

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 2019

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\Clerk
 N. Chatman, Director of Engineering and Works
 K. Antle, Director of Parks and Recreation
 S. Gosse, Director of Finance and HR
 K. Hutchinson, Executive Secretary

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #516 of Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Bennett

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #516 of Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks, Recreation and Special Events

The following report was presented by Councillor Bennett.

Garbage Cans

The Director presented the Committee with several options for new garbage cans the Town are purchasing as part of the Town Funded Capital Program.

With the cost of the garbage cans so high, the Committee recommends the Director investigate the cost for a local business or Town staff to build the garbage cans and then report back to the Committee.

Figure Skating Request

The Committee discussed a request from the Figure Skating Club to move and shorten one of their ice time slots due to low enrollment in their program this year.

The Committee recommends the Director work with the Figure Skating Club to rearrange their ice time that works best for the Club.

Grand Falls-Windsor Day 2020

The Committee discussed the date for Grand Falls-Windsor Day 2020.

The Committee recommends Grand Falls-Windsor Day in 2020 be held on Monday, July 20th, 2020.

Salmon Festival Sponsorship

The Director presented the Committee with the idea to have sponsorship packages for the 2020 Salmon Festival in three (3) year deals to give the sponsors greater benefit for their investment.

The Committee agreed with the idea and recommends to put this item on the agenda for the upcoming Salmon Festival meetings in the next few weeks.

Hall of Fame Cabinets

The Committee discussed the cost for the new Hall of Fame cabinets and agreed with the format and layout that was presented.

The Committee recommends this expense be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for final approval.

Recreational Facilities Needs Assessment Update

The Director presented the Committee with an update on the Recreational Needs Assessment Study being conducted by Lat49. The Study is on schedule and expected to be completed by Christmas.

The Committee recommends all Councillors forward any questions or recommendations to the Director about the three (3) proposed options. The Director will be meeting with Lat49 next week to finalize the options for their final Report.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Bennett\Browne

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

Public Works and Planning

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Pest Control

The Committee discussed residential complaints regarding rodents in various areas of Town. The Town currently provides pest control for Town owned facilities only.

The Committee recommends staff investigate all complaints that they received, assess the situation and determine the best course of action to rectify the issue. It is important these cases are dealt with in a timely manner.

Culvert on Cromer Avenue

The Committee reviewed a letter from Marsh Motorsports concerning the culvert that runs through their property from Cromer Avenue. This takes the water from Corduroy Brook and the culvert is in need of replacement. Due to size, proximity to existing buildings and depth, this will be a costly replacement.

The Committee recommends this be added to the list for a future Capital Works Project and to move it up on the priority list. Also, the Committee requests

staff seek appropriate funding to assist in the completion of the work and to notify Marsh Motorsports of the decision.

39 Dunn Place

The Committee had further discussion on the regulations to determine the violation as it pertains to this property. The condition of the vegetation along the boundary between two (2) adjacent properties is causing issues with the safe exit for neighbouring driveways. To-date there has not been any co-operation from the homeowner to trim the vegetation in that area.

The Committee recommends staff address the concerns with the homeowner and outline areas where vegetation requires trimming\removal. In addition, the regulations need to be reviewed to ensure these types of situations are addressed and requirements are clear on what is expected of residents.

5 King Street

The Committee reviewed a report from the Engineering Department concerning the condition of the property at 5 King Street, namely the state of the fence and accessory building. There were several complaints from neighbours concerning the poor condition of the fence and the accessory building not meeting regulations.

The Committee recommends staff address this property to ensure the regulations are met.

Queen Street Parking

The Committee again discussed the concerns from residents and the Royal Canadian Legion on parking issues in the area during events. This has been an ongoing issue.

The Committee recommends larger “No Parking” signs be installed and to paint areas of no parking along the curbs to add additional attention. It is also recommended to place a sign inside the facility identifying permitted areas of parking. The Committee also recommends Municipal Enforcement Officers provide more patrols and enforce the no parking, especially during large events.

It is important that the Legion notify patrons of the areas for permitted parking. This will need to be re-evaluated in 2020 to see if further measures are required.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Whiffen

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

Councillor Bennett advised that the Queen Street parking is important for all residents and people attending events at the Legion that they “do not” park on the side of the road that is prohibited. This is for safety reasons because an emergency vehicle will not be able to get through if people are parked on both sides of the road, so please adhere to these Regulations.

Mayor Manuel advised that the Queen Street parking has been an issue for some time and there has been notices sent out to the residents in the area. The residents did not want the street to be a “one way street”, but this is our last effort now to ensure that emergency vehicles can get through and respond to emergencies appropriately. Everybody should co-operate and the Legion should let patrons know that parking rules are in effect and that tickets will be issued to people that do not pay attention to the Regulations.

Councillor Feener noted that he wasn't at the meeting where the 39 Dunn Place topic was discussed, but looking at the Minutes it is what we agreed on a few meetings back. We agreed that the homeowner was to trim a few limbs from the trees running parallel to the sidewalk, but according to the pictures from the meeting it looks like Council want to clear out a number of trees now.

Mayor Manuel advised that the 39 Dunn Place recommendation is that the areas will be outlined with the homeowner where vegetation requires trimming and where it requires removal. All the trees are not going to be clear cut, just a select few cut and some trimming for the safety of the neighbour having vision when exiting their driveway.

Deputy Mayor Browne noted that in our By-Laws there are rules and regulations that state from the front of your property to the sidewalk you cannot have a fence higher than approximately 3.6 feet. In this particular case from the front of the house at 39 Dunn Place to the sidewalk there are trees matted together 15 to 30 feet high. This is a violation because the neighbour cannot see coming out of his driveway and that causes a safety issue. However, it was never mentioned that we were clear cutting more of a thinning process. This process will be discussed with the homeowner prior to the work being done.

Councillor Coady-Davis noted the pictures of 39 Dunn Place are a little deceiving as all the trees are highlighted that will be affected. The large tree in the front will stay, but will be trimmed and the two (2) trees on the side of the

driveway at the front will be removed for visibility purposes. There will be as little impact as possible for the resident at 39 Dunn Place. Yet, it will be safer with clearer visibility for the neighbours when exiting their driveway.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that with regards to Queen Street, he and the Director of Engineering and Works met with the Legion on another matter and the parking was discussed. They agreed to do whatever they could to get the message about the parking out there to avoid serious consequences.

Mayor Manuel noted this property at 39 Dunn Place was on the agenda back in 2014 for two (2) reasons. Safety to clear the end of the driveway for safety reasons and a Clean-up Order for clean-up of the back garden. Since that time there has been significant improvements to the back yard of this particular residence. We will work with the resident to make sure it is clear of branches and there will be no clear cutting.

Economic Development, Tourism and Heritage

The following report was presented by Councillor Whiffen.

Big Data\Big Ideas

The “Big Data\Big Ideas” initiative will result in a regional economic profile of Grand Falls-Windsor. The Study is being carried out in partnership with Municipalities NL and Memorial University. The Study should give community leaders a better understanding about the flow of citizens and commerce throughout the Region. The communities involved in this partnership include the Town of Bishop’s Falls, Botwood and Peterview. The Economic Development Officer will travel to St. John’s in November to meet with Memorial University lead Dr. Tom Cooper to work on this project. Subsequent to this project being completed on a future date, Municipalities NL is hopeful that our four (4) communities will collaborate on some mutually beneficial strategic priorities.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to work towards completing the “Big Data\Big Ideas” Study and Council will consider collaborative opportunities with neighbouring communities in the next phase.

Arts & Culture Centre Play Called “Mill Girls”

The Economic Development Officer met with staff from the Arts & Culture Centre Provincial Office. The purpose of their meeting was to discuss a play called “Mill Girls” that they are interested in performing at the Arts & Culture

Centre and to formerly connect it to the Exploits Valley Salmon Festival. The Arts & Culture Centre staff indicated that they would like to have support from the Town to apply for potential Government Funding to complete this initiative.

The Committee recommends that staff gather more information about the expenses and investigate if this initiative could be combined with our Festival activities and report back to the Salmon Festival Committee.

Main Street

The Committee reviewed a list of tasks that are being explored by staff related to improvements along Main Street. As well, the Committee reviewed documentation from an initiative related to the façade on High Street and is now interested in staff exploring option for a policy that could either incentivize and/or penalize business property owners to invest in their properties in the Main Street area.

Movie Site Selection Initiative

Staff met with representative of ACOA to discuss funding options related to developing a movie site selection proposal package that could be used to lure Movie Production Executives to choose Grand Falls-Windsor and the Exploits Region as a possible site for producing a movie or any film production.

The Committee recommends that staff explore options to complete this work and to engage the surrounding communities in a partnership regarding the same.

Aquaculture

The Business Development Officer met with staff from the Marine Institute for introductory meetings related to the possibility of delivering Aquaculture Training Programs in Grand Falls-Windsor. The Town is exploring training possibilities in anticipation of growth in the aquaculture industry on the South Coast and the related future employment opportunities.

The Committee recommends that staff remain engaged with the Marine Institute staff and other local training institutions to ensure options for aquaculture training are pursued. The Committee also recommends that staff and the Mayor engage the Mayors Council on the South Coast to collaborate on initiatives that would benefit aquaculture industry growth.

Choices for Youth

The Choices for Youth organization are considering options for establishing a base of operation in Central Newfoundland. They are looking for Town support in identifying physical space in our community. They are also looking for support in the way of access to our Town operated programs for their clients.

The Committee recommends that staff remain engaged with the Choices for Youth Committee Members and provide suggestions to them about possible physical spaces (i.e. Pine Avenue, Lincoln Road, Dunn Place) that could be used in Grand Falls-Windsor and to address their other questions about the advantages of operating out of Grand Falls-Windsor.

Community Crisis Beds

Staff participated in a Community Consultation about the need for “community crisis beds”. This Consultation was hosted by the Department of Health. Such beds would be for the purpose of adult sixteen (16) years plus who experience mental health crisis, but do not require inpatient hospitalization. A report will be produced by the Department of Health at a future date.

Premier’s Forum on Local Government

The Business Development Officer will be participating in the Premier’s Forum on Local Government that is being overseen by the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development on November 14th, 2019 in St. John’s. The Business Development Officer will give a presentation or discussion about the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Age Friendly Initiatives.

The Committee is supportive of this work and encourages the Business Development Officer to remain engaged with the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development for the purpose of maintaining our Age Friendly Initiatives.

Senior’s Mental Health Research Project

The Business Development Officer had a meeting with Dr. Benjamin Zandel about his interest in a Seniors Mental Health Research Project. The Research would be a collaborative project between Ryerson University and Memorial University. Essentially, he would be working with a local choir group to study the effects of hearing and cognitive abilities in relation to a person’s overall health and social engagement. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor would be required to apply

for a \$10,000 grant to assist in completing this Research. There are no other expenses required of the Town.

The Committee recommends that the Business Development Officer continue to work with Dr. Benjamin Zandel to complete this work.

Highway Intercept Signs

The Committee discussed a request from a resident to add the words “Welcome to” on our Gateway Signage that is installed on the East and West approaches on the Trans Canada Highway. Staff investigated similar Gateway Signage for the City of St. John’s, the Town of Conception Bay South, the Town of Deer Lake and the City of Mount Pearl and none of those Gateway Signs had the words “Welcome to” on them. As well, staff consulted with the signage consultations responsible for the design of our signs originally and they recommended that we not add those words to the sign as it was already implied by having Gateway Signage in the first place. As well, the consultants suggested there would be some considerable expense to such as change. The Committee also acknowledges that they are near to completing a Trans Canada Highway Intercept Strategy that will have recommendations for making our Town more welcoming from the highway.

The Committee recommends that the Gateway Signage text remain the same. As well, the Committee recommends that staff investigate the options of backlighting or adding lighting to the Gateway Signs so they are more visible.

Aquaculture Canada and the World Aquaculture Society 2020

The Town received correspondence from a Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association about booking Trade Show space at next year’s Aquaculture Canada and the World Aquaculture Society Trade Show and Conference scheduled for August 30th to September 2nd, 2020.

The Committee recommends that staff register for the Trade Show in 2020.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Whiffen\Browne

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report 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.

Sports Hall of Fame

A request for \$10,000 related to the set-up of the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Sports Hall of Fame was forwarded to the Committee of the Whole from the Parks, Recreation and Special Events Committee.

The Committee recommends the \$10,000 in new funds be allocated for this purpose.

Prevalence of Drug Use in Grand Falls-Windsor

The Committee discussed what is believed to be a prevalence of drug use in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor that effects citizens including too many of our youth. The Mayor has been approached by some citizens who have expressed concerns regarding the same and Council now wishes to put some effort into addressing this problem. The Committee believes drug use is the root of many other problems including behavior problems, violence, theft, break and enters, robberies, etc... Staff will arrange a meeting with the RCMP to discuss and will subsequently consider options for creating a Community Forum to have a broader discussion that may include schools, Central Health, community social groups, RCMP, legal community, etc...

Concert Band Christmas Concert

The Committee considered a request from the Town Band to provide a subsidy of \$2,000 for their Christmas Concert so they could in-turn make the Concert free to the public. As well, the organizers requested that the Keep Christ in Christmas March be concluded at the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts so that those participants can come to the Concert if they choose.

The Committee recommends that this request be denied at this time as other organizations could have the same expectations. The Committee acknowledges that a \$1,500 grant has already been provided for general operations and that the Keep Christ in Christmas March is not led by the Town rather the Town is a participant. The Committee is open for other proposals in the future that would support the Town Band.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Department of Engineering staff gave a presentation to Council about the progress on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project. The Town has primary wastewater treatment. This new \$10.7 million project will add secondary treatment and possibility some disinfection. Up to the 1990's, the Town of Grand Falls and the Town of Windsor would have had six (6) outfalls of raw sewage into the Exploits River, but that sewer outflow has since been redirected into a primary Sewage Treatment Facility through sixteen (16) kilometers of trunk sewer lines. The current civil construction component of the Sewage Treatment Facility Expansion is supposed to be finished by August 2020 and later followed by a Mechanical Construction Tender. The Town is experiencing some issues with the Provincial Government over the requirement to add a UV building and how that will be paid for.

The Committee recommends that staff arrange a meeting with Government Political Representatives and Council to discuss this matter.

Empire Drive\Wuthering Drive Property Disputes

Subsequent to a meeting with a resident on May 30th, 2019, staff followed up on a concern regarding property boundary issues in the area of Empire Drive\Wuthering Drive. The resident claims that his concerns should be resolved by Council. Council committed to get a legal opinion regarding whether or not the Town should be involved in such matters, as it was not a past practice. The subsequent legal opinion received by the Town was not be involved in such matters, and to direct the citizens involved to engage their own lawyers and the Courts to resolve their own matters.

Request for Interest Forgiveness

Council received a request from the resident of 454 Grenfell Heights requesting interest forgiveness on outstanding property taxes.

The Committee recommends that this request be denied as interest is applied to all citizens balances that are outstanding.

Softball Clubhouse Expansion

The Town tendered the expansion of the Softball Clubhouse on Main Street. There were three (3) bidders and the successful low bid was Bluebird Construction in the amount of \$129,930. This low bid was approximately \$26,000 over Budget.

The Committee recommends that this bid be accepted and that the \$30,000 budgeted for playground equipment be redirected towards the Softball Clubhouse Expansion.

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 advised that after the past couple of years of work the Sports Hall of Fame Project is close to completion. The past month we have met with the Heritage Society and an architect student they had for the summer who set the standards for our displays. The Grand Falls-Windsor Sports Hall of Fame will honour all athletes in Grand Falls-Windsor who are inducted into their respective Sports Hall of Fame. This display will be something the residents of Grand Falls-Windsor should be very proud of.

Deputy Mayor Browne explained that in the Minutes it stated that we are taking funding from our playground equipment to complete the Clubhouse Expansion, but the money allocated for the playgrounds would not have been completed this year. It will certainly be in our Budget again for next year so the playgrounds will not be going without this new equipment.

Mayor Manuel advised that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion is taking place on Scott Avenue. There will be two (2) new lagoons installed. This is to ensure that Grand Falls-Windsor meets the Federal Guidelines that all communities are tasked with meeting by the end of 2020. We do plan to work with the Provincial Government to rectify the cost with funding to finish on schedule.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Dwyer advised that she attended the Legion Dinner last night and it was very nice. It was a great meal and it was nice to get together to remember and honour the contributions, achievements and sacrifices of Newfoundlanders and

Canadians in war time and peace keeping. She expressed congratulations to Dave Dawe for being named “Legionnaire” at the dinner.

Deputy Mayor Browne noted that the skating schedules are now out and it is free and the schedules can be found on our website or Facebook page. All that is required is a helmet and he would like to encourage everyone to get out and enjoy. We are at the time of year when the evening is closing in on us a lot quicker and there are some street lights that are out. If any resident who notices a street light out, please go to the Newfoundland Power website and report it to keep our neighbourhood well-lit and safe. He also mentioned that the Northcliffe Drama Club is putting off a play on Thursday night, November 14th called “Murder on the Exploits”. He encouraged all residents to go and see a great play.

Councillor Coady-Davis noted that we did have our Public Budget Consultation, although there was not a big crowd, but those that did offered us some very valuable input that will certainly be taken into consideration when we are doing our Budget preparation. There is still time for the public to submit suggestions and they can contact the Finance Department to do so. She mentioned that she had the pleasure of attending the Firefighters Ball on November 2nd and Fire Chief MacKenzie talked about his Annual Report. She just wanted to highlight what always stands out the most to her and that is the amount of training hours that our firefighters participate in. We have thirty-nine (39) active members within the Fire Department and they logged two thousand eight hundred and thirty-three (2,833) hours of training time, which equated to one hundred and fifty-two (152) training sessions. This is an amazing amount of time and that does not include their participation within the community, attending fire calls and attending conferences. So “Thank You” to our Volunteer Fire Department, we appreciate all of the work that they do for us. She also congratulated all the Firefighters on their Service Awards and expressed congratulations to the Scholarship winners as well. She advised that NLOWE is hosting a holiday social here on Tuesday, November 26th from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the Corduroy Brook Nature Centre building. Registration is required and for members it is free and for non-members it is \$10.00. She encouraged women in business or women getting involved in business to take part in this event.

Councillor Bennett advised that the VOCM Cares Happy Tree will take place this Thursday night 7:00 P.M. at the Exploits Valley Mall and he encouraged people to show up.

Mayor Manuel mentioned that he was very impressed to see such a big crowd for the Remembrance Day Ceremonies yesterday and everyone seemed to enjoy while paying their respects on the important day. He also advised that he was at the Lionel Kelland Hospice Funding announcement in which Government committed their \$3 million dollar Capital Improvement Fund. Now they are

preparing the RFP for the engineering piece to see what work needs to be done to get the Hospice to an operation point. He encouraged people to support the Lionel Kelland Hospice when they do start some of their fundraising initiatives. He would also like to congratulate the Board of Directors on getting this to where it is now as this Hospice will be the first of its kind in Newfoundland and Labrador and will lead the way.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Bennett

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer\Clerk