

Monica Hawkins

From: Dean Demers <dean.demers@hotmail.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Monica Hawkins
Cc: Pauline Rochefort - External; Jason Trottier
Subject: Request for delegation - To discuss Internet status of East Ferris
Attachments: Follow up - Broadband Steering Committee - October 10th 2019.pdf; Follow up to the Canada's Rural and Remote Conference.pdf

Good afternoon:

Back on January 22, 2019 I attended an East Ferris council meeting. I was given the opportunity to introduce myself and express my concerns regarding Internet services in East Ferris. Council advised that the Economic Development Committee would be discussing this as a main topic. Since then I was invited and attended the "Regional Mayors Broadband Steering Committee" on October 10th, 2019 and the "Bridging The Digital Divide" conference on November 13-14th, 2019 in advisory capacity. After both events I provided two lengthy reports to Mayor Pauline Rochefort and CAO Jason Trottier advising my recommendations and concerns (see attached documents). The purpose of my request for delegation is to go over the reports I provided, to ask what progress has been made, and determine timelines of a solution to this issue.

Key discussion points:

1. What discussions have been made between East Ferris and the provincial government, federal government or other agencies for financial assistance?
2. It is great that the media has made announcements that there is financial funding being provided by the provincial government, federal government, government agencies and programs. Has any of this funding been spent on addressing or fixing the internet issue in East Ferris? Can you please provide details on amounts and where? Can you please post this information on your website so that residents of East Ferris are kept informed? Can East Ferris be more transparent?
3. This issue was identified by residents of East Ferris as a major concern through the Strategic Planning Survey Results Report. Have you assigned this concern to a committee to be addressed? Have you obtained a consultant or project manager to find and implement a solution? Is there a project timeline and deadline?
4. Saad Consulting and Karen Jones Consulting generated the "Economic Development Strategy and Facilities Master Plan 2013" for the municipality of East Ferris. In this document it was reported that the internet was a weakness and major concern for business to operate efficiently and attract residents to East Ferris. The action item was to advocate with different levels of government the barriers with a Medium term time frame (defined as two to five years in the report). Why is this still an issue? What were the lessons learned? Was there anything done differently to avoid repeating the same issue?
5. The Regional Mayors Broadband Steering Committee and Blue Sky Net issued an RFP for Broadband Service Improvements South and East of North Bay. That RFP closed on December 2nd, 2019. What is the outcome of this RFP? What is happening next?
6. Has the municipality reached out and had discussions with participants and experts from the "Bridging The Digital Divide" conference? If so, what progress/information has been leveraged and implemented to address the same issue in East Ferris that was overcome elsewhere?

7. What is council's grand vision for the municipality of East Ferris? Is it the goal to attract business? more residents? create a smart environmentally friendly community?

I look forward to further this discussion and go over any questions from the attached reports. Please advise me that you have received this request.

Regards

Dean Demers

References:

1. East Ferris Economic Development Strategy and Facilities Master Plan – 2013. Pages 3, 14, 16, 20, 26
2. Strategic Planning Survey Results – April 2019. Pages 4, 5, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20