

Council tenders street work



Florenceville-Bristol
Photo: Submitted

Doug Dickinson | Bugle Observer

Florenceville-Bristol is looking to complete repairs and improvements to four town streets next year. Council approved a motion during its regular council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8 to proceed to tender on work to Perkins Way, School Street, McCain Street, and Tapley Road.

CAO Sarah Pacey said cost estimates were received following the September council meeting, estimated at \$113,275, tax included.

She said the plan would be to move forward with tendering this winter and have the work done sometime in 2020.

Perkins Way would be phase one with topographical surveys and looking at storm drains and sewer, while the other streets are at phase two, which is developing the detail for design and construction administration, said Pacey.

Florenceville-Bristol Mayor Karl Curtis said council is looking at the repair costs, but also what engineering would be required to get the work done.

He said in the case of McCain Street, they have to wait to see what happens with a proposed arena expansion before doing any work on the street.

"We really don't want to do a whole lot on that road until we know whether we are or are not going to build an expansion on the arena because we don't want to build a brand new road and then have a whole bunch of construction trucks and heavy equipment travelling in and out of there," said Curtis.

He said for now they will have town engineers look at the roads and do tests.

"(We will) come up with a plan on what is it going to cost, how long do we have," said Curtis. "I think it was in the asset management plan. We are just doing the preliminary work for budgeting purposes, so we say 'OK these are the streets we would like to tackle first.'"

Mayor excited about meetings about future of town schools

Curtis read a letter from Anglophone West School District director of schools Jay Colpitts regarding upcoming meetings about the future of Carleton North region schools.

Curtis said the district education council recently voted to move ahead with a study of the Florenceville Elementary School, Florenceville Middle School and Bristol Elementary School.

"I think we will want to take a very strong position on that," Curtis said to council. "(It) very well could be our opportunity."

Curtis told the Bugle Observer he will be attending some of the meetings.

"They are all old schools," said Curtis. "I would love to see a new K-8 school in our area to service basically all of the kids that come in... have them all basically funnelled into a K-8 school to service all of our communities, [and] they move from that school into the high school when they hit grade 9. To me with declining enrolment, it does not make sense to operate these old buildings."

He said in his opinion a new school would offer benefits such as more children for sports programs and more resources from one school building.

"I think that would be beneficial, plus when people are thinking about moving to a community, one of the things they look at is the education system," said Curtis. "If we have a brand new K-8 School sitting here that would be a draw."

The meetings will take place at Florenceville Middle School on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 10 a.m., Florenceville Elementary on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m., and Bristol Elementary School on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.