

**Town Council Meeting
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.
December 18, 2024**

IN ATTENDANCE

Elaine Nash, Kevin McDonald, Ian Goudie, Roy Lewis, Nina Goudie.

REGRETS

Doug Dean, Brenda Young

GUESTS

David Butland

MEETING CHAIR

Elaine Nash

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion # 2024-12-18-652: Kevin McDonald, Ian Goudie.

Motion to adopt the Agenda.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.

3. Adoption of Minutes

a) November 13, 2024

Motion #2024-12-18-653: Roy Lewis; Ian Goudie

Motion to adopt the Minutes dated November 13, 2024 with the following changes:

- update page 6, 6th bullet, Sentence should begin with "It cannot be used..." and add the word "septic" before system - it should read septic system.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.

4. Finance

a) Financial Report – December

It was noted that the December Financial Report will be circulated at the January meeting.

b) 2025 Budget

Mayor Nash did a line-by-line review of the Proposed Budget for 2025.

Motion #2024-12-18-654: Roy Lewis; Kevin McDonald

Motion to adopt budget as reviewed by the Mayor with the following corrections.

- Correct typo of the total value of residential and the tax rate as 2.5 mils
 - Move \$25 ERSB charge for bulk pickup from page 10 to page 8.
- All in favour; none opposed. Motion Carried.

Motion #2024-12-18-655: Roy Lewis; Kevin McDonald.
 To approve the Tax Structure for 2025 as circulated.
 All in favour; none opposed. Motion Carried.

c) GIC Renewal

Motion #2024-12-18-656: Roy Lewis; Kevin McDonald.
 To renew the GIC investment through RBC at 3.2%.
 All in favour; none opposed. Motion Carried.

d) Community Building Fund

- a. The Clerk confirmed that approval was received for reimbursement of all expenses related to replacement of the Septic System.
- b. Additional items for follow-up in 2025 include: Underground Water Tanks, Community Council Road, Municipal Office Software. At the next meeting the Clerk will circulate the list of eligible projects and eligible expenses for Council's review.

5. New Business

a) Reports

- a. Policy and Procedures Committee
 - i. Deferred to January 2025 – Initiate drafting of by-laws, accounts receivable, research on unknown properties and funding opportunities.
 - ii. Scanner/Printer – Council requested that the Clerk follow-up with Colinet about their printer/copier arrangement.
- b. Infrastructure Committee
 - i. Septic System
 - 1. Email from Neighbour

Council reviewed an email from a neighbour dated November 14, 2024 in which they requested the following matters be discussed:

- What Council is planning to do about water running across the parking lot as it poses a hazard that could be avoided by removing the pavement across the parking lot.
- What is Council's plan is for the landscaping between the sewer system and neighbouring property.

The neighbour spoke about the ice issue, stating that it is an OH&S hazard and has been for a long time. In his opinion he , his family and others are at risk.

The Clerk advised that our snow clearing contractor, Leo Squires Backhoe Limited, has been alerted to the fact that the paved area next to the septic retaining wall must be sanded/salted throughout the winter. In addition, the Clerk asked that our maintenance worker monitor the area daily and salt as required.

Council stated their plan to have the ditching completed in the Spring because this is the wrong time of year for that type of work. After further discussion, it was agreed that this is not a septic issue and that Council needs time to consider. Therefore, Council will discuss and respond to the neighbour's concerns in January 2025.

Council requested that the Clerk to follow-up with our legal contact to clarify what the Town's responsibility is to mitigate icing issues and also to determine what our liability is along the property line so that we can protect the interests of the Town.

ii. Road Work – Walsh's Hill and Garden Road

The Clerk advised that the only bid received was from Mr. Dave Nugent at a cost of \$3,500.00.

Motion #2024-12-18-657: Kevin McDonald; Ian Goudie.

Motion to award the contract to Mr. Dave Nugent, subject to confirmation of appropriate insurance documentation.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.

iii. Snow Blower

Quotes from three suppliers was reviewed by Council members. Council indicated that a 7 horsepower with an electric start was the appropriate model for Town Hall use.

Motion #2024-12-18-658: Roy Lewis; Kevin McDonald.

Motion to purchase the 7hp 24" electric start Honda Snow Blower with tracks.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.

The Clerk with check-in with the Maintenance Worker about wearing Winter Safety Equipment.

- c. Recreation Trails Committee – Nothing new to report.
- d. Fire Department Report
 - i. Wildfire Preparedness Fund – A grant of \$500 is available to plan a wildfire mitigation event. Council discussed and was in favour of submitting an application for an event.
- e. Town Clerk Report

Ice Control Materials for 2024-25

The form (SSSP) for supply of ice control materials to the Town for the 2024-25 season was ready for submission to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Leo Squires has the contract for the coming year. The Town will re-tender for next year.

Motion #2024-12-18-659: Roy Lewis; Ian Goudie.

Motion to approve the SSSP for 2024-25 for ice control materials for 2024-25.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.

- f. Development Permits
 - i. Rick Wilson, Main Road

Mr. Wilson's application to build a garage included an email from ServiceNL approving the addition of a bedroom and bathroom in the loft of the garage.

Motion #2024-12-18-660: Kevin McDonald; Ian Goudie.

Motion to approve the permit application submitted by Rick Wilson.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.

6. Communications

A newsletter will be issued in January 2025.

7. Round Table

NL Geographical Features – Councillor Goudie provided an update on discussions with Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) about designating geographical features in the area, specifically his question about Hurley's Bridge. Bottom line is that if we do not own it so we cannot have it named as a heritage feature.

Hurley's Bridge – Councillor Goudie revisited the discussion about refurbishing the bridge. He called Doug Power of Harbourside Engineering to review their quote from 2018. The assessment can be done at the same price of \$2,100.

The Town needs to know what is possible and what is not possible. It is a historic landmark that we should move ahead with.

Motion #2024-12-18-661: Ian Goudie; Roy Lewis.

That the Town contract Doug Power with Harbourside Engineering to conduct a one-day feasibility survey for Hurley's Bridge for the amount of \$2,100.

MOTION DEFERRED.

Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that the bridge - used as a footpath - would enhance the area as it would facilitate access to the two trailheads (East Coast Trails and Salmonier River Valley Trail) to which we are already committed. As it approaches its 100th year, the bridge has historic value and has become a cultural icon in the community. The bridge dates back strategically to the tree nursery at Back River, another heritage site which can connect to the trail network.

Council requested that the Clerk contact our insurance provider to find out how taking over ownership of the bridge would factor into our insurance. It was noted that a trail in Seal Cove (CBS) goes across a bridge. They may be able to provide insight on their experience from an insurance/liability perspective.

Council further requested that the Clerk circulate a survey to residents to gauge public interest in Hurley's Bridge and whether they would endorse the Town investigating ways to keep, repair or replace the bridge.

Should the survey results indicate a wish to move forward, the Town will issue a call to form a committee to further investigate the viability of Hurley's Bridge.

8. Privilege (in-camera) – discussion deferred to January meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

Motion #2024-12-18-662: Kevin McDonald; Roy Lewis.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

All in favour; none opposed.

Motion Carried.