

Council Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2021
Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elaine Nash, Kevin McDonald, Ian Goudie, Brenda Young, F. David Power, Doug Dean, Ashley Byrne, Brenda Pike

MEETING CHAIR:

Elaine Nash, Mayor

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion #2021-12-13-185: F. David Power; Doug Dean

Adopt the Agenda of December 13, 2021, with the addition of Contingency Fund Plan under New Business.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion #2021-12-13-186 : Brenda Young; Kevin McDonald

Adopt the Minutes of November 8, 2021

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

In response to the adoption of Minutes, Councillor Byrne enquired about the requirement for Vax Passes and expressed her concern with Council's policy which allows for unvaccinated attendance at Council meetings. She relayed that she is aware of one Councillor who is not vaccinated and she respectfully advised that she would not be attending meetings in person until there was an assurance that everyone in attendance is vaccinated.

Mayor Nash advised that Councillors are not required to be vaccinated while carrying out Council duties and while meetings are in progress. She informed Councillor Byrne that there could be accommodation for her to attend virtually up to three meetings, or alternate meetings; but not all meetings could be attended virtually. The Clerk advised that under COVID Regulations, accommodations could possibly be made. Mayor Nash will contact Municipal Affairs and Dept. of Health for further direction.

FINANCES:

Financial Report

Motion #2021-12-13-187: Brenda Young; Ian Goudie

Adopt the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2021.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Reports

1) Policy and Procedures Committee

Mayor Nash presented the Terms of Reference for the Mount Carmel Recreational Trail Committee for discussion. The following changes will be made and the Terms of Reference re-printed and re-distributed to Council for approval:

- In #1 under Purpose, replace “focused” with “including but not limited to”
- Under Makeup, change “will be made up of 3 Council members” to “will be made up of a minimum of 2 Council members”
- Under Makeup, substitute “???? Residents of Mount Carmel-Mitchell’s Brook-St. Catherine’s” with “a number of residents of Mount Carmel-Mitchell’s Brook-St. Catherine’s which will comprise a maximum of 9 members overall, including Council members”

Once the Terms of Reference are approved, the Clerk will contact those people who expressed an interest in participating on the committee and invite them to the January meeting of the new committee.

2) Infrastructure Committee

The Clerk requested clarification on the approved capacity for gatherings in the Town Hall. Council advised that a maximum of 75 people could attend functions in the hall, with COVID Regulations in place, including Vax Passes, masking except when seated, remaining in cohort groups, social distancing and restrictions remaining on buffet style food.

3) Fire Department Report

- The Fire Department were called out to a major fire/loss at Riverview Lounge in late November.
- Bruce Hickey is being outfitted for a new fire suit.

4) Town Clerk Report

- Final report and invoices have been submitted for Covid Stimulus Grant
- Funds have been transferred from Recreation Account to General Account
- New radar speed signs have been installed at SCA. The old signs have been returned and stored in the basement of the Town Hall. The Dept. of WST are responsible for maintenance on the new signs.
- ERSB schedule has changed. They will be sending out a 2022 calendar to all residents.
- Come Home Year Grant for \$2,000 has been submitted.
- Neither of the requests for funding for the Fire Department were approved under shared funding: compressor and hoses, radio communication system.
- Children’s Christmas party went well. Twenty-one children were registered; we had 18 attend.
- The Town Office will be closed for Christmas break from December 21 – January 3.
- Water Problem: Mr. Rooter was in on Wednesday and repaired the system; however, there is discoloration in the water again today.

5) Recreation Committee Report:

Nothing to report.

b) Contingency Fund Plan

Councillor Goudie brought forward a proposal to see funds from the Town’s GIC made available upon maturation for a feasibility study for the trail proposal at Hurley’s Bridge/Salmonier River. He feels that funds which were originally set aside for a slipway and never used could be utilized to meet the results of the town survey, where residents expressed an interest in a trail system at Hurley’s Bridge/Salmonier River. The availability of these funds would provide financial access for the new trail committee to hire a consultant/engineer for the feasibility study so that future planning/development could proceed through grant applications. He suggested \$50,000 would be a reasonable amount to be made available.

Mayor Nash advised that only a small portion of the GIC funds were set aside for the slipway; namely, \$20,000. The other \$180,000 in the \$200,000 GIC was earmarked for the purchase of a new fire truck in the event other funding wasn't available. Council subsequently did receive funding to the amount of 80/20; the remaining funds were kept in a GIC and earmarked for emergency funding. The other \$50,000 GIC was invested by a previous council. It was destined for the gas tax account for the paving of the garden road but was inadvertently invested in a GIC, where it remains invested for an emergency.

Councillor Power enquired as to whether any applications for grants had been submitted to cover the cost of a feasibility study. He was advised that a federal grant submission for trail development in the area had been turned down twice. He then expressed concern over the expenditure of Town funds for Hurley's Bridge when the Town does not have ownership of the bridge. He also expressed concern that the Town would take over responsibility, and thus liability, for the bridge without an engineer's report. Councillor Power suggested that the Town contact Government and request they conduct an environmental/feasibility/engineering analysis at their cost and that any future development would be conditional on this study being carried out by Government. This should be a priority for the committee once they meet in January.

Councillor Goudie enquired as to whether there was any possibility a contingency fund could be put in place to give the new committee a starting point in January. Councillor McDonald brought forward the need for a generator for the Town Hall is more urgently needed if there are funds available.

Mayor Nash advised Councillor Goudie that it wouldn't make sense to have funds available specifically for this initiative. However, she advised that the Recreation Committee are welcome to submit a request for funding to Council at any time, which would subsequently be reviewed. Mayor Nash advised Councillor Goudie of his option to bring forward a motion requesting funds be set aside. Councillor Goudie felt there is no appetite on Council's part to bring forward funds so he would not move forward with a motion at this time.

Councillor Byrne suggested that funding for this initiative could be revisited in the future if needed.

The Clerk suggested that the Recreation Committee review and submit a request for funding under the Community Healthy Living Fund, which provides funding for feasibility studies for trail development, once the Dept. of WST has clarified the status of Hurley's Bridge.

c) Water Filtration System:

There was some discussion about the issues with the water at the Town Hall; namely, discoloration and residue. It was decided that the water would be submitted for testing. The Clerk will contact the Mr. Rooter technician to get advice on whether he feels the system is the only issue or if there could possibly be something else going on as well. The new system can be purchased before gas tax funding is approved as it is an emergency situation; however, testing will be done before purchase to ensure there are no other issues. In the meantime, bookings will proceed as planned with signs in place to advise people the water may not be safe for drinking. Drinking water will be made available via water dispensers.

Motion #2021-12-13-188: Brenda Young; Ian Goudie

Resolve that the Town of Mount Carmel-Mitchell's Brook-St. Catherine's submit a Capital Investment Plan to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities for Gas Tax Funding in the amount of \$9,480.78 for a replacement water filtration system to include a Preventative Maintenance and Water Treatment Advantage Plan, as per the quote provided by Mr. Rooter dated October 27, 2021.

All in Favor; None opposed

Motion Carried

d) Budget:

The Clerk introduced the revised Budget for 2022, noting that changes from the original budget included additional revenue from increased taxes as a result of Council having to absorb increased waste management fees and the addition of gas tax funding for the new water filtration system.

Motion #2021-12-13-189: F. David Power; Kevin McDonald

Adopt the budget for the calendar year 2022 as presented.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

e) Hall Rental for Dart Leagues:

Motion #2021-12-13-190: Brenda Young; Kevin McDonald

Both dart leagues who avail of the Town Hall will be charged \$25 per night of darts.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

f) Child Care Capacity Funding:

Councillor Byrne proposed that the Town request a feasibility study for a daycare program under the Child Care Capacity Funding Program. She advised this is a minimum two-year program which provides for provincially and federally subsidized childcare. The program is fully funded with no cost to the town; the town would be responsible to appoint a sub-committee to oversee the program. Government will pay an Administrator and all building preparation and salary costs would be covered as well. Councillor Byrne felt a child care center would be instrumental in attracting and keeping young families in the Town. The feasibility study would be carried out by the Dept. of Education and would include a survey to residents which the Town could help distribute. Ashley suggested the lower level of the Town Hall would be ideal, especially since it appears Eastern Health may not be occupying that space in the future. The center could service the whole area of St. Mary's Bay North and would provide before/after school programming as well as full-day daycare.

Motion #2021-12-13-191: Ashley Byrne; Brenda Young

Implement Phase 1 of the Child Care Capacity Initiative Funding (Feasibility Study)

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

ROUND TABLE

a) **Air Exchanger:** Mayor Nash brought to Council's attention that the air exchanger in the basement of the building has not been serviced in recent years. Councillor McDonald and Councillor Power will have a look at it to see what is involved in servicing and arrange same. The Clerk suggested that the Heat Pumps be inspected/serviced as well.

b) **Electrical Outlet by Panel Box:** Councillor McDonald advised that there is no light in the area of the electrical panel box downstairs and recommended that an electrical outlet for a bulb be installed.

c) **Grade 1 Initiative:** Councillor Young requested that the Town take part in an initiative of a Grade 1 class by sending a postcard with fun facts about the town to the school. She will provide the Clerk with the relevant address, etc.

d) **Dept. of Forestry Five-Year Plan:** Councillor Goudie advised that the Dept. of Forestry have gone ahead with their Five-Year Operating Plan, stating that the Town had been consulted; however, the Department hasn't acknowledged the Town's concerns. He suggested that Council be pro-active by contacting Sherry Gambin-Walsh and requesting her intervention. She may be able to get more direct answers to the Town's concerns; namely the

requirement for a permit if they're working inside the Town limits; the fact that the area has been zoned as a rural heritage area and the Town's request for more details on the plan. Mayor Nash will contact Sherry Gambin-Walsh and ask for her assistance.

e) **Town Plan:** Mayor Nash will contact Sherry Gambin-Walsh with a request to provide an update on the status of the Town Plan.

f) **Street Lights:** Councillor Dean advised of three street lights that are out: one by Ignatius Meaney's; one by Doug Dean's and one on the turn before David Power's. The Clerk advised that NL Power have been advised about all except Ignatius Meaney's, which she will report on Tuesday.

g) **Dilapidated Buildings:** Councillor Power enquired as to how Council should proceed with addressing the issue of dilapidated buildings. He feels Council should contact other towns to see how they handle this issue. Mayor Nash advised that the legislation governs how Towns can proceed which involves sending out a letter requesting the problem be addressed. If the issue is not resolved, legislation provides for the removal of the building by Council at the owner's expense or the option of taking the owners to court. The Clerk will provide a draft letter to Council.

h) **Deteriorated Wharf:** Councillor Dean advised Council of a private wharf which is in disrepair. The Clerk will notify the Water Resources Division, Dept. of Environment.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion #2021-12-13-192: Kevin McDonald; Brenda Young

This meeting is adjourned.

All in favor; none opposed

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Motion Carried