

MEETING #550

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
Andrew Little, Dave Noel
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\Town
Clerk
R. Hannaford, Communications Officer
K. Hutchinson, Deputy Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed a Proclamation for Respiratory Therapy Week October 24th – 30th, 2021.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #549 of October 5th, 2021.

Motion
Coady\Dwyer

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #549 of October 5th, 2021. would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Prior to the reading of this report Deputy Mayor Browne was excused due to a perceived conflict of interest with regards to the Junior Golf Program in the report.

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,881,139.78.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,881,139.78 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Deputy Mayor Browne returned to the meeting at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Gymnastics Program Update

The Director updated the Committee on the progress made to rent a building for the Gymnastics Program. An appropriate building has been identified to meet the needs of the Program.

The Committee recommends the Director make the arrangements to rent the facility.

Correspondence from Adult Hockey Group

The Committee discussed correspondence from an adult hockey group asking why their scheduled ice times are later than normal. As the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium is not open for ice rentals to-date, there is limited ice time available for all groups and adult groups must skate later than normal.

The Committee recommends the Director work on finalizing the arrangements for the gymnastics building so the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium can be open for ice rentals as soon as possible.

Sliding Hill Update

The Committee discussed the plans to construct a sliding hill at the Ski Trail facility on Scott Avenue. Government funding has been approved and plans are being worked on by our Public Works and Development Department.

The Committee recommends staff finalize the tender process so the hill can be constructed for this winter season.

Baseball Field Renovations Update

The Director informed the Committee that the tender for the Baseball Field Renovations was over budget and has not been awarded. It is a possibility this shortfall could be covered under Gas Tax Funding.

The Committee recommends referring this to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for final approval.

Vaccine Passports for Arenas

The Director informed the Committee of the new Government Regulations for the COVID Vaccine Passport which will come into effect on October 22nd, 2021 for both of our arenas.

The Committee recommends staff make the necessary arrangements to ensure we follow all these new Regulations.

ACOA Applications Update

The Director updated the Committee on ACOA applications we have recently submitted. We are expecting notification on a COVID Relief Trade Show Application in the next couple of weeks. We are also working on applications for the Farmers Market and the Ski Trail Facility.

The Committee recommends completing these applications and to update the Committee at the next Community Services Committee meeting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Little

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 advised adult user groups that once the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium opens, they will be able to have earlier ice time, as he had several calls regarding the concern of only being able to get ice time later in the evening. He realizes the inconvenience of just having the one (1) stadium open, but they are hoping to have the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium open as soon as possible.

Mayor Manuel was pleased to announce that although it is not one hundred percent (100%) finalized yet, it looks like they may have a facility for the gymnastics group. This will provide the group with a sense of security, because we are very proud of this Town program and all the participants that we have. He stated that logistically moving into a new building there are a few challenges with things that need to be done and how quickly we can do them, but we will try to have the building ready as soon as possible. Once the move takes place, it will allow us to get the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium ice down quicker, as the demand for ice time this year seems to be greater than previous years.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Crown Lands Request – Whitmore Street

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands application from a resident for 3.13 hectares of land on Whitmore Street Extension in the rural area of Town. The proposed use is for agricultural use.

The Committee recommends this application be denied. However, the Committee recommends that one (1) hectare be approved and the applicant can request additional land in the future when needed. The Committee also recommends that the applicant provide additional information for review to support the request of the full 3.13 hectares.

Crown Lands Request – Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands application from a resident of 264 Grenfell Heights for 4.2 hectares of land south of Grenfell Heights behind existing Town land and other private land. The proposed use is for agriculture use.

The Committee recommends this application be denied. The area in question was rezoned as CDA-R (Comprehensive Development Area – Residential) which is to protect areas for future use in the Town. The proposed use of the land is not permitted in the zone.

216A Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a request for the Town to purchase the property at 216A Grenfell Heights which is over 3.2 hectares. The land is adjacent to a road reservation at 224 Grenfell Heights and has the potential for future residential development. The section could possibly be part of the overall Development Plan for Molloy Street. This was discussed at a previous Committee meeting and the asking price is \$100,000.

The Committee recommends that this be approved. This is important for the future residential development of the Town and is a long term investment and will recover the cost of the land in future sales.

Goodyear Avenue Ballfield Tender

The Committee reviewed the results of a tender for the Goodyear Avenue Ballfield Upgrades which includes installation of scoreboards, new backstops and dugouts. The lowest acceptable bid was from Bluebird Investments Ltd. at \$304,200.00 plus HST. This is slightly over budget from the remaining funds available; however, the Town can apply for Gas Tax to cover some of the shortfall.

The Committee recommends that this tender be awarded to Bluebird Investments Ltd. and for staff to follow up with the Gas Tax Secretariat for additional funding.

Chlorine Booster Tender

The Committee reviewed the results of a tender for the Installation of a Chlorine Booster for the Exploits Regional Water Supply Committee. This was from Regional Gas Tax Funding. There were two (2) separate tenders for this work.

Part A – New Building and Water Main Connection

The lowest acceptable bid was from W. Reid Construction Ltd. for \$106,720.00 including HST.

Part B – New Chlorination Equipment

The lowest acceptable bid was from Sansom Equipment Limited for \$55,586.87 including HST.

The Town also received a letter from the Town of Bishop's Falls acknowledging that they would cover the additional cost outside the Gas Tax Funding and hence there would be no cost to any of the other towns in the region.

The Committee recommends these tenders be awarded.

Heritage Society Master Plan

The Committee discussed a request from the Heritage Society for funding to assist with the development of a Master Plan for land adjacent to the Heritage Building. The Plan is needed to provide the long-term Development Plan and some other engineering work for structural components.

The Committee recommends that this request be denied, but agrees that the Master Plan needs to be developed and approved by Council before work proceeds on the property.

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 Coady wanted to clarify that the Town of Bishop's Falls did agree that they would cover the additional chlorination booster costs, meaning no additional costs to the other municipalities whereby we share water services. This issue is specific to Bishop's Falls and they wish to improve their water quality with respect to maintaining minimum chlorine levels at the ends of their system.

Mayor Manuel advised that they are very much in partnership and support of the Heritage Society; however, felt like the costs association with developing a Master Site Plan is something they can cover themselves. The Master Site Plan is

needed, and it is important that it blends in well with the other planned developments in that area. He stated that regarding the Crown Lands Application on Whitmore Street, it was not supported based on consistency and need. We didn't support a one (1) hectare application a while back, but this was a request for a lot more than that, so for consistency we did approve one (1) hectare in this case. Council do not want to be supporting applications for large parcels of land unless the use for it can be explained clearly, however should an applicant run out of space after using the one (1) hectare they can certainly apply for more land.

Committee of the Whole (1 of 2)

Prior to the reading of this report Councillors Little and Hiscock were excused due to a perceived conflict of interest regarding the negotiations.

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Negotiations Update

Senior Management provided Council with a full update on negotiations. Council remains committed to successfully negotiating a fair and reasonable Agreement with the Union.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to work towards resolving the lock-out.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Coady

Be it resolved that this recommendation and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Manuel was pleased to announce that the labour dispute is over and most everybody is back to work, which is great news for everybody.

Councillors Little and Hiscock returned to the meeting at this time.

Committee of the Whole (2 of 2)

The following report was also presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Appointment of Committees

The Committee recommends that the following Council Members represent Council on the following organizations and groups:-

Age Friendly Committee

Councillor Bob Hiscock

Alternate – Deputy Mayor Mike Browne

Exploits Regional Water Supply Committee

Councillor Dave Noel

Alternate – Councillor Andrew Little

EXCITE Corporation

Mayor Barry Manuel, Deputy Mayor Mike Browne,
Councillor Holly Dwyer

YMCA

Councillor Andrew Little

Alternate – Councillor Holly Dwyer

A.N.D. Company

Councillor Holly Dwyer

Alternate – Councillor Andrew Little

Joint Council

Councillor Amy Coady

Alternate – Councillor Andrew Little

Central NL Waste Management Authority (CNWM)

Councillor Dave Noel

Urban Municipalities Committee (UMC)

Mayor Barry Manuel, Deputy Mayor Mike Browne

Fire Department Liaison

Councillor Bob Hiscock

Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce

Councillor Andrew Little
Alternate – Councillor Amy Coady

Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM)
Mayor Barry Manuel
Alternate – Deputy Mayor Mike Browne

Grand Falls-Windsor Heritage Society
Deputy Mayor Mike Browne
Alternate – Councillor Bob Hiscock

Heritage Foundation\Grand Falls House
Mayor Barry Manuel
Alternate – Councillor Andrew Little

Exploits Community Centre
Deputy Mayor Mike Browne

Harmsworth Public Library Board
Councillor Amy Coady

Central Health Community Advisory Committee
Councillor Holly Dwyer
Alternate – Councillor Dave Noel

Social Change Network
Deputy Mayor Mike Browne

Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA)
Councillor Dave Noel

Lionel Kelland Hospice

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Lionel Kelland Hospice Committee dated October 7th, 2021. The Committee is seeking consideration for their \$350,000 request of support towards their Capital Project that was referenced in their January 14th, 2021 letter received by Council.

The Committee recommends that staff co-ordinate a meeting with the Hospice Committee to get an update and that their financial request be considered as part of the budget deliberations to be scheduled this year.

Kids Eat Smart Radio-thon

The Committee considered a request for a donation from Kids Eat Smart Foundation Radio-thon.

The Committee recommends that a donation of \$190.00 be approved and that a local school be identified to receive this donation.

Gymnastics Building

The Committee discussed options and costs related to leasing a building to accommodate the Town's Gymnastics Program.

The Committee recommends that the Director negotiate a lease arrangement with the building owner and report back to Council.

Discretionary Use – Home Based Business Application (2 Memorial Avenue)

The Committee reviewed a discretionary use application related to 2 Memorial Avenue for "Exploits Designs". The home based business is a laser imprinting operation. There were no objections to the application.

The Committee recommends the application to be approved.

Grand Falls-Windsor\Bishop's Falls Community Food Bank Request

The Committee reviewed a donation request from the Grand Falls-Windsor\Bishop's Falls Community Food Bank organization. The donation is intended to offset the cost for Christmas hampers.

The Committee recommends that staff remit a donation at the same level as in 2020.

Grenfell Heights Water Main Installation and Related Work – Phase II

The Committee reviewed tender results for drainage improvements associated with the Grenfell Heights Phase II Tender (Tender #13318). The lowest acceptable bid was from W. Reid Construction Limited for \$89,435.50 (HST included).

The Committee recommends that this tender be awarded.

Street Lighting on Toulett Drive

The Committee discussed concerns related to poor street lighting on Toulett Drive between the intersection of Toulett Drive, Queensway and Main Street East. Staff already has a request submitted to NL Power to install lighting in this area, but will follow-up about their schedule.

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Convention

The Committee discussed correspondence from Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador regarding registration of delegates for the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference, Trade Show and Annual General Meeting in Corner Brook on November 3rd – 6th, 2021.

The Committee recommends that Deputy Mayor Browne be registered as a delegate to attend in-person and that Councillor Little be registered for virtual attendance. Staff will facilitate completing the registration process.

Wildlife Officers Issuing ATV Use Related Traffic Tickets

The Committee discussed citizen complaints related to Wildlife Officers issuing traffic tickets for the illegal use of ATV's within Town limits.

The Committee recommends that staff inquire about why this new enforcement is occurring.

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.

Councillor Bob Hiscock acknowledged that he has received numerous complaints about the poor lighting in the area of Toulett Drive and at the east end Main Street. He is hopeful that NL Power will complete the work soon. He suggests that it's an accident waiting to happen and that we want this avoided.

Mayor Manuel agreed that the lighting in that area is a very serious concern. It is up to us to get after NL Power to install those light poles and then we would pay a fee for them after. We have had issues with NL Power in the past getting

lights installed in a timely manner, but in this circumstance, it is important we push to get them in place as soon as possible.

Councillor Hiscock stated that we as a Council and representatives of the residents of Grand Falls-Windsor should continue to develop an ATV user friendly plan to provide a safe access for ATV's to the T'Railway.

Mayor Manuel stated that he is surprised to hear that Wildlife Officers are issuing ATV use related tickets because as you all know we have been working on an ATV plan to be presented to the public very soon and for the public to have input to make the ATV access a lot easier for people in Town and getting people off our T'Railway into the Town to support the economy. We are not pleased that the Wildlife Officers are issuing tickets, because with our Municipal Police and in talking to the RCMP, it is a general rule of thumb that people with all their registration in place and are using their vehicle safely, they don't get ticketed. So, to hear that Wildlife Officers are ticketing on our streets is disappointing because for (a) we were not informed, and (b) we do not agree that they should be doing that. We have asked staff to follow up with the Wildlife Department, and if necessary, the Minister to ensure that they know we feel that Wildlife has other more important things on their plate than coming into our Town giving tickets to people who have been using our roads for decades.

Councillor Coady stated that at her meetings with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador and Minister Sarah Stoodley, who is the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL, they talked about the release of new ATV Regulations. There was issues of enforcement and the Wildlife Officers issuing tickets may be part of those new Regulations. We should review the Regulations, because they also talk about the distance you can travel on the municipal road to get access to a trail. We also need to get after the Provincial Government to get access to the Abitibi land that we have been asking for many years now, so that we can extend our T'Railway and make sure that we can get the ATV's off the roadway and onto the trails safely.

Councillor Dwyer advised that she will be the representative on the Central Health Advisory Committee and wanted to let residents know that between November 22nd – 24th the Health Accord NL will be hosting five (5) virtual Town Hall meetings that residents can enroll in and attend. They need the public and stakeholder engagement because our feedback is very important because they will be preparing to write their fifth (5th) and final report. She stressed the importance of attending and having our voices heard.

Mayor Manuel agreed that this is a very important issue, and crucial that the community gets engaged and understands what the significance of what this report will be and the potential for impact on our community that may not be positive. He stated that over the past eight (8) weeks he has been talking to many people

about this issue and he will be forming a Committee to help address this concern with the public. We already have people that will be willing to get people fired up to get involved at Town Halls, online, call open line, write letters, attend protests, etc... and this Council will be heavily involved in supporting that effort. It is his hope that this Committee will bring people together because voices in numbers are what typically gets attention, and in this case, it is not just Grand Falls-Windsor it is the entire Region. There will not only be health implications, but also economic implications and we do not expect Government to make this decision where either only Grand Falls-Windsor or Gander will survive. We know there are many other areas of the Province and in health that money can be saved, and we do not want it on the backs of Central Newfoundland.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Taxation Receivable Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the taxation analysis for August and September 2021. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivables as of September 30th was \$4,173,073 (\$3,740,256 – 2020) an increase of \$432,817 (11.57%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in September 2021 was \$398,116.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to work with residents and businesses to get all outstanding taxes paid as soon as possible. In addition, residents are reminded to contact the Corporate Services Department at 709-489-0402 to discuss payment options, or to set up a payment plan.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,881,139.78 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week forty-two (42). Total labour was \$2,014,559. This was \$1,226,196 (37.8%) under budget.

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

Municipal Assessment Agency Nominations

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Municipal Assessment Agency regarding the upcoming nomination period for the Urban and Central Region Directors. The deadlines to submit nominations is October 28th, 2021.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk supply Council with additional information via email.

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.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Coady stated that she just attended a media event in St. John's with the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Krista Howell; the President of the Professional Municipal Administrators of NL, Brian Hudson; and herself as President of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, because legislation passed the second reading this afternoon in the House of Assembly on Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Legislation for Municipal Councillors. This has been in the works for a very long time and it is very important as it will incorporate different levels of disciplinary action and more clarification on Conflict of Interest. It will also deal with Code of Conduct of Municipal Councillors as well as Municipal Staff. There will be mandatory training in place for Councillors where you will be allotted a certain amount of time to complete the training, or your seat will be vacated, and you will no longer be able to perform your duties as a

Municipal Councillor. This is long overdue and will provide Councillors with the information to be able to perform their duties in a professional manner.

Councillor Noel expressed that he is pleased that the Union workers are back to work and looks forward to moving back to a sense of normalcy. He advised that the Exploits TrailNet have an upcoming Annual General Meeting on November 3rd at the Mount Peyton and he believes that a lot of people think that Exploits TrailNet is just a Snowmobile Club, which it is not, as it is also for ATV. We encourage all to get out and enjoy the great outdoors, which is why he is disappointed that the Wildlife Enforcement are restricting the residents from enjoying the outdoors. He encourages Council and staff to work with the Enforcement to ensure that it is minimalized, especially when we are trying to make Grand Falls-Windsor an ATV friendly community. He also asked residents that they take the time to remove basketball nets when they are not in use, so that people with mobility issues can use the sidewalks and not have to go around them into the road. And lastly, he wanted to remind parents to teach their children which side of the road they should be walking on and how it is much safer for them to be walking against the traffic and if walking at night to preferably wear reflective clothing for their own safety.

Mayor Manuel mentioned that we do have reflective armbands that we give away for free. If anyone would like some, we can make them available to you. Drivers should be aware, it is so dark and it only takes a second to get distracted and an accident to happen, so make sure you are paying attention and are aware of your surroundings. Pedestrians also should be using extreme caution, use the crosswalks and pay attention.

Councillor Hiscock acknowledged that we are approaching Remembrance Week and we will be having a flag raising and a Poppy Campaign. He wanted to remind citizens that the Poppy Campaign is a very vital part of the fundraising for our veterans and he asked people to please support the Poppy Campaign and our veterans by donating and wearing a poppy proudly.

Councillor Little was very impressed with the tour he just recently attended at the Long-Term Care facility. He stated that it is a state-of-the-art building and it is going to provide residents with the dignity that they deserve. It was a worthwhile needed project and he sincerely hopes that it is an indication of the level of investment that our Provincial Government is willing to put into Grand Falls-Windsor, especially in terms of healthcare.

Councillor Dwyer advised that there is a Saturday Drop-Off event this Saturday, October 30th that will be quite busy because our last one was cancelled and we do not have another one scheduled until November 30th. She encouraged people that are going to the drop-off to go there early. She also advised that the Queen Street Dinner Theatre has their Christmas Shows scheduled for December

6th – 11th at the Royal Canadian Legion and tickets go on sale this Monday. You can visit their Facebook page for details. She also wanted to acknowledge and thank the Exploits Search and Rescue volunteers who had another late night last night which resulted in another successful mission. And lastly, she congratulated Team NL U16 baseball who won the Atlantic's and have a banner to bring back to Grand Falls-Windsor.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that the “Merchants of Main Street” book that was sold by the Heritage Society, which was sold out of copies, now has more copies available. He also advised that the Family Tree group has hundreds of year books from all of the schools in Grand Falls-Windsor going back to the 1950's, and if anyone would like a copy of one of them, please visit the group and they will be provided. He acknowledged Jim Locke, who had to leave the Heritage Society Board of Directors for various reasons, but during his time on the Board he made a significant contribution to the Heritage Centre and the people of Grand Falls-Windsor. Lastly, he mentioned that Des Hynes from Rogers Cable, who is usually here to assist in the broadcasting of our Council meeting is in hospital and we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Mayor Manuel mentioned that he spoke to MHA Chris Tibbs last week again about the Abitibi land saga that we still find ourselves in. We have been promised that land on more than one occasion and we have reached an agreement on language, but we are having a tough time to reach anybody to see where that is and what the next step is. That mill land is so important to our future, not just for an ATV\Side by Side route, but also for riverfront development, Heritage Society, and Grand Falls House property that we are anxious to get plans started. So MHA Chris Tibbs has brought the topic up to get a meeting with the Minister and hopefully we will get a date soon. Halloween is coming up on Sunday, so he asked people to watch their driving on Halloween as it is getting dark earlier now, so please reduce speeds and be careful as there will be a lot of children on the streets. Lastly, Mayor Manuel acknowledged a Grey Ribbon that was on his desk that was given to him by Mike Race who sadly passed away last week with his battle of brain cancer. He courageously fought that disease for a good twenty (20) years and made it his mission to promote Brain Cancer Awareness. He was a good man and made a positive mark on this community, he has gone too soon. He expressed his sincere condolences to his family and sent best wishes on behalf of Council.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of November 16th, 2021. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.



Barry Manuel
Mayor



Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer