

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JULY 13TH, 2021

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
K. Antle, Director of Community Services
N. Chatman, Director of Public Works and
Development
S. Gosse, Director of Corporate Services
R. Hannaford, Communications Officer
K. Hutchinson, Deputy Town Clerk

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #544 of June 22nd, 2021.

Motion

Feener\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #544 of June 22nd, 2021 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Bennett presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$662,213.49.

Motion

Bennett\Browne

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$662,213.49 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.

Indigenous Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from a representative of the indigenous community asking for Council to support the movement to honor the children buried at the Indigenous Residential Schools across Canada.

The Committee recommends flying the Canadian and Indigenous flags at half mass, promote wearing orange and to promote their message through our Facebook page.

Fireworks

The Committee discussed moving our annual Canada Day fireworks display to Grand Falls-Windsor Day on Monday, July 19th, 2021.

The Committee recommends staff request permission from the Provincial Government to have the fireworks display at the old Mill property as Centennial Field is too small to host the new fireworks shows with larger shots.

Cemetery Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from a citizen requesting repairs to be made to the Valley Road Cemetery.

The Committee recommends staff meet with her and the Interfaith Cemetery Committee to come up with a solution to make the necessary repairs.

Ski Club Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Exploits Nordic Ski Club regarding the proposed new sliding hill which is to be located at the Ski Trail facility. They would like a new children's playground\practice area incorporated in the plan for the new sliding hill.

The Committee recommends staff work with their Executive to include these renovations in our application for funding.

“Opportunity Project” Fundraiser Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from “Opportunity Project”, a youth led not-for-profit organization requesting to host a summer concert fundraiser at Centennial Field this summer.

As COVID-19 Regulations do not allow them to host such an event to-date, the Committee recommends not to approve this request but to meet with their organization and give them the opportunity to do a fundraising event during our next major special event.

CCRF Funding

The Director of Community Services updated the Committee on a new funding opportunity through ACOA. The Canada Community Revitalization Fund has just been announced and require shovel ready projects to be submitted within the next couple of weeks.

The Committee recommends staff submit applications for repairs at the EXCITE Building, construction of a sliding hill and renovations to the Farmer's Market.

Academic Island Immigration Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from Newfoundland Academic Island International requesting support with their International Student Immigration Program.

The Committee recommends staff respond to their request for further details.

Director's Report

The Director updated the Committee on the activities, events and programs going on within the Department including Canada Day, Splashpad, Gymnastics, Kitchen Party Theatre Festival, Age Friendly Committee, Summer Programs and Economic Development initiatives.

The Committee recommends staff continue to work on these items and update the Committee at the next Community Services Committee meeting.

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 7-0.

Councillor Coady-Davis noted that our Canada Day fireworks will be moved to Monday July 19th and that the old mill property would be used to shoot off the fireworks, this as stated in the minutes is because Centennial field is small, and it impacts the residents and businesses in the area with not only noise but residue. Also because of COVID restrictions and the congregation of people normally seen in the area of the fireworks, this new location provides a better vantage point around town to allow more viewers to be able to see them clearly.

Councillor Feener stated that he recently visited the cemetery on Valley Road and overheard a couple asking if anyone looked after the Cemetery. He expressed that it is frustrating to see such a landmark in this town, in such deplorable condition and that it is a shame and disgrace to leave it the way it is.

Mayor Manual advised that the upkeep of the Cemetery on Valley Road was the responsibility of the Cemetery Committee, and even though we have alerted them that it needs to be looked at it still wasn't done. Each year we have gone down and done some weeding and cleaning ourselves, but recently we have been in contact with the person that oversees the Cemetery and we will be working with them and the genealogy group to address the concerns down there as much as we possibly can. The work is being done through student grants and will be starting very soon.

Councillor Bennett expressed his concern that by waiting until students are hired to look after the Cemetery on Valley Road it will be the end of June which will result in too much overgrown grass in the area. He stated that he would

appreciate it if we can take a couple of man hours from Town workers once every 2 weeks to maintain the property, as this is a historic place that people like to visit.

Councillor Dwyer stated that the Firework information and videos that were posted seem to have been effective, because according to the residents that were involved it was a fairly quiet Canada Day with no noise complaints.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Councillor Browne.

3F Waste Recovery Request

The Committee reviewed a request for a letter of support from 3F Waste Recovery who want to create pet treats and tallow from moose carcasses. This company must work with the Department of Fishery, Forestry, and Agriculture to get access to this resource; therefore, they are seeking community support to accompany their request.

The Committee recommends that a letter of support be provided.

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Kilometers for Kids

The Committee reviewed a request for a donation and support for the event “Kilometers for Kids”. The event is a bicycle relay from St. Anthony to St. John’s and includes seven (7) riders and five (5) support volunteers travelling 1000 kilometers. They will be in Grand Falls-Windsor on the evening of July 12th at the Mount Peyton Hotel.

The Committee recommends that a donation of \$500.00 be approved to support this event. As well, the Committee recommends that Community Services staff connect with the organizers to coordinate any related activities.

Benches for Grenfell Heights

The Committee discussed a citizen’s request for some benches and rest areas be added along a section of Grenfell Heights. Staff reported that sites have been identified and this work will be completed by the end of the summer season.

Symbols of Indigenous Recognition & Support

The Committee discussed some options regarding symbols of support and recognition for indigenous communities. The ideas included:

1. Indigenous crosswalk,
2. Indigenous mural,
3. Construct a teepee at Gorge Park,
4. Plant 215 trees within the community and/or plant a single feature tree at Gorge Park with an interpretive panel.

The Committee recommends that an indigenous crosswalk be painted next year; that staff coordinate the distribution of 215 trees to willing citizens through the Farmers Market; and that a mature tree be planted at Gorge Park with an interpretive panel installed. Councillor Bennett committed to work with local indigenous groups to acquire funding for these projects.

Road Patching

The Committee discussed citizen concerns related to staff not sweeping up asphalt around the work areas where patching is done.

The Committee recommends that Managers develop procedures to ensure this part of the job is completed.

Age Friendly Committee

The Age Friendly Committee, some Town staff, and some Councillors attended a meeting with Minister John Abbott on July 6th, 2021. The meeting was arranged for the purpose of introductions and to review past work initiative of the Age Friendly Committee.

The Committee was pleased with the meeting and recommended staff remain engaged with the Age Friendly Committee and Minister Abbott.

NL Health Accord

The Committee discussed recent information that has come to the attention of Councillors regarding potential significant changes to the status of the hospitals

in Central Newfoundland. Resource documents from the Health Accord website identify a concept where there would be only one Regional Hospital in Central.

The Committee is very concerned that such a concept could even be under consideration and pledged to investigate the situation fully. The Committee will address their concern with the Health Accord Committee and Government soon.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Dwyer

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

Councillor Bennett acknowledged all of the people that are involved in the Kilometers for Kids event. He stated that he and Councillor Dwyer met with them when presenting a donation on behalf of the Town. He noted that it was amazing that these individuals were travelling 1000km on bicycle to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, and stated that they raised \$16,000 last year and their goal for this year is to raise \$34,000. He wished them well wishes and all the best in achieving their goal.

Mayor Manual agreed that the individuals involved are doing a fantastic job, and that he and the CAO passed them on the highway when on the way to Gander for meetings regarding the Health Accord. He said that they did get an opportunity to speak to the Health Accord Committee and that the Committee Chairs basically said that they don't know our region, so they want us to tell them what is important. It appears from the details that have been released so far that Central Newfoundland is going to get the biggest hit from this Health Accord. He stated that he understands that they need to find sustainability and savings and that we are willing to cooperate to ensure that those things happen, but what he tried to make them see is the devastating impact to other communities that don't have a regional hospital if one of the current ones in Central gets downgraded. He expressed his concern when seeing government funding being spent in all other parts of the province, and central newfoundland taking the economic impact of that spending. In reality, whichever community doesn't get the designated regional hospital will be devastated, with jobs lost and people moving out of the community, this will impact the Towns tax base and in the long run effect the ability to operate. He advised that he has been in contact with the Mayor of Gander and they feel the same way, and agreed to collectively take an approach on this including getting all the communities in the region on board. The message we want to send to the

independent Committee who are looking at this is to listen to our major concerns because we cannot allow this decision to devastate a community. He suggested that our citizens and people in the region need to pay attention to what is going on with this Health Accord and the impact on Central Newfoundland, and have your voices heard.

Councillor Dwyer stated that in the Zoom meeting we had for Municipalities, Sister Elizabeth Davis acknowledged that Mayor Manuel articulated himself very well in expressing his concerns with the Health Accord issue. She also advised that the meeting that she attended with the Age Friendly Committee and Minister Abbott went very well. She acknowledged that there were some people from this community who attended that have a lot of experience working with seniors and advocating for seniors, and that they plan to do even more in the future.

Corporate Services

The following report was also presented by Councillor Bennett.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week twenty-six (26). Total labour was \$1,687,134. This was \$120,022 (6.6%) under budget.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs moving forward.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$662,213.49 and recommends this be presented at the next Council Meeting.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Bennett\Feener

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

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Holly Dwyer.

MYCW – Street Resurfacing

The Committee reviewed a list of streets for consideration for the 2021 Street Resurfacing Program. The staff listed streets in order of priority and put forward a recommendation to the Committee. This funding is in addition to the Gas Tax Street Resurfacing that has already been approved and awarded.

The Committee recommends that the recommended streets submitted be approved and a tender be prepared as soon as possible.

Chlorine Booster Station

The Committee were advised that the Gas Tax Secretariat approved the request for funding for a Chlorine Booster Station for the Regional Water Supply. This project is one hundred percent (100%) funded by Gas Tax and at no cost to the region.

The Committee recommends staff prepare the necessary Resolution of Council for the next Council meeting and to prepare documentation to move forward with the project.

Crown Lands Referral – 13 Pondview Drive

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands request from the business at 13 Pondview Drive. This business has been there for several years, and this is an application to renew the Commercial Lease Agreement.

The Committee recommends this be approved.

Crown Lands Referral – 7 Queensway

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands request from A & A Realty at 7 Queensway to further extend the rear property boundary. The request is to obtain more parking space on the property. A previous application has been approved at the same property.

The Committee recommends this be approved.

Land Request – Toulett Drive

The Committee reviewed a request from A & A Realty for an easement to access their property at 7 Queensway from Toulett Drive. The proposed access would cross Town property and go behind the properties of 9 and 11 Queensway. This area is zoned Commercial General (CG) and the requested land is part of a possible commercial lot development.

The Committee recommends this request be denied. The requested section would jeopardize future development and is not in the best interest of the Town. The Committee also recommends staff discuss other options with A & A Realty on an access to Queensway and why the current access is not adequate.

103 Circular Road – Water Issues

The Committee discussed the circumstances surrounding the water issues at 103 Circular Road. The Director of Public Works and Development has recently met with the resident and has initiated steps to correct the issue. Staff have evaluated and ordered the necessary materials to address the issue and it will be completed as soon as possible. This measure will provide improvements to the property, but a permanent solution is part of a larger Capital Works Project for the area that the Town is awaiting approval from Government.

The Committee recommends staff complete the upgrades immediately upon materials arriving and inquire on the status of the application for funding from Government.

Accessory Building Permit – 362 Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident at 362 Grenfell Heights to construct a 148.6m² accessory building. The proposed structure is a large, galvanized steel structure affixed on steel containers. The current Development Regulations allow Council to evaluate these applications on an individual basis on lots more than 1115m². Consideration is based on proposed location, design, height, building material, proposed use, and assessment of the site's characteristics.

The Committee recommends this be approved in principle until the current Development Regulations are approved with the use of these proposed steel containers. In addition, the resident must provide all required stamped engineered drawings satisfactory to the Public Works and Development Department before any permit may be issued.

Digital Display – Cromer Avenue

The Committee reviewed a request from the owner of the digital sign on Cromer Avenue to have the existing vegetation adjacent to the sign removed or relocated at no cost to the Town. Other vegetation would also be planted at the Town's request. The request is to allow better visibility of the sign to motorists.

The Committee recommends this request be denied and for all existing vegetation to remain. The long-term goal is to add more vegetation along the street and there is no desire to change what exists.

UV Building

The Committee reviewed the results of the tender for the construction of the UV Building. The lowest acceptable bid was from Burnt Bay Construction Limited at \$1,539,711.25 HST included.

The Committee recommends this be awarded. The overall project cost is within the original funding allocation.

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 2021-324

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;

WHEREAS: all spending under this Agreement must be used for the Chlorine Booster Station – Regional Water System;

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has been approved for

funding under the Federal Gas Tax – Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Fund;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the allocation of funds under the Federal Gas Tax Fund – Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Agreement in the amount of \$134,008 for the Chlorine Booster Station Project #99-2021-7410.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2021-324 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Whiffen reminded residents that the Queen Street Dinner Theatre is underway for the season, so if you are interested in getting out to see those shows he recommends that you get your tickets now as there is limited seating due to COVID restrictions. He also congratulated Grand Falls-Windsor native Lieutenant Commander (LCdr) Amanda Jayne who is a member of the Royal Canadian Navy under the Maritime Forces Atlantic, she recently took over her first post as a Commanding Officer of the NRU Asterix in Halifax and that is a Naval Replenishment unit responsible for replenishment at sea operations aboard the MV Asterix.

Deputy Mayor Browne reminded residents that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor and the Association of New Canadians are going to hold an information session on Thursday July 15th at the Mount Peyton Hotel. This session is for employers to get a better understanding of how immigration can help with their employment needs. He also reminded residents to book an appointment to get their second vaccine, to better protect themselves and others.

Councillor Coady-Davis reminded residents that now the warmer weather is here it is a time that our summer employees are busy with regards to construction. She advised residents to use extreme caution in these areas and be careful as the

flags people are out and it is dangerous for them when people are not paying attention. She also suggested that people when walking using the crosswalks, and motorist passing the crosswalks use extreme caution and be aware of what is happening in your surroundings to avoid any tragedies happening.

Councillor Bennett wanted to mention once again that he is in conflict with the labour dispute between the Town and CUPE 1349, and that if you see any documents or videos that advises that Council is united that it does not include him. He stated that he does not attend any meeting regarding this issue and has no dealings with the topic nor want's anything to do with it. He also advised that as of tonight he will be resigning from Chair of Corporate Services

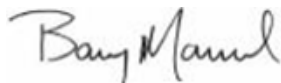
Mayor Manuel pointed out that any time in a municipal democracy that we have, majority of Councillors agreeing on something then this becomes the official position /decision of the Council. He stated that Councillor Bennett is in conflict and has made it clear on social media and in the Community that he wishes to remain neutral on the issue. In terms of Councillor Bennett's resignation as Chair of Corporate Services, he agreed that it was Councillor Bennetts decision to make. Council will iron out any response or formalities in the coming days.

Councillor Bennett left the meeting.

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 August 10th, 2021. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.



Barry Manuel
Mayor



Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer