

MEETING #560

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 31ST, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
 Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
 Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
 Dave Noel
 Staff: Keith, Antle, Director of Community Services
 Nelson Chatman, Director of Public Works and
 Development
 Steve Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
 Clerk
 Kara Hutchinson, Deputy Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed Proclamations for:- Early Childhood Educator’s Week – May 29th to June 4th; World Ocean Day – June 8th, 2022 and Recreation Month.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and acknowledged the absence of Councillor Little who sends his regrets, but had other commitments this evening. He then asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #559 of May 10th, 2022.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #559 of May 10th, 2022 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,333,556.81.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,333,556.81 would be received as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works and Development (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Property Damage – 70 Lincoln Road

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the resident of 70 Lincoln Road. The resident had several concerns including property damage from snow clearing equipment and ATV close to their driveway.

The Committee recommends staff contact the resident to discuss their concerns and repair the property damage as per policy. The concern with the ATV use could be rectified once the Town gains access to the Mill land and Council continues to negotiate with the Provincial Government to make this happen.

Lind Avenue – Speed Bump

The Committee reviewed correspondence from a resident requesting additional measures be put in place on Lind Avenue near the playground including additional signage and installation of a speed bump.

The Committee recommends staff review all signage around the playground to ensure all required signage is there and are highly visible, and to take appropriate action as required. The Committee also recommends not to install a speed bump and for the Municipal Police to monitor traffic in this area moving forward.

Grenfell Heights Extension

The Committee received another correspondence from a resident who has been advocating for road improvements on Grenfell Heights Extension. As this road is under the jurisdiction of Transportation and Infrastructure, they have the responsibility to address road upgrades, but consider this to be a low priority roadway. Council has been constantly lobbying Government to fund the upgrades and the Town would take ownership and then complete any future maintenance of this section of roadway.

The Committee recommends staff follow up again with Transportation and Infrastructure to try and move this forward. The Committee would like a commitment from the Government on providing some funding for this area.

Safety Boat Signs

The Committee discussed an offer from MADD Canada to have a safe boating sign installed at the boat launch area of Gorge Park. MADD Canada will supply the sign to the Town at no cost. The purpose of this sign is to encourage the boating community to prevent impaired boating. The signs feature the message *“Report Impaired Boating - Call 911”*.

The Committee recommends staff request a sign and to install it at the boat launch in Gorge Park.

Northcliffe Street Development

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the developer of Harmsworth Subdivision that they are considering moving to the next phase of development of Northcliffe Street due to the high demand of land inquiries. This section was identified in their original Development Plan.

The Committee is excited for the new development of additional lots and recommends staff work with the developer to ensure all aspects of the Development Regulations are met.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Noel

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 he has recently had the chance to drive around the Lind Avenue area, and agrees with the resident that traffic does tend to drive fast in that area. He asked the Director of Public Works and Development to get the Municipal Police Department to monitor the area and prepare a report before the next Public Works and Development Committee meeting to get their opinion on what they think of the signage and traffic and suggest what improvement can be made.

Mayor Manuel expressed that the Grenfell Heights topic is a frustrating one for many years for Council as well as for the residents in the area. He advised that we had a commitment from Government a few years ago that this was going to be fixed and upgraded to a condition where the Town would then consider it part of its inventory and maintain it. It did not happen, but we continue to lobby and even suggested to them last year that maybe they could provide some funding towards the cost of repair and the Town would complete the work needed. Our estimate to bring the road up to standard was \$800,000, of which they only committed to give us \$200,000. This is a Provincially owned road, but it has been going on for many years now so it may be time for Council to look at taking ownership of that road and try to do some work on it.

Public Works and Development (2 of 2)

The following report was also presented by Councillor Coady.

Hill Street Development

The owner of a property on Hill Street is seeking approval to rezone the area to facilitate the construction of a 4-unit senior complex.

The Committee recommends staff begin the rezoning process; however, staff must ensure the proposed building will meet all the requirements for the lot. In addition, the proposed building must match the proposal submitted for this meeting.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Browne

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

Councillor Coady explained the second set of Minutes was because Councillor Little was perceived to be in conflict of interest for that topic of the Agenda, therefore he did not attend that section of the meeting. He is not present at this Council meeting, therefore we can proceed.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2022-345

REVISED SCHEDULE "A"

MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Multi-Year Capital Works Program;

WHEREAS: all projects and funding allocation under these Agreements must be approved through the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has available funding remaining in the Multi-Year Capital Works Program and has to re-profile funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Schedule "A" be revised and funding be re-profiled as per attached Revised Schedule "A".

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-345 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week nineteen (19). Total labour was \$1,118,802. This was \$60,613 (5.1%) under budget.

The Committee is pleased with the results of the labour budget and recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs moving forward.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,333,556.81 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivable Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the taxation receivable analysis for April 2022. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivable as of April 30th, 2022 was \$6,914,773 (\$7,504,040 – 2021) a decrease of \$589,267 (7.85%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in April 2022 was \$1,742,977.

The Committee is pleased with the April results and recommends that staff remain vigilant in collecting all outstanding balances. Residents and businesses are reminded that all outstanding taxes were due as of March 31st, 2022, to make a payment or arrange a payment plan to please call the Town Hall at 489-0403 or 489-0404.

Taxi Request

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Diamond Taxi looking for approval to change their fleet colour until August 2022.

The Committee recommends approval subject to the new colour not conflicting with other taxi companies existing fleet colours.

Funding Requests

The Committee reviewed a request from the Make a Wish Foundation for a donation to the Run the Rock Campaign.

The Committee recommends approval of a donation of \$250.

The Committee reviewed a request for the release of the annual Another Newfoundland Drama Company Grant. The Committee also reviewed the latest financial information for the AND Co. and received an update from staff regarding the upcoming season and plans for capital upgrades.

The Committee recommends staff work with the AND Co. Executive to develop a plan for purchases, and to delay any decision regarding the Grant until September after the summer season finishes.

Truck Replacement

Staff requested approval to replace the truck that was involved in the accident on the Trans Canada Highway in 2021. This was included as a request during budget discussions; however the amount was unknown as we were still waiting on insurance proceeds. The Director of Public Works and Development noted that this vehicle is available through CANOE from a vendor in St. John's and can be purchased through the Enterprise Fleet Management Program. This vehicle is very important to summer operations.

The Committee recommends proceeding with the replacement of this truck.

HR Update

The Director of Corporate Services provided an update on all ongoing and completed job competitions.

The Committee is pleased with the recruiting effort so far in 2022 and looks forward to these positions being filled in the coming weeks.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Hiscock

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

Councillor Hiscock asked the Director of Public Works and Development if the truck had been purchased for the Truck Replacement of the vehicle involved in the accident in 2021.

The Director of Public Works and Development advised that the purchase should be finalized in the coming days and they hope to have the truck either late this week or early next week.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Multi-Year Capital Works – Circular Road

The Committee reviewed a proposal for the Department of Public Works and Development to include a section of Circular Road for water and sewer upgrades. This section was not approved in the Federally Funded Project and staff are asking for \$1.543 million to be allocated in the Multi-Year Capital Works Funding. These funds are currently unallocated funds in the Agreement and no new funding is requested.

The Committee recommends this proposed project and funding allocation be approved and staff prepare the necessary Resolution for the next public Council meeting. This project will address a section of water line that has had multiple breaks in recent years.

Kitchen Party Theatre Festival

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Kitchen Party Theatre Festival requesting a contribution from the Town to assist with the production of two (2) main stage shows at the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts.

The Committee recommends that the Town support the Festival as it did in previous years with a \$15,000 donation.

Marathon Gold

The Committee welcomed representatives from Marathon Gold to the meeting at 6:00 P.M. which included Mr. Matthew Manson, President, CEO and Director; Mr. Tim Williams, Chief Operating Officer; and Ms. Mary Hatherly, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement. The representatives provided the

Committee with an update on the project and the proposed schedule of construction.

The Committee expressed their appreciation to the representatives of Marathon Gold to meet with the Committee. In addition, the Committee thanked them for their continued community support and engagement as the project progresses.

The Committee is very excited about the positive impact this mining operation will have on the Town and surrounding area.

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 6-0.

Councillor Dwyer acknowledged that the Town made a significant donation to the Kitchen Party Festival, and was pleased to advise that sixty-two percent (62%) of the employed actors in the show are from Grand Falls-Windsor. Last year they put off a tremendous show, and this year they are going to expand on what they have been doing. One of the shows “Girls From Away” is an excellent performance and she encourages anyone that may have family coming home and want to do something that is an exceptional opportunity, also they have another show called the “Cod Father” which pays tribute to Gordon Pinsent as this year is the 50th Anniversary of “The Rowdyman”. She advised that tickets for both performances will be available soon on the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts website.

Mayor Manuel advised that Bernadine Stapleton and Nicole Smith are partners in the NL Kitchen Party Theatre group, and they came to the Town a few years ago wanting the Town to partner in what they saw as something that could grow into a regular Festival here in Grand Falls-Windsor for many years to come. He would prefer to say a \$15,000 investment rather than donation, because it employs people from Grand Falls-Windsor and it encourages the arts for all ages, its entertainment for people in the area and is great for tourism giving another reason to visit Grand Falls-Windsor. He also encouraged people to take in one of these shows, as it is a great opportunity for people to get out and enjoy some great entertainment.

Deputy Mayor Browne asked a question to the Director of Public Works and Development regarding the Multi-Year Capital Works of \$1.543 million to include

Circular Road Water and Sewer Upgrades, and when we anticipate that project will go ahead.

The Director of Public Works and Development advised that the project is currently under design and we are hoping to tender mid-June for July or August construction start.

Mayor Manuel advised that when it comes to these projects there are so many hurdles to jump through before getting to the construction stage, but this project is long overdue so hopefully it will get going as soon as possible for the residents in that area.

Councillor Dwyer advised that Marathon Gold have a Community Information Session next Monday at the Royal Canadian Legion from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M., where they will be talking about the project, about HR recruitment, about procurement and contracting. This session is open to everyone, and she encourages those interested to attend.

Mayor Manuel added that Marathon Gold have also had several engagements with the business community, to make sure local businesses are aware of the opportunities that exist with the mining industry and whether they want to expand their current business or maybe look at something new. There are some huge benefits that we are going to see in this region from this project, and it is good to see that we are now less than a year away from production.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Dwyer announced that June 19th- 25th is the “Hike for Hospice” fundraiser of which Marathon Gold will also be presenting a sponsorship. All funds raised will go towards the construction of the Hospice on St. Catherine Street which is currently underway. Please visit the Lionel Kelland Hospice Facebook page for more information. This past Saturday there was an event at the Grand Falls Golf Club with physicians and physician residence in the area and she wanted to thank our Leisure Services Officer for arranging the social aspect of that night. She received great feedback, and said it was nice to be able to speak to some physicians and their spouses to find out what it is that makes them interested in coming to Grand Falls-Windsor and what we can do as a community to bring them here and keep them here. The Health Accord Coalition Committee are

welcoming Dr. Sutherland to the team, so we are looking forward to working with him and hearing his perspective and input on the situation. Lastly, we are asking everyone to become involved in “The Most Active Community” again this year, as last year we won the most active community in the Province. This year we would like to go bigger and become the most active community in the country, so hopefully we can get some more people to sign up for that with information on our Facebook page.

Mayor Manuel advised there are three (3) gentlemen taking part in the “Hike for Hospice”, and they have taken it upon themselves to walk from Pearson’s Peak to the Ski Chalet which is commendable and for a good cause. You can donate to the cause by sponsoring either one of those gentlemen.

Councillor Browne was speaking to the representative for the Community Garden group, and they told him that back in 2017 they started with sixteen (16) pods, and they are now at one hundred and twenty (120). They have come a long way with a new water system and now a new fence to close off the area. Hats off to all that are involved in that project, and congratulations on the growth and success. On July 2nd there is a Y2C Development Program to try and get the youth involved in growing vegetables, so he encourages all that are interested to get in contact with the Y2C for further information. Tuck’s Bee Better Farm, Aquaculture NL and members from the indigenous community will also be there to help the Youth Development Program, for a great experience for everyone involved. Our Grand Falls-Windsor Summer Programs are back for 2022, with all information on our Facebook page. The concerts in Church Road Park are also back and happening every Friday from June 3rd until September 3rd at 3:00 P.M. He encourages everyone to drop by for a great evening of entertainment that is for the whole family. Finally, after many years of hard work and planning the Heritage Society are going to open the Centre on June 11th. There is a big celebration with a parade from the Town Hall to the Centre, the Town Band will be performing, other entertainment, and free hot dogs and hamburgers for the kids, but most importantly people will be able to visit the Centre and see what is inside. A lot of dedication and hard work from volunteers of Grand Falls-Windsor to bring that Centre to life, so congratulations to everyone involved.

Mayor Manuel just wanted to reiterate that people will meet at 10:30 P.M. at the Town Hall and parade to the Heritage Centre and they are open until 2:00 P.M. All involved need to be commended, not only for preserving over the past few years, but for their work in continuing to preserve our history with artifacts and photos that they have gathered over the years for display to the public.

Councillor Coady advised that the Community Spring Clean-Up is still ongoing and on schedule, they may leave some metal behind, but they will be picked up by a separate company within a day or so. Hydrant flushing is ongoing,

and there is daily updates and announcements on our social media sites. Congratulations to Kelly Loder, who is a Badger native, but because she is from Central Newfoundland, we all try to claim her as our own because she came in 2nd Place on Canada's Got Talent. She also advised that she saw the Footloose show that was put off by Exploits Valley High and it was a tremendous show, and she congratulated everyone involved in the production of a fantastic show.

Mayor Manuel also congratulated the entire performance crew of the Footloose Production, he is positive that all people involved created fond memories that they will look back on and he is also looking forward to next year's performance.

Councillor Noel commented in regard to the Footloose Production, those kinds of events are community building and it is a tremendous opportunity for many kids to get involved in things that they normally wouldn't, so it is nice to see all students be involved in some capacity. He advised that Wednesday, June 8th is the Salvation Army Red Shield Day, where all purchases at the Thrift Store on Hardy Avenue will go towards the Red Shield activities, and we all know that the Salvation Army are critical to the well-being in times of need in our area. It is National Tourism Week and he wanted to take the opportunity to remind people that we are here because of the Exploits River, and that we have a world class gem of a river running through our community. He asks that people do not litter on the side of the river, because we need to protect what we are given and too many people take it for granted. He thanked Marathon Gold and the Aquaculture Society that put off a couple of events that also involved the High School, so that graduating students can get involved in some of our local opportunities. Lastly, he advised that June 11th is the Poutine Festival that sold out in eight (8) minutes and is another opportunity for us to showcase what tourism opportunities we have here in Grand Falls-Windsor.

Councillor Hiscock advised that he was contacted by a resident because there is no longer a wheelchair accessible taxi in Grand Falls-Windsor, which leaves these disabled people housebound. He wanted to inform residents that are in a wheelchair that there is a taxi company that has applied to the Provincial Government for funding, and we should hear something within the next week or so if that was approved. He also advised that he has been receiving calls about the housing shortage for seniors, he suggests that developers look into applying for areas of development for more senior housing. He also advised that on the last Central Waste Management Audit, Grand Falls-Windsor were doing really well compared to a lot of other places in Newfoundland. Some of the things that they did come across was that some people are putting garbage in with the recyclables and cross contaminating it, so they ask people to please be a little more cognizant when sorting. He advised that we have a huge world class facility in Norris Arm

that can recycle everything in Atlantic Canada, so let's continue to be diligent so that this can pay for itself. Lastly, the Aquaculture Event was a great show put off at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium. During the luncheon they went upstairs to the Hospitality Room, and he was shocked and very impressed at all the memorabilia up there, so encouraged people to go up and look at it because it is like a little sports museum.

Mayor Manuel stated that we are certainly seeing an influx of people to Grand Falls-Windsor, and one of the challenges when moving here is to find housing not only for seniors, but also young families. We want to be able to work with the developers to identify land tracks, that can be developed for future use. We have a great community that we live in with natural amenities like the river, green spaces and many other things, but if people are challenged to find a place to live, they are left with no options. We are aware as a Council and want to continue to do our best to have land available for developers and in turn have housing and accommodations available for people that want to move to Grand Falls-Windsor.

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of June 21st, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Steve Gosse
Director of Corporate Service\Town
Clerk