MEETING #554

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD VIRTUALLY

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel

Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne

Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,

Andrew Little, Dave Noel

Staff: Darren Finn, Chief Administrative Officer

Nelson Chatman, Director of Public Works and

Development

Keith Antle, Director of Community Services

Steve Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town

Clerk

Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Kara Hutchinson, Deputy Town Clerk

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #553 of December 21st, 2021.

Motion

Coady\Little

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #553 of December 21st, 2021 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,171,950.75.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,171,950.75 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works and Development (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Circular Road Capital Project

The Committee was updated on the Capital Project for water and sewer upgrades on Circular Road. The project limits were identified and the scope of work for this project was discussed. This project is planned to be tendered in April 2022 in hopes for a completion by the end of September.

Chad Clendenning left the meeting at 5:45 P.M.

New Garbage Regulations

The Committee discussed the new Garbage Regulations that came into effect at the beginning of this year. All garbage and recycling must now be in proper storage bins complete with secured lids. The use of blankets or nets are no longer permitted. There have been some concerns brought forward by some residents, but most just needed clarification on what is required. The compliance overall seems to be positive.

The Committee is pleased with the compliance by the residents, but recommends staff issue additional education through the Town's social media platforms to clear up many misconceptions.

66 Brown Avenue - Clean-Up Order

The Committee reviewed the recent inspections of the property at 66 Brown Avenue. There has been concerns regarding the foundation of the dwelling for quite some time and the property also requires clean-up and maintenance on the accessory building. Several attempts were made to have the owner address these issues but were unsuccessful. Currently, the house is deemed unsafe for occupancy.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and an Order be issued to address the violations.

14 Coronation Street – Clean-Up Order

The Committee reviewed the recent inspections of the property at 14 Coronation Street. The property requires clean-up and there are old vehicles that need to be repaired or removed. The owners were contacted and although some clean-up was completed, the issue with the old vehicles were ignored.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and an Order be issued to address the violations.

Grenfell Heights Land – Adjacent to 276

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident to construct a new home adjacent to 276 Grenfell Heights. The resident has requested to purchase Town land for access to a proposed back lot. The new property would be a combination of Town land and land purchased from 276 Grenfell Heights. It would fall under the definition of a Panhandle Lot as per the Development Regulations.

The Committee recommends this be approved providing the proposed development meets all the requirements in the Development Regulations including lot size. Also, the resident must confirm the proposed size of the dwelling prior to the sale.

Business Proposal – 14 Church Road

The Committee reviewed a business proposal to open a neighbourhood café at 14 Church Road. The proposed business is currently not permitted in the existing residential zone and the request is to rezone the lot to Commercial Neighbourhood.

The Committee supports this idea in principle, but recommends staff reach out to the applicant for more information on what will be offered, the proposed size of the café, and the overall parking plan. The Committee also recommends staff start the rezoning process which initially is to reach out to the community for feedback and to bring this information back to a future meeting.

<u>30 Whitmore Street – Clean-Up Order</u>

The Committee reviewed the recent inspections for the property at 30 Whitmore Street. The property requires clean-up of debris which includes appliances, bed frames, tires, etc... The owner was contacted and although some clean-up was completed, the issue with the old vehicles were ignored.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and an Order be issued to address the violations.

Noise Complaint

The Committee reviewed correspondence from a resident on Southcott Drive regarding a regular occurrence of an excessive noise from vehicles around Town. There have been other complaints as well, and it is disturbing the peace at all hours of the night. This matter falls under the Highway Traffic Act and is under the jurisdiction of the RCMP.

The Committee recommends staff follow up with the RCMP to get this issue resolved.

Fireworks

The Committee reviewed correspondence of several complaints on excessive fireworks on New Year's Eve. This year was better due to an excellent education campaign that the Town did, but there were some instances that fell outside of the recommended time window to set off fireworks. Also, some citizens felt that the length of time permitted was too long.

The Committee understands the concerns of the citizens; however, it is hard to enforce. The Committee recommends reaching out to the residents and other concerned organizations for input on moving forward to address. In addition, the Committee recommends the Town continue educating through social media platforms to bring awareness and get more residents to understand the seriousness of this issue.

<u>163 Main Street – Dirty Water Complaint</u>

The Committee discussed the resident concerns at 163 Main Street of frequent discoloured water. Crews have been investigating the issue and have flushed the main line on several occasions. The exact cause has yet to be determined, but staff are continuing to seek solutions.

The Committee recommends staff continue with the investigation and to keep the resident informed on developments. In addition, scheduled flushing should be planned until it is resolved.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Browne

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Deputy Mayor Browne stated that according to a news article he read today it seems like the RCMP have the matter of the noisy cars all hours of the morning at hand. What the individuals driving these cars don't realize is that people's day and well-being depends on a good night's sleep, and by disrupting that they are making these people unwell. So, hats off to the Municipal Enforcement Officers and the RCMP who are getting this matter under control.

Councillor Coady stated that although many people are obeying the new Garbage Regulations, some are not based on reports from Municipal Enforcement Officers and citizens. Just to clarify, both the clear and the blue bags are required to be in bins, and they can be in the same bin. There is no need for separate bins for both clear and blue bags, as long as the lid can fit, they can go in one bin. Our Municipal Enforcement Officers are travelling the routes on garbage collection days and providing information to those not compliant; however, the Regulations came into effect January 3rd and soon there will be tickets issued. More information can be found on the Town website or Facebook page, or you can call a Councillor and they will also provide the information you are looking for.

Councillor Dwyer commented that she too had noticed the noise from cars around Town at inappropriate times and is glad that the RCMP are working on correcting that. All Councillors have received complaints about this matter, which falls under the jurisdiction of the RCMP with the Highway Traffic Act, but our Municipal Enforcement Officer were collaborating with them on the matter.

As stated in the Minutes, we did see improvement with the Fireworks at New Years, and we hope that people adhere to the times put in place going forward. Fireworks impact so many people not just distressing pets, but people with PTSD, children and people with autism, so education is the only way to get the co-operation. Even if we had a By-Law to enforce Fireworks, it is difficult to enforce as once the Fireworks goes off the damage is done. The public are encouraged to educate themselves, but if Council needs to strengthen its By-Laws, then that is the next step.

Mayor Manuel stated the vehicle noise has been an issue for many years. It is not only cars but it is trucks, motorcycles, and modified exhausts that are unnecessarily making excessive noise and disrupting neighbourhoods and citizens. He stated that Council have been involved in writing Government and lobbying them to ask them to put legislation in place to allow Municipal Enforcement to enforce this when it comes to these types of circumstances because in this particular case, it is Provincial jurisdiction. He encourages citizens concerned to write to Government and let them know that you also would like to see that change in legislation.

Deputy Mayor Browne stated it is great to see Clean-Up Orders in the Minutes this evening, as we do receive many complaints about properties that are not well kept, and it is nice to see that we are being aggressive at trying to keep our Town as clean and beautiful as it possibly can be.

Mayor Manuel agrees that it has been frustrating for Council because when it comes to getting these properties cleaned up, it is a very onerous process for Council to make that happen. Staff are diligent in looking for these properties to be cleaned up, and are asked to be swift identifying, notifying and contacting properties owners while abiding by the protocols. But there is a process to go through and sometimes there are appeals launched by the property owner and in some cases, it goes to Court, so from the time that a problem is identified to the time it gets to be cleaned up can vary based on many different scenarios which can be frustrating to Council and to surrounding neighbours.

Public Works and Development (2 of 2)

Prior to the reading of these Minutes Councillor Noel was excused due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The following report was also presented by Councillor Coady.

Toulett Drive Development

The Committee discussed an inquiry by a local business who is looking to purchase land along Toulett Drive from a private developer to erect a new building. The Director of Public Works and Development informed the Committee that the current owner of the land has not provided a suitable development plan to the Department and there has been no Subdivision Agreement signed which is required in the current Development Regulations. The current property has no services, and a previous decision of Council has noted no further development without the Subdivision Agreement in place and all conditions met.

The Committee recommends staff meet with the current land owners to discuss the requirement of moving forward with the development. In addition, the Committee recommends staff also meet with the business owner to ensure they understand the current situation.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that this recommendation and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Noel returned to the meeting at this time.

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Arena Scoreboard Rental Contracts

The Director informed the Committee the Scoreboard Rental Agreements for both arenas has expired.

The Committee recommends the Director put out an RFP to the business community for a short-term Sponsorship Agreement.

Arena Canteen Rental Contracts

The Director informed the Committee Minor Hockey have decided to end the Agreement for them to operate the canteens in both arenas.

The Committee recommends the Director approach Figure Skating to see if they have interest in operating the canteens. If they are not interested, the Committee recommends the Director put out an RFP to the business community to operate both canteens.

Vaccine Passport Staffing for Arenas

The Committee discussed the cost involved to continue staffing for the checking of Vaccine Passports at both arenas.

Though most rentals remain cancelled at the moment, the Committee recommends our staff continue to do all Vaccine Passport checks when rentals continue as per the Provincial COVID-19 Guidelines.

Commemorative Program

The Director presented the Committee with a draft "Commemorative Tree\Bench\Picnic Table Program".

The Committee recommends the Director revise the Program and bring changes back to the Committee for final approval.

Sliding Hill Update

The Director updated the Committee on the progress at the sliding hill construction. Plans are to have the hill complete in the next two (2) weeks and available for use later this winter.

Ski Trail

The Committee discussed concerns from citizens around the grooming of the Ski Trails.

As all requests for grooming from the Ski Club's Executive have been met, the Committee recommends the Director work with the Ski Club Executive to ensure their Executive inform their members of the time grooming will take place.

Bell Let's Talk

The Committee discussed plans for the Mental Health Awareness Campaign "Bell Let's Talk" scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th.

The Committee recommends staff arrange for a flag raising ceremony at the Town Hall as well as several social media posts involving staff and Council.

EXCITE Building

The Director informed the Committee Central Health have several possible needs for rental space in the EXCITE Building.

The Committee recommends the Director invite Central Health to attend the next Committee of the Whole meeting to get more details.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Dwyer

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councillor Little commented that some communities around us are not checking the Vaccine Passports for arenas; however, we are doing it in our arenas here in Grand Falls-Windsor. He thinks it is a good thing that we are doing this because it ensures that all of our user groups in our facilities are compliant with the Public Health Orders. During COVID when things are closed, it is nice to be able to offer our facilities and ensure it is safe. On another note, he was advised today by a resident that the sliding hill looks really good and that it is great to have another option of activity for residents in the winter.

Councillor Hiscock asked if anyone had come forward or shown interest yet to take over the canteen rental at the Stadiums.

The Director of Community Services advised that there is no news to report yet, and he is waiting for a confirmed answer from the Figure Skating group. If they are not interested, he will put something out to other user groups within the community.

Deputy Mayor Browne reminded everyone that tomorrow is "Bell Let's Talk Day" which is an annual Mental Health Awareness Campaign, and our staff will have a flag raising event tomorrow to mark this occasion. He asked that everybody be kind and respectful, not just on Bell Let's Talk Day, but every day.

Councillor Noel asked what the status is on a secondary groomer, and if somebody has been trained by the usual groomer\operator to ensure that we always have somebody trained to groom the trails.

The Director of Community Services confirmed that the extra training has been done with staff so that whenever grooming is required it will be groomed.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

TownSuite Update

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk provided the Committee with an update to the new modules currently being implemented, including a new eServices module, and internal payroll and employee modules.

The Committee is excited to offer residents with more options to view and pay their bills, in addition to helping promote a greener environment.

Municipal Assessment Agency

Correspondence was received from the Municipal Assessment Agency informing Council that the representative for Central Region is Mayor Tony Keats from Dover.

As well, Council was informed that there was a two-way tie for the Urban Region and that Councillor Andrew Little will be on the ballot for a run-off election in January 2022.

The Committee wished Councillor Little the best of luck in the upcoming election.

Labour Report

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk presented a year-end Labour Report for 2021.

Total labour for 2021 was \$2,579,203 (Budget - \$3,846,340) which is 32.9% (\$1,267,138) under Budget at year-end. These savings primarily result from the lock-out. The overall Budget for the Town was \$3,846,340 in 2021.

The Committee looks forward to a return to a normalized Labour Budget in 2022.

Disbursement Report

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk presented a Disbursement Report for the period ending January 18th, 2022 in the amount of \$2,171,950.15.

The Committee further discussed the issue of "conflict of interest" with respect to circumstances where there may be individual disbursement on the report

for payments to companies or organizations that members of Council have affiliation.

The Committee clarified that when such disbursements are included on disbursement reports, the Council would not consider any Councillor in conflict for the purpose of "receiving" the report because the entire report is only a summary of disbursement already issued by Management. If there are individual disbursements that any Councillor wishes to discuss where another Councillor has an affiliation, then it is incumbent on those Councillors to request time from the Chair to discuss such items separately and allow the Chair an opportunity to excuse a Councillor from the meeting who may be in conflict or the issue may be referred to a Committee Meeting and debated in a subsequent public meeting.

Central Health

Ms. Tonya Ryan joined the meeting at 5:30 P.M. and delivered a presentation on the topic of "Integrated Capacity Management (ICM). ICM is a new initiative for all the Provincial Health Authorities where they plan to change the way they organize their staff and public health services into one central control area. Central Health is hopeful to start this Control Centre by April 2022.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to remain engaged with Central Health and assist them where possible.

Taxation Report

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk presented the Taxation Receivables Report for the end of November and the end of December 2021. The current taxation receivables for the end of December 2021 were \$2,103,611. This is an increase of \$152,836 from the same period of the previous year 2020.

The Committee recommends that staff continue their efforts to collect outstanding receivables and thanked the Director and staff for their efforts to-date.

<u>Labour Dispute Expense Report</u>

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk presented a Labour Dispute Expense Report. The report concluded that total direct costs (including contractor expenses) were \$1,119,970 and total direct savings were \$1,902,218. This resulted in a net surplus of \$782,248.

Further, it was reported that the Revised Budget for 2021 showed an increase in operating surplus of \$1,286,962. This higher reported surplus reflects multiple indirect savings in relation to the work stoppage.

The Committee thanked staff for their efforts in compiling the Report, and requested staff develop a press release and report this information to the public.

The Committee also wanted to report that the total net expenses for the Town's negotiation Consultant was \$61,635.

Parking on Queen Street

A concern was raised regarding a parking congestion problem on Queen Street. The issue was referred to the Public Works and Development Committee meeting for future discussion.

Receivable Material

A concern was raised regarding some misunderstanding in the community that a separate garbage can is required for blue bag recycling.

The Committee wishes to remind the public that both blue bag recycling and clear bag garbage can go in one bin together and separate bins are not required. The Town's garbage trucks are split stream; therefore, both types of bags are collected at the same time.

Dog Park

The Committee discussed a citizen concern about the lack of signage that should allow for locating the Dog Park.

The Committee recommends that staff assess the need for additional signage.

Gorge Park

The Committee discussed their concern about the high water levels and icy conditions that may be a safety hazard for the public.

The Committee recommends that staff monitor the Park and close the gate, if necessary.

Bell Let's Talk

Staff discussed plans to acknowledge Bell Let's Talk Day on January 26th, 2022.

The Committee is looking forward to participating in the Campaign.

Sliding Hill

Staff reported that the sliding hill is near completion and may be ready for use in the weeks ahead once signage is installed and weather permitting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Manuel advised we plan to convene a Citizens Committee whose responsibility will be to help Council review Central Health operations, to make sure that we are familiar with them and how that links to the Health Accord and any other areas of importance to the Hospital here in Grand Falls-Windsor. That Committee is set up now and they will be doing a lot of work in helping Council with that and in turn helping the community. Councillor Dwyer will be our Council representative on that Committee, and it will be Chaired by Mr. Cyril Farrell. Mr. Farrell has been very diligent so far, and he thanked him for taking on the task. Mr. Farrell has gathered a good cross section of people in the community who are going to be helping with this effort and making sure we stay on top of anything relevant relating to Central Health to ensure we are protected and in a position to prosper in the future. He advised that the anticipated date of release of the Health Accord was pushed back from January 20th to sometime in February, and asked citizens to stay informed on this subject as will Council, to ensure that we have the ability to be able to articulate arguments when necessary to Government to make sure decisions are not being made that either do not make sense or lack evidence to back up the decision.

Deputy Mayor Browne commented about the issue of parking congestion on Queen Street and repeated complaints from homeowners. Council recognizes that issue is a reoccurring issue for residents that live on the street and has been further concerned about access for emergency vehicles at times when the Legion is hosting events. He commented that Council needs to discuss solutions to this problem, and possibly reconsider making this street a one-way street.

Mayor Manuel agrees that this has been discussed for many years, and that Council have been in close contact with the Legion asking for their co-operation with anything that they can do. They have done improvements to their parking lot over the last few years, we also asked them to notify anyone renting the hall that it is illegal to double park on that street and to avoid doing that. Notwithstanding

past efforts, the Legion continues to attract big crowds, and it does lead to double parking and potential for disaster should an emergency occur. The Town has issued tickets, and has reached out to residents for opinions or ideas, but it still remains a problem. He knows that the residents were not in favour of the one-way street option, but we really need to look at that again because it may be the only option.

Councillor Dwyer expressed that she is very happy to serve on the Central Health Committee for the Health Accord, and all indications are that they are going to be a wonderful group to work with. They are going to be an advisory body to Council, so we will all be involved and hopefully have an opportunity to positively influence the recommendations and implementation plans associated with the Health Accord. She clarified that she mentioned that receivables collected this past year was not as high as 2021, but in December of 2021 receivables were \$721,000 compared to \$521,000 in 2020, so there has been some improvement in that area.

Mayor Manuel informed that we now have the Labour Expense Report released during the work stoppage, and it is important that we are transparent and get the information out to the public because we want the public to be informed on all issues. The invitation is always open to ask questions, and we will do our best to answer them. This marks the end of a difficult time in our history, and we move ahead with respect for each other and with pride in our community.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Browne noted January is Crime Stoppers Month, and the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor did mark that occasion with a flag raising in front of the Town Hall. There are only two (2) Crime Stoppers Committees on the island and one of those is in the Exploits Valley, so he would like to acknowledge the work of the members of that Board for keeping that Crime Stoppers Committee going. He had a call a few days ago from an upset resident because her mother was being transferred from the hospital to a long-term care facility out- of-town. This is very unfortunate because this lady is not used to leaving Town at all and in her most important days she is being relocated. The new long-term care facility is still having mechanical issues that is delaying the opening, but it is supposed to be rectified in the coming days and then they can begin the process of opening and

hopefully end the days where local residents are having to be relocated out-of-town to receive Level 3 healthcare.

Mayor Manuel noted the Provincial Government oversees healthcare, and this was a Provincial Government Project, and Council had nothing to do with the facility other than lobbying them to get the extra beds here. It is very disappointing to see that it still has not opened and that unfortunately residents are being relocated out-of-town is not uncommon. We hope that all those issues can be resolved very soon, and we can see sixty (60) of those beds used resulting in sixty (60) less people having to experience what that poor lady is experiencing and so many others.

Councillor Noel stated it was really nice to see majority of people abiding by the new Regulations, but there are still some people that are not abiding, and we have to have further discussions on actions or remedies for those people. He stated that he had an interesting conversation with a former student that has recently taken on some coaching responsibilities, and he mentioned that he had noticed that in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium there is very little recognition of former residents of Grand Falls-Windsor that were professional hockey players. He recommended that Council look at this and discuss in future meetings.

Mayor Manuel noted we have made some progress in the recognition of sports accomplishments and have much displayed in the Multipurpose Room at the Stadium, which he is sure people will enjoy once COVID restrictions are out of the way. But we are still lacking in some areas, but it is only a matter of gathering up some information and gathering some memorabilia from the families. He invited citizens to connect with Council if they have information or memorabilia to contribute.

Councillor Hiscock stated before Christmas we had a meeting with the Friendly 50+ Club, which was well attended, and we discussed their concerns. COVID has set them back a little because they have not been able to rent their facility, so we are hoping that once we get back to some normalcy, we can help the seniors in any way that we can. The Fire Department have thirty-five (35) members, and have recruited nine (9) new volunteers, and they are trying to do social distanced training for them. The new pumper that had a delayed delivery due to COVID will be here in the next couple of weeks, and after training is provided will be up and running in early March. Lastly, he mentioned that this year so far, we have not had a lot of snow, but in February\March we usually get more snow, so he asked that residents that have a fire hydrant on their property to keep it cleared. These very well-trained firemen do not need any delays for clearing our fire hydrants when in an emergency situation.

Mayor Manuel agreed that our Fire Department is second to none, and it is great to hear that there are nine (9) new recruits. It has never been an issue recruiting for the Fire Department because they are such a professional group, and we are very fortunate for that. Clearing a fire hydrant out is for the safety of yourself and your neighbours, and it will make a difference when it comes to fire calls.

Councillor Little noted it has been a somewhat emotional week as students returned to school, albeit it is with some uncertainty, but a huge first step to returning to normal. In saying that, he wanted to remind citizens to be cognizant of more young people on the roads and at bus stops, and to please slowdown in school zones. Also, he wanted to recognize the great work from Town staff during our recent snowstorm, we have received a lot of correspondence from residents complimenting the work of our Town staff and from the Management of staff which is great to hear.

Mayor Manuel mentioned that anybody who has lived in other areas may appreciate it more, but our Town staff do a fantastic job clearing our streets. It is a difficult job, sometimes a thankless job and certainly not an easy job, but they do a fantastic job, and he hears compliments all the time from residents. This is a direct reflection of the professionalism that we have of staff and also at a Management level as well.

Councillor Dwyer stated that we recently had a water line break that was repaired and our Director of Public Works and Development sent out accolades of the great work that staff did in repairing that issue. "Bell Let's Talk Day" is tomorrow and we will have a flag raising at the Town Hall, Bell will donate five (\$0.05) for every text, call, tweet, Tik Tok video, Facebook frame or snapchat link, so hopefully everyone gets involved and they can raise a lot of money that goes towards research of a very important issue and end the stigma.

Mayor Manuel stated "Bell Let's Talk Day" is a very important day that has grown in momentum over the years, and it does not take much to send a text or a tweet, so please do that more often tomorrow to help out the Mental Health Associations across Canada.

Motion

Little\Hiscock

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of February 15th, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.	
Barry Manuel Mayor	Darren Finn Chief Administrative Officer