ready for Remembrance Day.

Director of Infrastructure Activities

1. HR Issue
2. Water supply consultant kick-off meeting.
3. Street name and civic number applications.
4. Development approvals.
5. Budget 2025
6. Capital Plan – Met with CAO Renaud, David Beach, and Rory Pickard (Dillon) to review 2025 road infrastructure plan.

Fire Department Alarms October 23 – November 19

Alarms	# Calls
1. Vehicle Fire	1
2. Alarm	8
3. MVA (Motor Vehicle Accident)	6
4. Outside Fire	3
5. Ambulance Assist	6
6. Mutual Aid SAFD	1
7. Mutual Aid Rollingdam FD	1
8. Structure Fire	1
9. Grass Fire	1
Total	28

Fire Department Activities

1. Monthly meeting.
2. Fire Prevention Week activities

Fire Chiefs Activities

1. Monthly reporting to OFM (Office of the Fire Marshal).
2. Monthly payroll entries for volunteers.
3. JHSC (Joint Health and Safety Committee) meetings and related work.
4. Fire Pit applications and approvals.
5. Budget 2025
6. Halloween 2024 preparations.
7. Fire Prevention Week preparations.
8. Bylaw Enforcement related issues.
9. Attended the Wildfire Conference in Fredericton.
10. Assisted Bylaw Enforcement, Animal Control, NBSPCA and RCMP seize a dangerous animal.

Wildfire Conference

This conference was attended by individuals from across North America and around the globe. There was a large contingent of post graduate students presenting master's and PhD projects. I sat in on many presentations related to fire spread science. On the flip side, I spent a lot of time in sessions around community preparedness and resiliency. There was a huge first nations presence. There were a lot of sessions on learning lessons from the past and present in terms of using fire to maintain balance within our ecosystems. First nations are at the forefront of this changing attitude towards wildfire management.

New Brunswick is not immune to wildland fire. Climate change and current forestry practices are forcing a second look at how we operate within the province. Fire Smart is being promoted, but a lot of work needs to be done. It is much more than handing out a few pamphlets and hoping people will change. It requires a concerted effort on all levels of government, industry and landowners, small and large, to make these types of programs effective. A driving force will be the insurance industry. They are looking at the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and viewing it in a similar manner to flood plains. The technology already exists and is in place where a property will be assessed for wildfire risk and insurance rates will be set accordingly. Current data and modelling show the St. Stephen area is among the most at risk in NB. NB has the fourth largest wildland urban interface in the country.

I was the only NB structural firefighter in attendance, a fact not missed by my peers at the Department of Natural Resources Fire Center in Fredericton. I spent a fair bit of time with the Director and Supervisor of the Wildfire Management Section. They expressed their satisfaction that I was there and have hopes that more fire departments will embrace the wildfire management cause as we go along. I pledged to them that I would try to spread the word and encourage my peers to become involved.

A keynote address from the chief of a first nations community in northern Alberta was about how their community identified its wildfire risk and had a \$9,000,000 plan to mitigate the problem. The plan never got implemented in time and fire came through, decimating their entire community. The cost to rebuild is 1.7 billion dollars. That community had a population similar to our municipal district. My friends at DNR tell me there is future help on the way in terms of identifying communities at risk and funding for mitigation. There are national programs funded by Insurance to assist with such. Equipment stockpiles are beginning to be built up and more wildfire training is coming. That being said, it will take the community to embrace this for it to be successful and it will mean changing how we manage our properties. Types of building materials, proximity to coniferous trees, and even things such as garden mulch and lawn furniture can greatly contribute to wildfire risk at the household level. Everyone has a role to play.

I look forward to the opportunity to attend the next conference in 2026.

Bylaw Enforcement

Please find enclosed the report for By-Law –Enforcement. We handled 25 occurrences. These are broken down to:

Assist other Dept. (8)

- .. (1) Public Works
- .. (4) Public Safety issues
- .. (3) Building Inspection

Assist general public (10)

- .. (7) General By Law issues and questions
- .. (2) Property issues
- .. (1) Development questions

Parking (5)

Dog Complaints (2)

Animal Control Officer

I patrolled the Town daily and responded to all calls and complaints. Some of which were cats running loose, dogs loose or barking, and dogs with no leashes. Very few cat complaints lately. No animals impounded.

Building Inspector

The month of October brought in a total of 15 (fifteen) Building Permits.

Yearly there are a total of 91 (ninety-one) Building Permits.

No Stop Work Orders were issued in the month of October.

This office has 6 (six) unsightly properties we are dealing with under the Unsightly By-Law.

Our office dealt with and has filed and dealt with 29 (twenty-nine) Inspection reports and occurrences.