



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: J-Class Road Paving Program

Date: September 13, 2023

Our Vision

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Our Identity

Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.

*Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and **livable** communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.*

*Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities for health and for **play**.*

CAO's Recommendation:

That Council read and consider its cost-sharing involvement on a J-Class, or subdivision Road in the Municipality, in accordance with the request letter from the Province of NS

Suggested motion:

Move to deny participation in the 2024 J-Class Road program.

Move that the CAO examines J-Class Road list, assess the condition of these roads, and recommend a road that would benefit from a cost-shared construction.

(Note that even a recommendation to cost share does not guarantee the province will accept that road for its improvement program.

Background:

The council, in the throes of a shared services program assessment, is aware of the J-Class Road cost sharing program. In short, it is a 2M per year Province wide provincial fund, that is doubled by municipal participation annually. The intent is to cost-share in a repair, re-chip or similar improvement of a J-Class Road in our municipality. The road, for absolute clarity, would be owned by the Province of NS both before and after the work as of September 13,

2023. In the provincial information session on paving, we have been told that the estimated cost to pave a kilometer would approach \$375,000, or \$187,500 at 50%.

Our GIS technician has data on all our J-Class roads, along with data on their condition, and both the CAO and the GIS Tech can do a high-level assessment of their condition. It should also be noted that this is to speed up a repair of a road, the province may seek to repair a J-Class Road outside this program if the need existed.

This annual grant was applied for twice, one accepted and one rejected. Birch Drive and Riverside Drive are the only two roads we have applied for cost sharing. The estimated cost (our portion) of fixing Birch Drive was \$50,000. Riverside Drive would be more, as it is longer.

MGA considerations:

Cost sharing on a J-Class Road is an authorized expenditure under Section 65 and endorsed by the Province of NS.

Financial considerations:

This depends on your intentions, and road selection, if any. Financial data on 1 Km pave is estimated. Actual costs would be billed by the province, but we will estimate the investment should council wish us to invest time and money in this initiative.

Pros and Cons of action:

Do nothing.

Pros

- Confirms a municipal position that really these shouldn't be in our responsibility as municipalities, even if we don't own them in the end, it does encourage municipal intervention, and as a Council you may not want this type of service.
- Costs nothing.

Cons

- A road requiring assistance would not necessarily get it.
- This may be the last year that municipalities can contribute in a cost shared environment to repair a road and NOT own it.

Decide to invest.

Pros

- A road may be selected, and the improvement would benefit the residents on or near that road.
- It may increase the assessment value of homes on such a road, dependant on PVSC's work on the matter.

Cons

- Investing in anything is a choice, and with a choice you have to select what not to invest in a limited environment.
- If you invest, you may be taking the province 'off the hook' for its maintenance.