

Aug. 7, 2019

To: S. Hipple, N. Flegel, L. Cowan

Re: Tar and chip program.

Sandy, Neil, Larry:

Over the last year or so we have had a number of discussions and meetings regarding our request that Inadale Drive from McEvoy to Aberdeen and Union Drive from Aberdeen to Amiens be tarred and chipped. They are two of the last east-west roads east of Hwy. 81 that are still gravel.

We felt we raised a number of good arguments for completing this work, but unfortunately, no funding could be found in the budget at the time

Recently Joe Arts and I met with John Flaherty from Cuddy's, and our feelings are that a number of other points should be discussed:

1. Increased Traffic

With the proposal to fully pave McEvoy from Hickory Drive to Hwy. 81, and Inadale from Hwy. 81 to McEvoy, coupled with the increasing employment at the Weed MD facility on Inadale, the traffic in this area is guaranteed to increase. We are already seeing a significant increase in traffic, in part due the closure of the bridge on Olde Dr.

In the future, as Weed MD continues to grow a percentage of commuters will continue to use these roads

2. Bio Security:

As I am sure you have noticed, most of the livestock farms in the area are very concerned with the biosecurity of their animals, and one concern is the likelihood of cross contamination carried by dust from the roads. Numerous trucks carrying livestock travel the roads and the fear of an outbreak is a major concern

If biosecurity is compromised by dust and it happens to be a foreign animal disease, it could be a catastrophic event for the farm businesses, the employees and the municipality

Tar and chipping the roads in question would significantly reduce this risk

3. Economic Impact

We don't feel that the economic impact of the major farm operations in Caradoc are being considered

The agriculture industry is one of the largest employers in the municipality, and most of the employees live and spend their money in the area, contributing not only to the community but the municipal tax base as well.

Large scale farm businesses such as those operated by J. Arts, J. Henderson and Cuddy Farms contribute a great deal to the local economy

The overall economic impact of these employees extends well beyond any municipal taxes they pay, as they live and shop in the community. The trickledown effect of these employees is significant.

As well, the farms themselves spent hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on local goods and services, including fuel, feed, equipment, maintenance, etc.

4. Percentage of Taxes:

According to the information I received from B. Dakin, the taxes collected in the rural portion of Strathroy Caradoc account for 26% of the total taxes collected.

We do not feel that spending in the rural parts of the municipality reflects the percentage of taxes paid.

We understand the need to support community needs (Police, Fire, Libraries, parks and recreation, the Gemini, etc.), however some improvements to the roads in the township seem warranted, given the amount of taxes collected, and the increasing traffic on these roads. There is no need for street lights, sidewalks, sewer systems, municipal water etc. in the township; our only infrastructure needs are for roads.

We would really appreciate and support council looking at this again as you plan your budgets for 2020. We would be open to discuss further the impact of the businesses noted on the community, and the real disease risks associated with vectors such as dust

Sincerely

Kevin Bourke

John Flaherty

Joe Arts

John Henderson