Questions for Mosquito Abatement Proposal

February 16, 2022 - Council Meeting - 7:00 PM Wood Islands Village

On January 18, 2022, the Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB) received a Municipal-Wide Mosquito Abatement Proposal for the 2022/2023 fiscal year and ongoing, by the ***Pinette/Flat River and Point Prim Mosquito Control Groups***. RMB Council Members were asked to look at the proposal and prepare any questions or concerns they might have; and the proponent would answer those questions during the next Council meeting; before consideration of the 2022/2023 RMB Budget and Financial Plan.

The following questions/concerns were raised by RMB, for response from the proponent:

1. The proposal suggests that the Annual Municipal-Wide Program, would be similar to that of the Municipality of Easter Kings - upon review, it was noted that Eastern Kings is approximately ½ the population and ½ the geographic area of that of the Rural Municipality of Belfast.
    a. ***How are the two areas comparable? and***
    b. ***Will $60,000 per year be enough?***

2. Some members were only in favour of the Program if it covers the whole are of the RMB Municipality.
    a. ***Does this Program cover the whole area of the RMB Municipality?***

3. RMB is completing it's fourth year of its four-year term to become *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) compliant by December of 2022. This MGA requirement is to cost RMB approximately $100,000 in additional required revenue over the four-year term. RMB is on track to meet the MGA requirement with its final installment of a $0.03/100 tax increase for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Should RMB go ahead with the Mosquito Proposal as planned for the 2022/2023 fiscal year; RMB would require an additional $0.04/100 increase; making it a $0.07/100 tax increase instead. That would represent an approximate 46% tax increase to the ratepayers of RMB for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.
    a. ***In light of this; is this still the best time to propose such a program? And***
    b. ***Are there other funders available that could reduce the costs to the Municipal rate-payers?***
4. Some concerns were raised about the Program effects on the birds and specifically pollinators in our area; especially when all residents are being encouraged to create bee-friendly, pollinator-friendly environments everywhere.
    a. ***What is the effect of this Program on Pollinators?***