

**MINUTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING
HELD AUGUST 11, 2008 AT 6:30 P.M.**

A public meeting was held Monday, August 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Morrell presiding and Councillors Oliver, Curtis, Smith and Jeffery present also Ethel Ellsworth, Bill Fleming, Heidi Mallett, Janet Charchuk, Jackie Charchuk, Valene Perry, Clint Perry, Marvin Riley, Wilson Corrigan, Velma Mallett, Bradley Gavin, Rosemary Gavin, Leanne Millman, Krystyna Pottier, Dan Pottier, Robert Carruthers, Allan Pridham, George Charchuk, John-Francis Lane, Edward Doucette, Paula Foley, Leona Lane, Dave Gambrell, Chris Murphy, Nora Dorgan, Ray Millman, Eric McCarthy – Journal, Jean Kenny – Graphic and Susan Wallace-Flynn.

Mayor Morrell called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the comments of the residents and property owners on the following -

Application to rezone property tax number 615039-000 located at 557 Main Street from residential (R1) to general commercial (C1) and property tax numbers 698233-000 and 698241-000 located on Church Street from agricultural reserve (A1) to public service and institutional (PSI). The application will also require an amendment to the Official Plan Map from residential to general commercial and agricultural to public service and institutional.

Mayor Morrell opened the floor to comments.

Kevin Porter made a presentation on behalf of Community Inclusions and he introduced Paula Foley, Project manager, Bill Fleming, Provincial Housing Coordinator, Heidi Mallett, Board member and Janet Charchuk, making a presentation. Kevin Porter explained that the home would have four bedrooms and two units with two bedrooms. He said they have two vocational day programs and an employment unit. He said community Inclusions has completed a survey of fifteen families of seventeen adults with disabilities from ages 33 to 76 and the parents are from 73 to 86 years of age. Kevin Porter stated that people are going into manors in there forties and fifties. A copy of the floor plan was circulated (copy attached).

Janet Charchuk spoke of her dream to have independence and her desire to live and belong in the community. She said she wants to be able to walk to the library, bank, stores, and church also to buy groceries and volunteer in the community. Janet Charchuk said she feels the multi purpose home will be for people with high needs as well as people like her that just need some support.

Nora Dorgan congratulated Kevin on pointing out the need and said each community can use a facility. Nora Dorgan said she has no objection to having the facility but wants them to be aware that they farm and as far as any complaints about the activities they do with farming she wants Community Inclusions to know that she was there first and they are welcome to the area if they are okay with farming. She said that earlier this spring there was talk of increasing the buffer zones and that might take their operation out of business.

Krystyna Pottier commended Janet on her presentation. Krystyna Pottier said that the ad did not have a civic number and there was a discrepancy between the property tax number in the ad and the letter she received. She also mentioned that there is a need for

housing but expressed concern about changing the zoning in a residential area and what might happen if the funding goes not go through. Dan Pottier asked what happens if council goes through with the steps to rezone and they do not get their funding. Krystyna Pottier said it could be used for young offenders.

Councillor Curtis asked if council could define between institutional and any kind of residence. Mayor Morrell said he thought modifications could be made.

George Charchuk asked if the project fell through could the land be rezoned back.

Bill Fleming said the Province could rezone it back.

Dan Pottier asked for that to be put in writing. Krystyna Pottier quoted from page 7 of the town by-laws that stated institutional premises includes -

1. cemeteries
2. churches, places of worship and religious institutions
3. colleges, universities and non-commercial schools
4. community centres
5. golf course
6. government offices
7. senior citizens homes, community care facilities, and nursing homes
8. hospitals
9. libraries, museums and art galleries
10. public and private parks
11. public and private recreational centers
12. public and private schools
13. child care facilities.

Mayor Morrell said the uses were very broad and Krystyna Pottier said that is what concerns her.

Krystyna Pottier said that moving towards institutional zoning would mean increased traffic. She said she would like to see the landscape plan to show the buffer, lighting and if it will be aimed inside her bedroom window. Krystyna Pottier said that with friends and family of eight living in the building where are the parking facilities and will there be enough parking or will there be parking on the street. She said that Janet mentioned walking and there is no sidewalk on that street and a lot of fast traffic and fast transport trucks.

Rosemary Gavin said she had to get in the ditch two weeks ago when she was walking because two vehicles were drag racing.

Dave Gambrell said it is a drag strip out there.

Nora Dorgan validated the point that there is lots of traffic.

Councillor Oliver read a letter from Bradley and Rosemary Gavin expressing their concerns. (See attached).

Leona Lane said it is a home for eight people and at one point eight people lived in her home with four children. She said it is a home, which will be accessible for people with physical disabilities. Leona Lane said she worked for Community Inclusions and was enriched by it and she said Community Inclusions couldn't be responsible for people 24 hours. Leona Lane said there is a palm tree across the river from her and she can't do anything about that.

Dave Gambrell said this is not the proper place for this facility because the area is a racetrack, with tractor-trailers not following the speed signs. He said government sets it

up and once they are out the government will not give a darn on how it is looked after whether liberal or Tories.

Leanne Millman spoke on behalf of her sister Rosemary Gavin. Leanne Millman said she is not against the home but what might come down the road. She said the government flip-flops and when it comes down to it will they be here 5 or 10 years down the road. She said if it could be put in writing that people with intellectual disabilities will use it. Leanne Millman said you cannot give these guarantees to people and once it is rezoned she asked what the chances were of having it rezoned back. Leanne Millman said these people have had enough first with the water problem and now this.

Jackie Charchuk commented on changing to another facility and said that in Tignish it has maintained itself as a group home. Jackie Charchuk said she was just across Canada on a National housing conference and she said group home housing has never changed to anything else. She said she works in the school system and the enrollment is declining but the people with intellectual disabilities are on the rise.

Krystyna Pottier questioned the size of the building with two thirds of an acre and the fact that outbuildings have not been discussed.

Edward Doucette said he lives in Tignish next to a group home for the last twenty-two years and he never felt the value of his property went down.

George Charchuk said the governments come and go Janet does not get any funding when living in his house but would get all kinds of funding if she was living in the new home and that is what would keep it going.

Dave Gambrell said the government has signed agreements like the 71/2 percent cutback and later taken it back. George Charchuk said that people with a disability are never cut. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.