



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Sponsor ham repeater for French Lake

Date: November 17, 2020

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

The Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club (YARC) is acquiring to take over the Ham Radio part from French Lake from the now defunct Shelburne Amateur Radio Club, since the site is in actual Yarmouth County. Currently French Lake needs a repeater, as the old one does not belong to the YARC and it isn't working. The YARC has a spare call sign ready to go, all permits they need and the frequency stays the same. The only thing that they have to do would be to update the Province about the repeater change, since they are the site owner.

The offer of using the YARC to purchase a Yaesu DR-2X digital / analog repeater with a LAN unit using a special discount rate from the manufacturer that the Ham Radio folks get is good until Dec. 31st 2020. The cost of this repeater is USD \$900, which converts to roughly CAD \$1215 by the time it gets here. Without the manufacturers incentive the cost would be CAD \$2500 plus shipping and tax from Radioworld in Ontario

The YARC can aid REMO in terms of communications in the Municipality of Argyle should the need arise.

If the Municipality of Argyle would like to sponsor one repeater, the repeater can be ordered through the YARC using a special offer they received. It will take about 4 to 6 weeks to arrive and install takes about most of one day.

If the repeater breaks down, MODA and REMO never hear anything and or see a bill, unless it is not repairable.

Request for CAO's consideration:

Request that this investment be considered by Council. The goal is to bring communications to a level playing field between MODY, ToY and MODA. What REMO and YARC can do for MODY, the same services should be available for MODA. With installing the repeater, YARC can provide communication relief to MODA (we could have used it at this years wild fire to send pictures to the RECC through the digital part of the repeater).

MGA considerations:

Section 65B allows Council to authorize expenditures that are not included in the operating or capital budget

CAO's Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Municipality of Argyle fund this investment even though it is not budgeted for. Giving YARC the repeater, they will be responsible to maintain, install, reasonable repair and provide communications relief if MODA is in need. The YARC is doing this for MODY and ToY for many years and I am sure they would like to be able to do the same for MODA, if they could. (R)EMO Yarmouth always had a very tight relationship, that isn't found that easy within this Province.

Suggested motion:

Move that Council approve the cost of the repeater at a cost of \$1215.00 to provide communication relief when MODA is in need, and that this repeater will be maintained by The Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club (YARC)