

MEETING #561

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
Andrew Little, Dave Noel
Staff: Darren Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
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
Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Prior to the meeting the Mayor read a Proclamation he signed earlier for the Longest Day of Smiles and signed a proclamation for Parachute National Injury Prevention Day – July 5th.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #560 of May 31st, 2022.

Motion
Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #560 of May 31st, 2022 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$655,879.36.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$655,879.36 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Dolly Parton Book Program

The Director updated the Committee on the details of the Dolly Parton Book Club which will give every child in Grand Falls-Windsor from five (5) years of age and younger a free book every month. The Program is supported by several National sponsors and will only cost the Town \$4,200.00 for 2022.

The Committee recommends staff register for the Program and begin the promotion of the Program to all families in Grand Falls-Windsor as soon as possible.

Impact Hockey Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from Impact Hockey requesting for Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium to open in September 2022 as well as opening Windsor Stadium a week earlier this summer.

The Committee recommends not to open Joe Byrne Memorial in September of 2022, but for staff to work with Impact Hockey to accommodate their request

for early ice in Windsor Stadium this summer and to work with them in September to accommodate some September ice time rentals and games in Windsor Stadium.

Commemorative Program

The Director presented the Committee with a proposal for a Commemorative Program allowing citizens or families to donate trees, park benches or picnic tables in honour of their loved ones.

The Committee made several recommendations for the Program and recommends the Director make the necessary revisions and bring a final draft back to the next Committee meeting for final approval.

Hydroponics Business

The Director informed the Committee of two (2) individuals investigating the idea of a hydroponics business in Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Committee recommends the Public Works and Development Department work with these businesses to assist with the process of starting such a business.

Farmer's Market

The Director updated the Committee on the plans to-date for a Farmer's Market building in Grand Falls-Windsor. Staff met with the Clarendville Farmer's Market to obtain the pros and cons of their current set-up.

The Committee recommends staff meet with the Farmer's Market Executive to formulate a full Farmer's Market Plan and report back to the Committee.

Millcrest Gymnasium

The Director updated the Committee on the status of the old Millcrest Academy gymnasium.

The Committee recommends staff find the rental cost of the gymnasium to see if it is a viable option to operate recreational programs and report back to the Committee.

Director's Report

The Director updated the Committee on the events and activities that have been going on in the Community Services Department for the last several weeks as well as the upcoming events and activities for this summer.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Dwyer

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

Deputy Mayor Browne wanted to elaborate on the Dolly Parton Book Program, as he thinks it is an excellent program where every child in Grand Falls-Windsor from birth to the age of five (5) years of age will receive a free book every month. The program is still in the initial stages, and details will be released in the coming weeks.

Councillor Little noted that we recently had the ATV Festival and Poutine Festival, and it was a success that was very well organized. He hopes it is a sign of more things to come this summer.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Capital

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Capital Investment Plan to reallocate funding in the Canada Community-Building Fund for the installation of addition storm sewer infrastructure on Harmsworth Drive. In addition, there is a proposal to re-apply for more Regional Gas Tax Funding for the Exploits Regional Water Treatment Plant for inspection and geotechnical mapping of the steel waterline from New Bay to Grenfell Heights.

The Committee recommends a Resolution be prepared for the next public meeting to follow up with these applications.

Chad Clendenning was excused from the meeting at 5:40 P.M.

Amendment Request – Sawmill

The Committee reviewed a request to have the regulations surrounding domestic sawmills amended to permit the use on residential lots with the permission of the owner and to increase the horsepower from 10hp to 15hp.

The Committee recommends this application be accepted and staff follow the next steps in the amendment process.

Amendment to Signage Regulations

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Development Department to amend Section 12 of the Signage Regulations to give Council the ability to ensure all signs in Town are maintained properly to meet Council's standards.

The Committee recommends this application be accepted and staff follow the next steps in the amendment process.

Lind Avenue – Speed

The Committee discussed a concern at Lind Avenue near the playground that was brought forward by a resident. Municipal Enforcement patrolled the area and the highest speed recorded was 44km\hr with an average speed of 37km\hr. In addition, Municipal Enforcement has now placed a temporary radar speed sign to help with traffic calming.

The Committee recommends all members of Council visit the area to better understand the site conditions and recommends a follow up report from Municipal Enforcement to be brought to a future meeting for more discussion.

Land Request – 2 Earle Street

The Committee reviewed a request from the business owner at 2 Earle Street for additional land to expand the business. The request is for 2,793 square meters of backland.

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

Rodney Mercer – Premier's Executive Assistant

The Committee welcomed Mr. Rodney Mercer, Premier's Executive Assistant, to the meeting at 6:15 P.M. to discuss issues including Grenfell Heights

Extension, Mill Land, Grand Falls House, Capital Funding for the Regional Water Supply and conditions of New Bay Road.

Mr. Mercer was excused from the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Land Request – Lincoln Road (3 Properties)

The Committee reviewed three (3) requests from residents on Lincoln Road for additional backland. Owners of 61, 63 and 65 Lincoln Road have requested 866 square meters, 833 square meters and 850 square meters respectively.

The Committee recommends this be brought to the next Public Works and Development Committee meeting for further discussion.

Household Hazardous Waste Day Information

The Committee reviewed a report from Central Newfoundland Waste Management (CNWM) on the Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHWD) that was held in Grand Falls-Windsor on May 7th, 2022.

The Committee were pleased with the results and recommends staff inquire if Central Newfoundland Waste Management can do another session in the fall and to get a cost to complete.

Crown Lands Referral – Pondview Drive

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands Referral for 0.19 hectares of land on Pondview Drive adjacent to a larger piece of residential land already owned by the applicant. The applicant is planning to develop up to five (5) residential lots.

The Committee recommends this be approved and to note all development must meet the Development Regulations.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

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

Councillor Hiscock stated that he has been in the Lind Avenue area many time lately and it seems that since the Municipal Enforcement Department put the

speed indicator up there it has made a difference in motorists and their speed, so hats off to the Municipal Enforcement Department for a job well done.

Councillor Coady acknowledged that she was absent from the Committee meeting and the discussion around the Development Regulations regarding sawmills. She advised that she is not comfortable with the wording and would like to have further discussion on the matter before the next process of public consultation and comment.

Mayor Manuel advised the Director of Public Works and Development to have this placed back on the agenda for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

GF-W 2022-346

REVISED CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Capital Investment Plan;

WHEREAS: all spending under this funding must be approved through submission of a Revised Capital Investment Plan Application;

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has a funding surplus under the Canada Community Building Funding of \$133,590.00;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves adding the following new project under the Canada Community Building, Capital Investment Plan:-

Installation of Additional Storm Sewer – Harmsworth Drive \$71,000.00

Motion

Coady\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-346 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Coady:-

GF-W 2022-347

FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND

PROVINCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Fund Agreement;

WHEREAS: all spending under this Agreement must be used to improve the Exploits Regional Water Supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the application for funding under the Federal Gas Tax Fund – Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Agreement in the amount of \$1,283,500.00 for the internal inspection and geographical mapping of the water main.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-347 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Scouts Fundraiser

The Committee discussed correspondence from the 4th Grand Falls Scouts who are fundraising for a backpacking and camping excursion across Europe in 2023. They are requesting participation from community partners and leaders to participate in their “dunk tank” event to be held on Canada Day at the Shanawdithit Centennial Park in Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Committee was supportive of this event and recommended Councillors participate where they have personal availability.

Lind Avenue Speed Limit

The Committee discussed a concern from a citizen that speeding was appearing near the area of Lind Avenue playground.

The Committee recommended staff gather speed data in that area and report back to Council in a future Committee meeting.

Variance Request – 32 Ivany’s Road

The Committee reviewed a request from a property owner at 32 Ivany’s Road for a ten percent (10%) variance to the height of their proposed accessory building.

The Committee recommends that this variance be approved.

Correspondence from the Shadow Ministers for Rural Economic Development and Rural Broadband Strategy

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Shadow Ministers for Rural Economic Development and Rural Broadband Strategy and their interest in getting feedback about the three (3) most important issues impacting economic development as a rural community.

The Committee recommended that staff respond to this correspondence highlighting the needs for greater infrastructure funding, more broadband availability, and cellular connectivity along the Trans Canada Highway and secondary highways.

Mill Lands

The Committee received an update regarding the possible transfer or leasing of the former Mill Lands. The Committee was updated about a planned Phase 2 Environmental Assessment soon to be undertaken, by the Provincial Government, in the area of the Training Centre and an approximately surrounding five (5) acres of land. This assessment is expected to be completed in September 2022 and discussions about the transfer of this specific land area is expected to follow.

The Committee recommends that staff continue in these efforts and report back to Council in a future Committee meeting.

Land on Maloney Street

Council reviewed a request from a company seeking a refund for purchased land on Maloney Street. The land was purchased before the recent change of the Land Sales Policy that resulted in a reduction in land sale pricing.

The Committee recommends that no refunds be given for land deals that concluded before the new Policy was approved by Council.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Hiscock

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

Deputy Mayor Browne noted that he is glad to see the Provincial Government are planning a Phase 2 Environment Assessment on the five (5) acres of land surrounding the former Training Centre and new home of the Heritage Society. He hopes that this will be the last step in handing over the building and the five (5) acres for use by the Heritage Society. Just recently they visited Beothuck Park and are planning to move the Logger's Life Museum down to that area, along with other plans for the land.

Mayor Manuel noted that the land will be given to the Town and an Agreement will be put in place for the Heritage Society to use the land. He also advised that the Heritage Society just had their Grand Opening that was a great success with a couple of hundred people in attendance. You could see the pride on the faces of all those people involved in the Heritage Society for so many years, and they all deserve congratulations for finding a home that they started looking for nine (9) years ago. What many people are not aware of is that the Heritage Society building was the Abitibi Training Centre and was slated for demolition along with the Mill. It was our staff that reached out and asked that the perfectly good building remain for our use, of which the transfer is still not finalized, but should be soon. It is a great home for the Heritage Society who have a lot of beautiful artifacts, which they have done such a great job cataloguing. Not only is this a great piece of our history, but also another piece of our tourism offerings and as the Riverfront continues to expand and our development plans continue to unfold the Heritage Society will be a key piece in an excellent location.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week twenty-two (22). Total labour was \$1,344,750. This was \$107,127 (7.4%) under budget.

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

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$655,879.36 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivable Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the taxation analysis for May 2022. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivable as of March 31st, 2022 was \$5,934,062 (\$6,102,294 – 2021) a decrease of \$168,232 (2.76%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in May 2022 was \$980,681.

While the Committee is pleased with the May results, they recommend that staff remain vigilant in collecting all outstanding balances. The deadline to sign up for eBilling and to be entered into the draw for one of ten local gift certificates is June 30th. If you need your code, please reach out to the Corporate Services Department at 489-0403 or 489-0404.

Funding Request

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Grand Falls-Windsor Community Kitchen requesting a donation to support their weekly meal preparation. On average their volunteers serve 150 to 200 meals per week and the average cost of these meals is between \$500 and \$600.

The Committee approved a \$2,500 donation to the program.

Aerial Imagery

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk provided the Committee with an update on the Municipal Assessment Agency using Eagle Eye technologies to upgrade the aerial imagery within the Town. This is a great opportunity to ensure the Municipal Assessment Agency has the necessary information to provide accurate assessments of properties in Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to gather information regarding this program and discuss at a future meeting.

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.

Councillor Hiscock wanted to say a big “thank you” to the individuals that are involved in the Community Kitchen who supply much needed meals throughout the week in the Grand Falls-Windsor region.

Mayor Manuel advised that the Community Kitchen has come a long way over the years, as when they started 5-6 years ago it was approximately seventy-five (75) meals a week and that has doubled and then some. And it goes to show the change in times and people in need, it is a delicious meal, and they do such a great job that the Town has supported it since they started and will continue to do so.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Manuel mentioned that Deputy Mayor Browne was heavily involved in the planning for the Heritage Society Grand Opening event, so he congratulated him on its success.

Deputy Mayor Browne expressed his gratitude and said that he was only too happy to do what he could. He also wanted to acknowledge the Town Band that

added the perfect touch to the event, along with the message read out from Gordon Pinsent. He wanted to congratulate the Perfectly Centered Gymnastics Group Program, who just completed their two (2) final shows of the season at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium. The group just celebrated their 5th Anniversary, of which five (5) years ago there were twenty-five (25) kids enrolled and now there are three hundred and fifty (350). He wanted to acknowledge the Manager of Leisure Services for the tremendous amount of hard work he put into getting the program up and running. He announced that Cricket is making its way back to Grand Falls-Windsor. The Community Services Department has put out an "Expression of Interest" for players that may be interested, so please contact the Community Services Department if you are interested. Lastly, he advised that the Canada Day celebrations are coming up and there is a big celebration planned on Shanawdithit Centennial Field that he encourages all to take advantage for a great afternoon of free entertainment ending with a very impressive fireworks display.

Councillor Coady reminded the people of the community that June is Pride Month, and Grand Falls-Windsor has several different events happening, of which the calendar of events can be seen on the Facebook page called "Pride Grand Falls-Windsor" and she encouraged people to get involved. She also wanted to say "Happy Indigenous Peoples Day" as that is today, she continued to read some information about what the Day is celebrated to remember and recognize. Lastly, she congratulated the graduates of Exploits Valley High 2022, and advised that the motorcade will be starting at Windsor Pentecostal Church tomorrow at 7:00 P.M. She thanked all teachers for another wonderful year, and wished all teachers, students, administration staff and support staff a safe and fun summer.

Mayor Manuel also congratulated the graduates and asked that residents get out and show their support during the Parade.

Councillor Noel advised that in speaking with the students they really do appreciate seeing the public out waving at them as they drive by in the Parade, which gives them some sense of belonging in the community. He advised that he spoke with the Zip Line proprietor earlier who is working through a few technical issues at the moment, but is working diligently to get the operation up and running as soon as possible. He gave a shout out to Nalcor who gave them a great tour, and said that it is so nice to see them facilitate with the passage of our young salmon back to the ocean. To see Environment Resources Management Association which will be a world class facility, and Nalcor working parallel together saving salmon, educating people, advocating along with the entertaining with the tourism aspect is fantastic. The Poutine Festival was a phenomenal success, and he thanked staff for putting an event together that was so well ran. Lastly, he noted that he has seen vehicles going the wrong way on Queen Street, which is now one direction, and advised that we provide more education on that matter.

Councillor Hiscock advised that a few months ago he and Deputy Mayor Browne met with the President and Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion to speak about the Memorial Banner Campaign. He showed Council what the banner looked like, as the first banner arrived today. It is a heavy vinyl that can hold four (4) pictures of people you would like to memorialize in your family. If anyone would like more information on how to obtain one, please call Frank at 486-9708 or go online to the website memorialbanner.ca.

Councillor Little advised that with the end of the school year it means that our playgrounds will be busy, he asks that motorists be aware when driving around the neighbourhood. Also, if anyone sees anything amiss in our playgrounds that seems unsafe, please notify our Public Works Department or Community Services Department.

Councillor Dwyer congratulated and sent out best wishes for future endeavors to Exploits Valley High Grads 2022. She advised that the Heritage Society Annual General Meeting is tomorrow 7:30 P.M. at the Legion, anyone can attend, and she encourages everyone to join. The Health Accord Community Coalition are still working and are very active in what they are doing. Most recently the Coalition met with Mayor Manuel and Chief Administrative Officer Darren Finn to bring them up-to-date in terms of where they are. There has been a lot of focus on Government and how we may influence the Legislation, which we anticipate is being written now with the new one (1) Health Authority. They have also been very active with physician recruitment and retention and have received a lot of recommendations that will be brought to Council to decide where to go with them. They met with Dave Diamond who is the transitional Chief Administrative Officer for the new Health Authority, he will lead the planning and establishment of the one (1) Health Board. He had already heard from Central Health who are very impressed with the way we are approaching this. She also advised that our Leisure Services Officer and Business/Economic Development Officer took a physician around and did their best at promoting this area and the physician was very impressed.

Mayor Manuel had the opportunity to meet the new recruit, and he is hopeful that she will choose Grand Falls-Windsor as her home. He admitted that he cannot say enough about all the work that the Coalition group are doing, they are meeting with other Sub-Committees and doing great work. He stated as Councillor Dwyer said, "Central Health and Government are impressed with the way we are approaching this." We will continue to be involved with the implementation of the Health Accord as well, to make sure our health care is protected and enhanced. He had the opportunity to speak at the Rotary Club and at that meeting the Rotary presented Dr. John Campbell with a cheque for \$110,000 which represents what they have raised towards the Lionel Kelland Hospice. He

thanked the Rotary for their donation to a facility that they are looking forward to completion. Lastly, he wanted to mention Ron Smith, who was a guest speaker at the Heritage Society Grand Opening, he was a Union organizer and very popular in the Mill for decades and he certainly captivated the audience with his knowledge of the history and his humor.

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 July 12th, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer