



Councillor Sandy Donald

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Water Pipeline Study

One Councillor's Perspective

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Dear Council,

Thank you very much for allowing me the time to address you this evening. I have had a lot of time to think about the proposed water pipeline project and have had considerable input from various citizens of the Municipality.

I believe we are faced with a very hard decision, but one, which has to be made for the benefit of the Municipality as a whole, for today and into the foreseeable future.

We, as Councillors, must put the Municipality ahead of our own needs and wants, even if this means our chances of being re-elected are jeopardized. We are after all, charged with making the difficult and onerous decisions, not just the popular ones.

To this end, I am reminded of my oath in taking this office, which in part states "I do solemnly promise and declare that I will truly, faithfully and impartially, to the best of my ability execute the office of Councillor." This is a large burden, but one which we must be willing to shoulder, if we are to do the right thing.

As I look back into the main reasons we are gathered at this table tonight, they are I believe, four fold:

1. To ensure the health, safety and welfare of our Municipalities citizens.
2. To minimize the impact of Regulation 459 financially to the Municipality.
3. To supply potable water to the Provincial Park at Inverhuron.
4. To negate the liability of the private communal wells on the Municipality, should they be abandoned.

From this, come some ancillary factors:

1. Reduced operating and maintenance costs.
2. Expansion of the Municipality along the B line.
3. A completed Environmental Assessment of the study area.
4. Firewater supply along the proposed route.

Now, before I go on, I will state quite clearly, that I am not aware of any dealings by any developers or others to push this pipeline through, because of personal or monetary interests. If I was, I would have brought this up in Council, either open or closed; but to this date, no Councillor, administration staff or member of the public has brought up anything like this to me. I ask you, as my fellow Councillors, if you are aware of anything like this going on. I am disappointed that some people, have through falsehoods and innuendo, said that this is the case. It is just not true.

Now, if this pipeline does come to fruition, I can imagine that developers will want to move forward with plans that are either dormant, or brand new.

Now into the meat and potatoes of my delegation.

We are charged with a moral and legal duty to look to the safety and well being of our citizens and the Municipality as a whole. To this end, I believe that running the pipeline along the B Line and through the lower route into Inverhuron is the right thing to do. I further recommend putting a spur line out from Tiverton, as far as the Pine Tree Campground.

I am really concerned that if we do not do all of this, we may suffer major problems with regards to Municipal liabilities from the private communal wells, becoming our problem and having to upgrade them to meet Regulation 459. I am also concerned that if we do not do this, we will see the Inverhuron Park and perhaps even some industrial customers slipping through our fingers and of course the associated jobs and revenue associated with it.

Further to this, not establishing a firewater pipeline may put our community in a jeopardy situation should we negate this option.

Our Municipality is relatively well off, we are able to carry the debt, indeed, we are also giving our constituents that are not already on Municipal water the right to not hook up to it or to pay the costs, only when and if they want it.

We have heard from some individuals stating that they wish to have their area remain as it was, but have they heard from there neighbour who's well is suspected of being contaminated by sewage from their own septic systems? No, unfortunately these people are not the ones who come and talk publicly, as they are deeply concerned that if word got out, it would destroy their property values.

Fellow Councillors, I ask you to look at these proposals fairly and equitably and to support the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment 4D

Yours Faithfully,

Councillor Sandy Donald.