

MEETING #505

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., MARCH 5TH, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
Councillors: Rod Bennett, Amy Coady-Davis, Shawn Feener,
Mark Whiffen
Staff: J. Saunders, Town Manager\Clerk
N. Chatman, Director of Engineering and Works
K. Antle, Director of Parks and Recreation
S. Gosse, Director of Finance and HR
G. Hennessey, Economic Development Officer

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #504 of Tuesday, February 12th, 2019.

Motion

Browne\Bennett

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #504 of Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Councillor Coady-Davis advised that there was a comment from Minister Graham Letto today that the ban on single use plastic bags will go to public consultation. Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador also issued a statement today objecting to the delay. March 11th, 2019 will be another day of action to ban single use plastic bags and asked residents to reach out to Government to object to the delay.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Coady-Davis presented the disbursement report in the amount of \$815,514.76.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Bennett

Be it resolved that the disbursement report in the amount of \$815,514.76 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was presented from Councillor Darren Finn requesting a temporary leave of absence from Council until April 26th, 2019.

Motion

Browne\Feener

Be it resolved that this correspondence be accepted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Exploits Regional Water Supply

The following report was presented by Councillor Bennett.

Adoption of Minutes from February 7th, 2018

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on February 7th, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

Motion

Monnie Burt\Dennis Woolridge

Be it resolved that the Minutes from the February 7th, 2018 meeting be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

2019 Operating Budget

The 2019 Operating Budget was presented and discussed. There is a 4.9% increase over 2018. This increase is due to incremental increased in HR costs, chemicals and plant maintenance and equipment.

Motion

Kirk McDonald\Rod Bennett

Be it resolved that the 2019 Operating Budget be approved as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Big Data Big Ideas

This expression of interest is not necessarily a Water Supply issue, but it concerns the member's communities as a region. This is an offer from Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador for us to participate with them, ACOA and the Regional Analytics Lab at Memorial University to provide regional groups of municipalities with an opportunity to create a detailed regional profile. It will include comprehensive demographic data as well as economic data. In particular, the flow of goods and services within each municipality, as well as between municipalities within their region and beyond.

The consensus of the Committee is to do the project through the Exploits Regional Water Supply Committee and split the costs as per the agreement.

Mini Home Development

Staff presented information on a possible mini home development off the road to the Water Treatment Plant. Staff informed Crown Lands that this access is not maintained and any development in this area is at the developers risk for services.

Dam Repairs

Funding for repairs to the dam at Northern Arm Pond was provided by Municipal Affairs and Environment through Gas Tax Funding. Total amount provided was \$536, 577. An RFP for Engineering Services was recently called and DMG from Gander were the preferred Consultant. The design work is expected to be completed this spring and repair work to be completed by fall of 2019.

Motion

Rod Bennett\Dennis Woolridge

Be it resolved that the Dam Repairs be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Drinking Water Inspection Report

The Committee reviewed the Inspection Report from Municipal Affairs and Environment. Our rating increased from 81.8% in 2013-2014 to 94.4% in 2018-2019. The Committee was very pleased with these results. The Report identified several issues that need to be addressed and staff will work to resolve these issues.

Finished Water Volume

Finished water volumes from the Water Treatment Plant have decreased by approximately fourteen percent (14%) since 2016. This is significant and is due to leak repair and conservation measures.

Operator's Report

Wayne Tait gave a report on activities at the Plant.

1. Lab upgrade complete.
2. Air relief valve purchased in 2018 and to be installed in 2019.
3. Director of Engineering and Works investigating a "Smart Ball" to be placed in the main transmission line to collect data.
4. Electrical room upgrading complete. This will minimize moisture damage to equipment.
5. Brush along the berm at dam site completed last fall.
6. Had a frazzle ice event at the dam on November 16th, 2018. Municipal Affairs and Environment investigating possible ways to mitigate.
7. One operator has Class 4 certification and two (2) others will write the exam in March 2019.
8. Floor tile in the foyer at the Plant needs to be replaced. This cost is included in the 2019 Budget.
9. OH & S from St. John's visited the Plant recently. They want a strobe light installed on the outside of the building connected to the chlorine alarm system in the Plant.

Motion

Rod Bennett\Dennis Woolridge

Be it resolved that these Minutes would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Bennett\Browne

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the Exploits Regional Water Supply Committee be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Parks, Recreation and Special Events

The following report was presented by Councillor Bennett.

Miss Teen Grand Falls-Windsor Pageant

The Director presented the Committee with a request from the Miss Teen Grand Falls-Windsor Pageant Committee to support the Pageant again this year. This year their Committee would like to add an intermediate category and for the Town to sponsor the winner to attend the Provincial Competition. They are also requesting free rental of the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium to host the competitions.

The Committee recommends to deny this request as proposed, but for the Director to work with their Committee to find a better location for the event and for their Committee to provide a budget for the event outlining the amount of support needed from Council.

Pentecostal Church Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Pentecostal Church requesting a co-sponsorship during their Easter Week Family Fun Event scheduled from March 31st – April 6th to utilize the Town's bouncy castles.

The Committee recommends approval of this request provided the event is open to all the community, Town staff are responsible for the set up and take down and their Committee confirm there are no bouncy castles available for rent locally.

Parks and Recreation Depot Inspection Report

The Committee reviewed an Inspection Report completed by the Town's Building Inspector for the washrooms at the Parks and Recreation Depot.

The Committee recommends staff make the necessary repairs to ensure the washrooms are up to code and to look at a complete renovation to the washrooms in next year's Capital Program.

Craft Beer Festival

The Committee discussed a proposal from a promoter to host a Craft Beer Festival in Grand Falls-Windsor this summer.

The Committee recommends approval of this event, but for the Director to respond to the promoter to work out the details on the expenses and staffing requirements.

Director's Report

The Director presented the Committee with a report of events and programs the Parks and Recreation Department have completed over the last few weeks as well as programs and events they are working on for the next couple of months.

The Committee commended the Department on the great work being completed and recommends keeping Council updated on the upcoming programs and events.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Bennett\Browne

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

Public Works and Planning

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Winter Weather Events

The Committee reviewed the operations surrounding the rainfall event on January 21st, 2019. This included number of staff working, preparation and documentation of areas checked and procedures leading up to and during the event.

The Committee was pleased with the response and recommends the Public Works Department continue to monitor weather forecasts and prepare accordingly. The Committee also recommends the residents of Grand Falls-Windsor notify the Public Works Department of any areas they consider critical to check during extreme weather events.

Snow Clearing

The Committee discussed snow clearing efforts over the winter and noted that staff has done a tremendous job. The Committee also reviewed correspondence from a resident who noted that Grenfell Estates was not identified as a priority area under the current policy during snow storms.

The Director of Engineering and Works acknowledged that this area was not identified in the current policy, but generally a snow plow would loop around McHugh Street when clearing Grenfell Heights. The Committee recommends McHugh Street be added to the policy as a priority street for snow storm events and ensure the Public Works Department is aware of the change.

Rezoning Request – 21 Sutherland Drive

The Committee reviewed the results of a rezoning request for 21 Sutherland Drive to be rezoned from Single Unit Urban Residential (RS-3) to Two Unit Urban Residential (RT). This is to enable development of a two (2) unit residence. The Engineering Department received correspondence from various residents who had concerns. In some instances, it seemed that the proposal was not fully understood.

The Committee recommends staff reach out to those residents with concerns to ensure they fully understand the proposal. If they are satisfied then the Committee recommends moving forward with the rezoning.

Rezoning Request – 1C Valley Road

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident to reconsider the proposed boundary to rezone 1C Valley Road from Recreation and Open Space (ROS) to Single Unit Small Lot Residential (RS-2). This is to accommodate plans for a new dwelling on this property.

After consideration, the Committee recommends upholding the previous decision on the limits for rezoning. However, some minor alternations may be possible as a compromise. The Committee also recommends staff discuss this further with the applicant and bring back for review.

Home Based Business Request – Deals on Wheels

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident who would like to set up a home based business for car sales. The request is for administrative work only for the business.

The Committee recommends staff obtain additional information on the full operation of this business and bring it back to the Committee for further discussion.

Community Garbage Containers

The Committee discussed the condition of the community garbage containers around Town. Some have been tampered with while others were not dumped regularly.

The Committee recommends that Public Works staff ensure all areas are dumped on a regular basis. Some areas may need more frequency than others. Also, any damaged containers should be fixed immediately.

Snow Blower Attachment

The Committee discussed a request from the Director of Engineering and Works to purchase two (2) snow blower attachments for the Town's trackless machines. These units are used frequently to clear sidewalks and to widen all snow banks. The condition of two (2) of the three (3) units in the Town's inventory are in very poor condition.

The Committee recommends a tender be issued for two (2) snow blower attachments. The Committee also recommends bringing this matter to the Finance and Administration Committee once tenders are closed.

Nalcor Signage

The Committee reviewed a request from Nalcor to erect additional signage and fencing along the Exploits River with respect to dam safety.

The Committee recommends staff meet with Nalcor for further discussion before making a final decision as there are concerns on some locations identified.

Lightship Demonstration (6:15 P.M.)

The Committee attended a presentation by Duncan Forbes with Lightship via the web. Mr. Forbes discussed how their product could assist the Town in their field operations, especially in the Public Works Department.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Coady-Davis

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

Deputy Mayor Browne noted that the snow blower attachments have caused some areas of concern. The tenders closed today and are within Budget. It will be discussed at the next Finance and Administration meeting.

Mayor Manuel advised that we have met with Nalcor in the past with respect to the Canadian Dam Association Guidelines and the impact on our area. We have requested that Nalcor minimize fencing where possible. This year only signage will be installed to outline hazardous areas. They will continue dialogue with the Town. We are always at the mercy of our equipment when completing snow clearing operations. We ask residents to have patience when these events are ongoing. Our operators do a great job and most residents are appreciative of the efforts.

Salmon Festival

The following report was presented by Councillor Feener.

Public Consultations Meeting

The Director of Parks and Recreation presented the Committee with a condensed spreadsheet of all the ideas from the Salmon Festival Public Consultation meeting which took place on January 24th.

The Committee noted the many ideas and recommends including many of these great ideas into this year's Festival.

Proposed Festival Schedule Scenarios

The Director of Parks and Recreation presented the Committee with possible scenarios for the Festival Schedule this year. All of these ideas were discussed in detail.

The Committee recommends staff continue to work on the schedule and to update the Committee at the next Salmon Festival meeting.

Festival Budget

The Committee recommends to look at the Budget for this year's Festival once the schedule outline is approved.

Saturday Concert Entertainment Ideas

The Committee discussed possible entertainment for all the events during this year's Festival.

The Committee recommends the Director of Parks and Recreation arrange a meeting with MusicNL to see if they can be of assistance with entertainment for this year's Festival.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Feener\Bennett

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

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that the Minutes of the Public Consultation meeting will be finalized and posted on our social media sites.

Mayor Manuel noted many of the ideas raised at the Consultation will be incorporated in this year's Festival. All points will be considered going forward. We are one hundred percent (100%) open to any promoter renting our field to host a concert. Rates for rental will vary depending on the size of the concert. The Town cannot risk municipal funds to host a major concert.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Correspondence – Social Change Network

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Social Change Network requesting a member from Council to sit on their Board.

The Committee recommends Councillor Whiffen attend their meetings on behalf of Council.

Correspondence – NL Public Libraries

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Library Board and recommends Councillor Coady-Davis would represent Council at their meetings.

Correspondence – Environment Resources Management Association

The Committee discussed correspondence from Environment Resources Management Association and request staff follow up for additional information.

Correspondence – Central Health

The Committee discussed correspondence from Mr. Sturge, Board Chair for Central Health requesting a nomination for a member of Council to be a member of the Community Advisory Committee.

The Committee recommends Deputy Mayor Browne be nominated.

Heritage Society Agreement

The Heritage Society has moved into their new building on Scott Avenue.

The Committee recommends that the Agreement between the Heritage Society and the Town be drafted and reviewed at the next Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

Grand Falls House Foundation – Business Plan

The Committee discussed the draft Business Plan and recommends a meeting with representatives of the Foundation be arranged to discuss further.

Exploits Valley Airstrip

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Mr. Wally Pennell, President of the Canadian Owners & Pilots Association FLT 195 looking for a letter of support to acquire funding for relocating a section of fencing at the airstrip.

The Committee recommends the letter of support be provided to Mr. Pennell.

The Committee also discussed the request for Grand Falls-Windsor, Bishop's Falls and Botwood to explore the feasibility of forming an Exploits Valley Airport Steering Committee. This Committee will develop a business plan to support the growth of the airstrip and how it can be used to support economic growth in this region.

The Committee also recommends Council support the idea and meet with other Mayors in the area to discuss.

School Zone Concerns – Forest Park Primary and Sprucewood Academy Schools, Price's Avenue

Staff and School Council representatives from Forest Park Primary and Sprucewood Academy Schools attending the meeting at 7:00 P.M. to raise concerns they have with busing, traffic volume and speed that impact children at their schools. The number of students attending these schools have increased from 190 a few years ago to 750 with the opening of Forest Park Primary. A significant number of students live close to the school, but there is an arterial road that impacts the safe movement of these students from their home to the schools. There were discussions on crosswalks, speed reduction, street signs, street lighting, police monitoring, pedestrian underpass, as well as asking Government to address busing issues within the 1.6 KM that are impacted by other important factors such as arterial routes. Most corrective measures require a Capital financial commitment with no guarantee they will satisfy all safety concerns.

The group was excused at 7:40 P.M.

The Committee recommends staff address street lighting with NL Power, look at the design requirements for a crosswalk and write a letter to Minister Hawkins expressing the need to have special requirements such as having to cross an arterial road, as a condition to have students bused to school.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Whiffen

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

Councillor Coady-Davis noted that the 1.6 KM busing issue impacts many students within the Province. We need to have Government to reconsider this 1.6 KM guideline to ensure the safety of children attending schools. Courtesy stops also cause issues for children in some areas.

Councillor Whiffen advised that the Exploits Valley Airstrip meeting was well attended. They are attempting to have Councils in the area to assist them with advancing their plan. They have a private investor willing to erect a hangar, but fencing must be relocated. The group said the strip is used regularly and there is potential to expand its use for tourism and economic growth. There is a need for a business plan to ensure the use of the airstrip is maximized.

Mayor Manuel expressed congratulations to the Heritage Society for moving into their new home at the former Mill Training Centre. They are doing some minor renovations and hope to be open early summer to display the many artifacts in their possession.

Finance and Administration

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady-Davis.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week seven (7). Total labour was \$440,206. This was \$15,091 (3.5%) over budget.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs.

Cash Collections

The Committee reviewed taxation collection for January 31st, 2019. Total taxation receivable as of that date was \$17,639,890 (\$15,428,471 – 2018) an increase of \$2,211,418 (14.33%) from the previous year.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to pursue all outstanding taxes.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the disbursement report in the amount of \$815,514.76 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Exploits Regional Services Board

The Committee reviewed the chemical costs for the end of December 31st, 2018. Total costs year-to-date for chemicals is \$236,330 – an increase of \$30,357 over last year. This amount is in line with the annual Budget.

Central Newfoundland Kiwanis Music Festival

The Committee reviewed the Central Newfoundland Kiwanis Music Festival budget summary.

The Committee recommends that this be accepted.

Funding Requests

The Committee reviewed a request from Botwood Collegiate to sponsor a table at this year's graduation celebrations.

The Committee recommends that this be denied.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Exploits Valley High School to support the "Rock of Ages – High School Edition" being held at the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Finance and Administration contact the school for details.

The Committee reviewed a request from Ducks Unlimited Canada to support the 27th Dinner\Fundraiser in the Exploits Valley.

The Committee recommends that two (2) tickets be purchased for representatives of the Town to attend the event being held at the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Grand Falls-Windsor Community Kitchen for sponsorship.

The Committee recommends that \$1,800 be approved.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Feener

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

Councillor Coady-Davis advised there was a detailed discussion on the cash collections and there will be more analysis of the amounts owing. The Community Kitchen Grant was approved within the 2019 Operating Budget.

Mayor Manuel advised that the Community Kitchen has been relocated to the Salvation Army on Circular Road. Transportation will be provided to these who required it.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady-Davis:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2019-273

GAS TAX AGREEMENT 2019-2024

WHEREAS: the funding for the Federal\Provincial Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund for 2019-2024 has been finalized;

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has reviewed the allocations for the Amendment based on the 2016 census population data;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Council approves the Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Agreement 2019-2024.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Bennett

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2019-273 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Feener expressed congratulations to the Newfoundland and Labrador Special Olympics for such great events held over the past couple week-ends. He also thanked Chairperson Deputy Mayor Browne and the many volunteers for their commitment in hosting the events.

Councillor Whiffen advised that he did attend some of the Special Olympics over the past two (2) week-ends and expressed congratulations to the athletes and organizers.

Deputy Mayor Browne expressed congratulations to the Exploits Blades on a successful season. He reminded residents of the two (2) Cataract games this week-end. He also noted that the 2019 TrailNet Poker Run will take place on Saturday, March 16th. He expressed congratulations to the volunteers for supporting the Special Olympics. It was a great community event. The Committee has expressed an interest in returning again in four (4) years.

Councillor Coady-Davis noted that International Women's Day is this Friday, March 8th. She advised that the "Rock of Ages" Musical will take place on May 3rd, 4th and 5th. Tickets are now on sale at the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts. She noted that potholes are becoming more and more every day. She thanked all organizers and volunteers for the Special Olympics, but a special thank you to all the athletes who showed great sportsmanship. She also advised that she attended the recent 20th Annual Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce. She thanked all winners and inductees for the Business Awards. The guest speaker for the evening was Ms. Sherry Dunsworth, Senior Vice President of Marathon Gold and it was great news for the region.

Councillor Bennett noted that the Special Olympics was a great event and he stated that he attended several events. He expressed thanks to Deputy Mayor Browne for Chairing the event, all the volunteers and the Organizing Committee.

Mayor Manuel thanked the great Committee who organized the Special Olympics. Deputy Mayor Browne did a great job and many hours were spent at organizing this event. There was great volunteer commitment. The Parks and Recreation staff did a great job in preparing the venues. He thanked Rogers for the coverage of the Olympics. He also noted that the Mid Winter Bivver and Winterlude were held on February 15th to 18th. All events were perfect and all who participated had a great experience. Mayor Manuel circulated a blog from Jill McCarthy "Some Shocking Good". He thanked all who contributed to the Food Bank Drive. He congratulated Darlene Rideout on her recent retirement. He advised that the Marathon Gold announcement is very positive news for the Central Newfoundland Region. They are hoping to open the mine in four (4) years

and start-up costs are approximately four (4) million dollars. There will be four hundred (400) full-time jobs when the mine is operational. The Town is also actively pursuing companies to set up in Grand Falls-Windsor to support the aquaculture industry on the south coast. The industry is expected to have significant growth over the next five (5) years. There was a story in the media today that the Central Newfoundland Waste Management turned away a truckload of recyclables from Western Newfoundland Waste Management. This was disappointing, but re-enforces the need for Government to review the Waste Management Strategy. The dispute is related to the tipping fee being charged at Central Newfoundland Waste Management. The tipping fee was a cost recovery, but Western Newfoundland Waste Management refuses to pay the costs. Central Newfoundland Waste Management cannot subsidize Western Newfoundland Waste Management costs to use the facility at Norris Arm.

Motion

Browne\Whiffen

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, March 26th, 2019. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

J. Saunders
Town Manager\Clerk