

MEETING #528

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD BY TELECONFERENCE

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel  
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne  
Councillors: Rod Bennett, Amy Coady-Davis,  
Holly Dwyer, Shawn Feener, Mark Whiffen  
Staff: D. Finn, Chief Administrative Officer  
N. Chatman, Director of Public Works and  
Development  
K. Antle, Director of Community Services  
S. Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Clerk  
K. Hutchinson, Executive Assistant

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed two (2) Proclamations for Recreation Month and Municipal Awareness Day, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #526 of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Motion

Bennett\Browne

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #526 of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Also the Mayor asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of the Special Meeting #527 of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Motion

Dwyer\Feener

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting #527 of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Bennett presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$465,448.48.

Motion

Bennett\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$465,448.48 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady-Davis.

Exploits Valley High Graduation Request

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Exploits Valley High Graduation Committee requesting to put all graduates names on the marquee sign outside the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee recommends we accommodate this request and for staff to help out where possible with their modified Graduation activities as long as it meets the COVID-19 guidelines.

### Summer Student Hiring's

The Committee discussed possible options to hire summer students for the Recreation Program and facility maintenance.

The Committee recommends to hire as many students as possible to run Children's Programs and facility maintenance.

### COVID-19 Update

The Committee discussed correspondence from Marathon Gold requesting Town assistance to help administer a COVID-19 Community Relief Program through funding from Marathon Gold.

The Committee recommends staff work with Marathon Gold to administer this program.

### Queen Street Dinner Theatre Request

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Queen Street Dinner Theatre to provide assistance to them for the completion of an ACOA application to purchase video equipment to market and operate their Dinner Theatre this summer virtually.

The Committee recommends approval of this request.

### Downhill Skiing Hill

The Director informed the Committee a resident with support from the Exploits Nordic Ski Club inquired about incorporating a small downhill skiing hill with plans we have for a sliding hill at the Ski Club facility.

The Committee recommends staff meet with the resident about the plan and report back to the Committee.

### Thomas Amusements Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from Thomas Amusements who are requesting to bring their Show to Grand Falls-Windsor from September 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> instead of July due to the COVID-19 restrictions. They also requested to host the event on Centennial Field instead of Maloney Street.

The Committee recommends to host the event in September as long as they are able to meet all the Government COVID-19 guidelines and for the event to be

hosted on Maloney Street with Town staff providing extra site work to accommodate their needs.

### Canadian Mental Health Association Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Canadian Mental Health Association requesting we help promote their “Ride Don’t Hide” virtual awareness event through our social media platforms.

The Committee recommends this request.

### Garbage Cans

The Director presented the Committee with an example of a garbage can to purchase through our 2020 Town Funded Capital Program.

As most commercial waste receptacles are very expensive, the Committee recommends we construct our own receptacles with Town staff.

### Arena Opening for Summer Schools

The Committee discussed the possibility to open the Windsor Stadium this August for Summer Hockey and Figure Skating Schools.

The Committee recommends to only open for summer ice if Government COVID-19 Regulations allow us to do so and that there is ample demand for ice time. If the Government Regulations require us to have more staff, this added expense will require us to increase the rental rate.

### Provincial Core Lab RFP

The Committee discussed issues with the Provincial Core Lab RFP which will move some services from the Grand Falls-Windsor Lab to the Gander Lab.

The Committee recommends to plan a protest outside the Hospital on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Lat49 Report Update

The Committee discussed Council’s plan moving forward with the Lat49 Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Report.

The Committee recommends to have a separate meeting to discuss this Report in detail on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Town Website

The Committee discussed the plan to start the upgrading of our Town website.

The Committee recommends Councillor Whiffen and the Director meet with Prime Creative to start the layout process for our new website and for our new Communications Officer to complete the project when they are hired in the coming weeks.

### Community Clean-up

The Committee discussed the need for the Community Organization Clean-up Program for this spring.

The Committee recommends the Director check with a few of the Community Organizations to see if they are able to complete some community clean-up in the dirtiest areas and still meet the COVID-19 Regulations.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Bennett

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

Councillor Dwyer advised that she would like to inform residents and listeners about what has been happening with the Lab services and how they might be impacted by this proposal. We learned about the redirection of Lab services the same way the employees in the Lab learned through a Request for Proposal where the Government is looking for new instruments for the Lab. When we dug deeper and took a closer look at the Request for Proposal we found out that Gander Hospital is referred to as the centralized referral Lab and the Grand Falls-Windsor Lab is referred to as the support system for routine in-house programs. Minister Haggie issued a Press Release and stated that there would be no negative impacts to staff or patients and essentially said that the reason for this redirection was that they were doing it for efficiency. A day later, we watched a video in which the justification was that it was for patient care and then a little while later it was that pathologists were asking for it and the reason was for clinical services. So we really do not have any reason as to why these services are being redirected from the Grand Falls-Windsor Hospital to the Gander Hospital. So as of right now what is happening is that our non-urgent samples that are collected and analyzed in the

Grand Falls-Windsor Hospital from all of the outlying communities like Baie Verte, Springdale, Buchans and Harbour Breton that would come to Grand Falls-Windsor are going to be redirected to Gander. We understand that consolidation is necessary because it is expensive to run these machines. It costs a lot of money per test if the machines are not used at full capacity, the problem is that it is going to happen in Gander and we have not been provided with any justification for the move. If the justification is efficiency we have an awful lot of arguments because the Grand Falls-Windsor Hospital provides a lot more efficiency than the Gander Hospital would. First of all, we are talking about ten (10) outlying communities transporting samples by courier which would add an additional three hundred (300) kilometers per day to that distribution which will cost taxpayers an awful lot of money. From the efficiency standpoint, just on that basis alone it does not make sense. The second argument against efficiency is that our staff here at the Grand Falls-Windsor Hospital are core trained, meaning that they can operate all of the equipment in the Labs, whereas in Gander they are only trained on particular machines. So you can imagine the training overtime, recruitments selection costs that are going to be incurred by making this move. The other thing that we have been told and staff have been told that their jobs will not be negatively impacted, yet they are going to have a workload reduction of fifty percent (50%) so how can there not be jobs negatively impacted and if they are not then where are the cost savings. These are some of the questions that we have asked and we are waiting for answers. The second part of the Request for Proposal involves instruments that we now have in our Labs for a back-up system, so if an instrument goes down there is a back-up system and the analysis test can be done. In this Request for Proposal of those instruments won't have back-up systems here in Grand Falls-Windsor, but they will have them in Gander because they will be the hub/main Lab. So what that means is if the system was down (as we are told it often is) in the Grand Falls-Windsor Hospital and a patient presented themselves in ER with chest pains and it was suspected that they were in cardiac arrest, we do not have a back-up system here so there urgent tests would have to be sent to Gander for analysis meaning patient care would be negatively impacted as well. In addition, there are some tests currently performed here that won't even be performed here anymore they will be performed in Gander, so we will be losing those tests as well as far as this Proposal goes. Patients/residents are wondering if they will still be able to get their bloodwork done here and the answer is yes they will, but this move is costing taxpayers an awful lot of money. There could be delays in testing, the samples have to go further, the non-urgent tests are no longer going to be performed here in Grand Falls-Windsor, so patient care is definitely going to be negatively impacted. Staff are going to be negatively impacted and all Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans are going to be negatively impacted because

even through consolidation is going to result in efficiencies, greater efficiencies could be found by having that main Lab here in Grand Falls-Windsor. They are starting construction of a new Lab here in the Grand Falls-Windsor Hospital within the next couple of months which has been in the works for a year now, yet according to this Proposal this main Lab is going to go to Gander and we are capable of having that main Lab in Grand Falls-Windsor. The main Lab should be here and I am going to suspect that Gander is going to need to make infrastructure changes in order to accommodate the new equipment which is just ridiculous and a waste of taxpayers money and greater efficiencies could be found by having that Lab here in Grand Falls-Windsor. We, as a Council, are not going to sit by idly and let these services be ripped from us. Minister Haggie stood up in the House of Assembly and said that he will not apologize for bringing services to Gander. He is not bringing services to Gander, he is taking them from Grand Falls-Windsor and we do not want an apology, what we want is for that decision to be made in the best interest of taxpayers of Newfoundland and Labrador and for residents of Grand Falls-Windsor and surrounding communities.

Mayor Manuel stated there is no doubt that all of Council supports Councillor Dwyer's comments on this and he would like to thank her for taking a lead role in this and doing a lot of the research. All of Council stands firm because we all understand that consolidation is necessary to find efficiencies, but if these decisions are going to be made from a political standpoint and not evidence based then we have a very big issue with that. The comments from Minister Haggie implied that these decisions were made to help his own district, but this is people's lives and healthcare that we are dealing with here and knowing that the financial situation of our Province is a bad one and forty percent (40%) of our Budget is healthcare and over three (3) billion dollars annually. We want to make sure that the decisions that are being made for all Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans are evidence based. It was recently suggested on the news that there was an unhealthy rivalry between Grand Falls-Windsor and Gander when it comes to healthcare, when this has nothing to do with a rivalry between the two (2) towns it was clearly a diversion tactic to cause distraction by the Minister to try and take the attention away from the real issue which is the Lab services being changed. We all know that these questions have been asked to the Minister and the Department for weeks and if there was supporting information that proved that this decision was justified and there was evidence with statistics and financial analysis' we would have it now and they would have presented the information that supports the decision, but they have not and that says a lot. It is important to also note this is not just a Grand Falls-Windsor issue, this is a regional issue with impacts on many communities in our region and their citizens. It is very important for the other communities in the region to stand with us and have their voices heard to represent their residents and

to help change what is a very disturbing decision. There is a clause in the Vaughn Report that clearly states that decisions should be evidence based, so I suggest that is the clause that Minister Haggie should be focusing on more than the suggested rivalry that was suggested between Grand Falls-Windsor and Gander. I just want to mention as well that some of the employees at the Lab in Gander may have been offended by comments made by myself and Councillor Dwyer through the media, but we in no way are trying to criticize the staff of the Lab in the Gander Hospital and we are confident that they are capable of the jobs they do. We are just pointing out that the staffing levels are not adequate to be able to handle the increased workload and that the core training does not exist right now in the Gander Hospital and to achieve that would take time and money. This is part of our argument to prove that this decision was not evidence based and if it was the consolidation would be happening in Grand Falls-Windsor. When I hear the Minister of Health saying that he will not be apologizing for bringing service to Gander, it sounds to me that a politician that knows there is an election coming up is trying to pander to the electorate in Gander to ensure that he is going to get the adequate number of votes next time around. From a town perspective, how can we have faith in this Government and this Minister that Grand Falls-Windsor and our Hospital is going to be treated fairly in future decision making when we hear him say those things in the House of Assembly. It was totally out of line and an abuse of his power as a Minister, and we do not want an apology, we want the decision to be reversed and the Lab to be put in Grand Falls-Windsor where everything points to it being the ideal location. We will continue to rally the general public and we encourage people in our community and in our region to have your voices heard, to email the Minister and call their Department and certainly call us for more information or clarification, please do because we can use all the support we can get to ensure that this Government and this Minister hears us loud and clear and that Grand Falls-Windsor is not just going to be walked over with decisions made for political reasons.

Councillor Coady-Davis noted on the Exploits Valley High Graduation, she just wanted to remind people that to help celebrate our 2020 Grads this year as they cannot have a formal Graduation like they had hoped, that during the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> all residents of Grand Falls-Windsor, Redcliff and Badger are asked to decorate the outside of their homes to show support and pride for the 2020 Exploits Valley High Grads. The Grads are certainly deserving of all of those accolades given that this is such a crazy year with the COVID-10 Pandemic, so please show the your support.

Mayor Manuel advised that this is our last Council meeting before the Graduation, so all the best to the Graduation Class of 2020. This will certainly be a unique Graduation because of the situation, but that should not take anything



away from what the accomplishment means and I am sure they will look back on this with fond memories despite the hoops they have had to jump through in order to get this Graduation done. As always, we hope that they have an enjoyable time during their Graduation, please stay safe and all the best in the future.

### Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

#### 19 King Street

The Committee welcomed Mr. Maxwell Green to the meeting at 5:15 P.M. Mr. Green requested to meet with the Committee to discuss the rezoning at 19 King Street and how it directly affects him personally and his business. Mr. Green also voiced his dissatisfaction on the process and how it was started. Mr. Green thanked the Committee for the opportunity to convey his concerns.

The Committee thanked Mr. Green for providing all the information and feel they have a better understanding of his concerns. The Committee will take this information into consideration as the rezoning process moves forward.

Mr. Green left the meeting at 5:55 P.M.

#### McCarthy Street Drainage

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the residents at 6 and 8 McCarthy Street requesting a drainage issue be corrected in the rear of their properties. The rear yards are constantly flooding and due to the grade of their properties, and the elevation of the land behind their houses, the water is trapped. This was not identified or corrected by the Developer prior to the Town obtaining ownership of this portion of the subdivision. The Development Department prepared a plan to correct the issue with an estimate of \$75k and is requesting Gas Tax Funding to complete this work.

The Committee recommends this project be completed and staff submit the application to the Gas Tax Secretariat to obtain the requested funding.

#### Crown Lands Request – 35 Bank Road

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident of 35 Bank Road to purchase 66 square metres of backland. This land is former Abitibi Land and the Town must be the applicant to Crown Lands.

The Committee recommends this be approved and staff complete the application to Crown Lands and be sold as per the Town's Land Sales Policy.

#### Crown Lands Request – 13 Sheppard Street

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident of 13 Sheppard Street to purchase 325 square metres of backland. This land is former Abitibi Land and the Town must be the applicant to Crown Lands.

The Committee recommends this be approved and staff complete the application to Crown Lands and be sold as per the Town's Land Sales Policy.

#### Crown Lands Request – 122 Goodyear Avenue

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident of 122 Goodyear Avenue to purchase 468 square metres of backland. This land is former Abitibi Land and the Town must be the applicant to Crown Lands.

The Committee recommends this be approved and staff complete the application to Crown Lands and be sold as per the Town's Land Sales Policy.

#### Land Request – 21 Exploits Lane

The Committee reviewed a request for 305 square metres of backland from the resident at 21 Exploits Lane. The resident previously requested, and was approved for 244 square metres, but has not yet been purchased as this land has not been finalized with Crown Lands.

The Committee recommends this be approved and be sold as per the Town's Land Sales Policy.

#### Farmer's Market

The Committee reviewed the latest concept plan for a 669 square metres Farmer's Market building. The preliminary estimate is approximately \$1.5 million outside of site work and landscaping. This was presented as information only and there is no funding request at this time.

The Committee recommends staff monitor funding opportunities for future construction.

Development Regulations Review

The Committee was presented with the latest draft of the proposed changes to the Town's Development Regulations. This is a large document and would need to be reviewed in a future meeting.

The Committee recommends a meeting be planned for June 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss these changes in detail. This will allow Council a chance for a thorough review.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

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

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Resolution GF-W 2020-299

REVISED CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Gas Tax Agreement;

WHEREAS: all spending under this Agreement must be approved through submission of a Gas Tax Capital Investment Plan;

WHEREAS: there is \$2,232,924.59 of unallocated funds in the current Provincial Gas Tax Agreement with the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the allocation of funds under the Provincial Gas Tax Agreement in the amounts of \$76,337.00 full HST (\$69,225.05 rebate removed) to a new project (supporting documents attached) for correcting the drainage issue on McCarthy Street.

## Motion

Dwyer\Whiffen

Be it resolved that Resolution – GF-W 2020-299 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Corporate Services (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Bennett.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week twenty-two (22). Total labour was \$1,339,192. This was \$61,943 (4.4%) under budget.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs.

Cash Collections

The Committee reviewed taxation collection for May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Total taxation receivable as of that date was \$7,710,299 (\$5,523,175 – 2019) an increase of \$2,187,124 (39.6%) from the previous year.

The Committee recommends that staff continue its efforts to collect all outstanding taxes.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$465,448.48 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Grand Falls-Windsor Farmer's Market

The Committee reviewed a request from the Farmer's Market for funding in the amount of \$6,000 to be put towards their annual tent payment.

The Committee recommends that staff work on terms of a repayable loan in the amount of \$5,000. The Committee also noted there may be funding options available from other levels of Government to help them during this period and recommends discussing these options with the Grand Falls-Windsor Farmer's Market.

### Telus Atlantic Community Board Grant

The Committee reviewed an email from Telus announcing \$10,000 provided to the Grand Falls-Windsor\Bishop's Falls Community Food Bank Inc. as part of the Telus Atlantic Community Board Grant.

The Committee would like to thank Telus for their generosity during this time.

### Hosting Service Agreement for Bids & Tenders

The Director of Corporate Services\Clerk discussed a quote from eSolutions Group for an online bids & tenders module for the Town's website.

The Committee recognizes the important role technology plays in the organization and recommends staff continue to research options and budget for this in 2021.

### Permit Fees

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident about waiving Permit Fees for residential construction in light of COVID-19.

The Committee recommends no action at this time. Further, the Province has just announced some available funding for residential construction which will help residents with the cost of their renovations and\or construction in the current year.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Bennett\Coady-Davis

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

### Corporate Services (2 of 2)

Prior to the reading of these Minutes, Councillor Bennett was excused from the meeting due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

### Home Based Businesses

The Committee reviewed the Home Based Businesses and the fee structure compared to commercial businesses.

The Committee determined that the fee structure is appropriate and for staff to continue to ensure all Home Based Businesses register with the Town.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

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

Councillor Bennett returned to the meeting at this time.

### Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

#### Jim Ralph – Jim's Grocer

Jim Ralph and Josh Knight met with the Committee to discuss their request for a zone change at 19 King Street. The rezone would be a change from Public Use to Commercial Neighbourhood and would be necessary to accommodate his Convenience Grocery Store.

The Committee thanked Mr. Ralph and Mr. Knight for their time and they were excused from the meeting at 5:50 P.M.

#### Honeywell Energy Performance Presentation

Mike Pringle and Brian Durkin from Honeywell gave a presentation to Council about proposed Energy Savings Projects for the Town Hall, Public Works Depot, Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium, Windsor Stadium and the Excite Building. The total cost of the project is \$1,464,141, but grants in the amount of \$454,289 will offset the cost. This will result in a total net Capital cost of \$1,009,852. This is an Energy Performance Agreement so the work completed will cause energy

savings each year that will be used to pay off the Capital costs over an eleven (11) year period. These savings will be monitored and verified each year.

Capital Work identified include changes to lighting, changes to controls for lighting, heat, air conditioning, improvements to the building envelopes in select areas and a mechanical heating change in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium.

Another \$3.5 million in Capital Energy Projects were considered, but not included because there was not either sufficient energy savings and/or Government Grants available to make the projects feasible. Staff will continue to pursue other Government Funding Projects for these omitted projects.

Brian Durkin and Mike Pringle were excused from the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

The Committee recommends that the Town enter into an Energy Performance Contract Agreement with Honeywell and that staff finalize the details regarding the same.

#### Welcome NL Program

At 6:50 P.M. the Committee invited Randy Edison to the meeting and he gave a final presentation about the delivery of the Welcome NL Program in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor. The Program concluded June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 because the Provincial Funding ended.

The Committee was very satisfied with the results and successes of the Program in Grand Falls-Windsor and recommends that staff follow up with the Provincial Government about the options of being a host sponsoring organization should Government be interested in continuing their funding for the Program.

Council thanked Randy Edison for his personal dedication and commitment to the work.

Mr. Edison was excused from the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

#### Provincial Government Proposed Laboratory Changes for Central Health and the Corresponding Negative Affect on the CNRHC

Councillor Dwyer and Mayor Manuel updated the Committee on the details related to the planned protest on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

The Committee recommends that the protest proceed as planned and that an information fact sheet be compiled and circulated to the public.

### 17 Sullivan Street – Variance Request

The Committee reviewed a variance request from the home owner of 17 Sullivan Street to construct an accessory building beyond the maximum allowable lot coverage of eight percent (8%).

The Committee recommends this variance be approved.

### COVID-19 Reopening Plan Related to Province Moving to Alert Level III on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Staff reviewed a proposed reopening plan for the Town recreational facilities that are permitted to open. The guidelines recommended that municipalities provide separate exit\entrances, hand sanitizer, COVID-19 instructional signage, trash containers, cleaning twice per day and maintain cleaning log sheets.

The Committee recommends that the following facilities open in accordance with the Provincial guidelines:-

- Skateboard Park
- Softball Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Memorial Grounds
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Baseball Fields
- Dog Park

All of the playgrounds across the community will remain closed at this time. All user groups will be required to provide a reopening plan specific to their program to ensure they meet all of the Government guidelines.

### Other Business

ATV- Councillor Dwyer and Mayor Manuel requested the issue of ATV use in Town be added to the next Community Services Agenda.

The Committee recommends that the Community Services Committee review the Mill land transfer, the ATV Trail Development Plan and the ATV enforcement issues in the Committee discussion.

New Positions – Staff informed Council that the newly created positions are now posted. These new positions include Deputy Town Clerk, Human Resources Manager, Manager of Economic Development and the Communications Officer.



I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Bennett

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

Councillor Dwyer stated with respect to the proposed Lab changes in the Minutes it states that we had planned a protest. We did hold our protest on Thursday and it was successful with a lot of people showing their support, prior to that we wrote an open letter to Minister Haggie which we posted on our Facebook page and sent the letter to the Minister as well as the Premier. We have done up fact sheets that we will be mailing to every resident in Grand Falls-Windsor because we think it is important for the people to be aware of exactly what is happening and what the impact will be. This is not just about our Lab services, this is about future consolidation efforts and how we believe decisions could be based on the fact that the Gander Hospital will be the hub and we truly believe that there is no justification for that move.

Councillor Coady-Davis mentioned we also spoke about the impact on the surrounding communities, so we will also be distributing that fact sheet to the municipalities and their Council's and will ask them to post it on their social media sites and share it with their residents.

Mayor Manuel noted as stated in the Minutes the Welcome NL Program has concluded and it was a very successful program here in Grand Falls-Windsor. Grand Falls-Windsor prides itself on being a welcoming community to all newcomers and residents. As a Province immigration is a big important part of our future and having a program like this to make a settlement in our community or Province is certainly important, so we hope that in some form this program will continue in the future. It is disappointing to learn that the funding has stopped and that this program will cease at this point, but feel confident that we will see this resurrected or something similar from Government in the near future because of the importance of immigration to our Provinces future. All Council would like to thank Randy Edison who was the Co-ordinator of this specific project and he did a great job and certainly contributed to the success. The other issue that is mentioned in the Minutes that I would like to refer to is the ATV issue, which is the most frustrating issue I have had to deal with. There are challenges with policing and regulating the ATV use within our community. We understand that enforcement is a big part of this issue, but the enforcement technically lies with the RCMP. Our Municipal Enforcement Officers have been doing everything within

their authority, but the reality is that in most cases the people who we would like to stop do not stop, they usually run. Unfortunately the people you do end up stopping are usually the law abiding citizens who are just trying to get from their house to across the river and have to safely use the street. The Mill land is another frustrating issue that we have been dealing with Government on for years now, and we certainly hope we can get that concluded sometime soon. That Mill property is planned to have a dedicated ATV\snowmobile route that would connect the T’Railway to the river bridge and allow people safe and easy access which we hope will help to mitigate the issues around the ATV use on our streets. There has been an increase in ATV use on our streets in the past few months and we recognized it as an issue because some people are doing wheelies on dirt bikes, some are going at high speeds and some are not wearing helmets, so we are committed to trying to find solutions. In many cases, the ATV’s are being operated by young people, so we encourage parents out there to be aware that if your child is using a dirt bike or ATV that they understand the rules that need to be followed when it comes to the use when using Town streets. We certainly do not want an unfortunate accident to take place and draw attention to thus issue, we would rather parents be pro-active, to talk to their kids and to be aware where they are operating them, to ensure that they are not allowing their kids to operate these ATV’s and dirt bikes on our Town streets. We will continue to discuss this issue and ways to get the guideline and importance of safety out there as we know residents are frustrated and concerned according to the number of complaints that we are getting.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

None

### OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Coady-Davis expressed congratulations to the 2020 Graduates of Exploits Valley High, your High School Graduation is always memorable and this year’s Graduation will certainly be one that they will never forget. We are hoping that they will be able to have some kind of celebration as we move up through the levels for COVID-19 and the restrictions are lifted. We would like to wish them all the best in the future, some of them will be going to University in September and those plans will have changed and they will be doing distance learning until January 2021 unless things can improve dramatically in the next six (6) months.

And to all students that are officially finishing up the school year and moving into new Grade Levels or new schools, we wish you all the best and to all the teachers who have done great jobs getting the kids through the year. I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Councillor Bennett advised that on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May he had the privilege of helping out at the 50+ Club delivering grocery items to seniors in the Town. He delivered seventeen (17) bags of items and the seniors were excited and appreciative. He advised our Spring Clean-up started yesterday and our staff are working extremely hard to clean up the Town. He wanted to remind the residents not to approach our staff members as well as our Firefighters. We need to keep them all safe and prevent them from getting sick. He also congratulated the Exploits Valley High Grads and wished them good luck in their future endeavours in years to come.

Councillor Dwyer advised that respect to the Union Street overpass, residents were informed that the overpass would be closed on June 15<sup>th</sup>, but actually will not close now until either June 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a delay because of the Department of Transportation and Works. She also noted that this is Pride Month, the flag was raised and I understand that our crosswalk is going to be reprinted and will be completed soon. With respect to the Graduates, she would like to say congratulations to all the Grads and thank you to all of the businesses that have donated items to their Graduations to try to make their day special. Also, thank you to all the businesses that have decorated their store fronts, and thank you to the parents and teachers who have been involved in trying desperately to organize a fantastic day for the Graduates.

Councillor Whiffen stated he would like to publically acknowledge Councillor Dwyer for the work that she has put into the Lab issue we have been dealing with the last couple of weeks. She has put a lot of hours into getting information, informing Council and putting information into the protest, so “thank you” Councillor Dwyer. He also expressed congratulations to the Exploits Valley High Grads and wished them the best of luck and hope you all get the opportunity to get together and celebrate your Graduation in the future. He noted the Queen Street Dinner Theatre season this year will be a little different, but they will be delivering the Theatre digitally. There will be a number of unique shows that will go ahead by the Theatre through various streaming and platforms, so stay tuned for details.

Deputy Mayor Browne expressed congratulations to the 2020 Grads, this will be an even more memorable time due to the situation. Hats off to the Graduation Committee, as they were challenged to come up with ways to make this Graduation unique from any other Grads before. He would like to thank Councillor Dwyer on all the tremendous work put into the gathering of information

for the Lab issue and we look forward to seeing what Minister Haggie and the Provincial Government have to say and hope that the decision will be reversed as it should be.

Mayor Manuel stated that we have heard some sad news that a very prominent businessman in our Town has passed away. Mr. Ross Dyke passed away last week, he was a very successful businessman and a very well-liked person. Our condolences to his family during this difficult time. Father's Day is this Sunday, so Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there. Council will begin to meet physically together during the next round of Committee meetings next week, which means our next Council meeting will be back in the Council Chambers so there will be some form of normalcy there. We have a large Council Chambers and typically see 12-16 people present at the meeting, so it is underneath the maximum amount of people per gathering restriction and we can maintain physical distancing.

Motion

Whiffen\Browne

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

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Barry Manuel  
Mayor

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Darren Finn  
Chief Administrative Officer