

The regular meeting of the Mount Moriah Town Council was held in council chambers on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting:

Mayor	Lisa Duffney
Deputy Mayor	Shelley Leroy
Councilors	Brad Penney Brad Porter Sandra Wells David Butt
Town Clerk/Manager	Carol Skeard
Absent	Councilor Arthur Hamlyn

Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2024-034 Penney/Porter

Be it be resolved that the agenda for the February 21, 2024 council meeting be adopted.

All in Favor

Carried

Delegations

Mount Moriah Recreation Committee

- No correspondence from the Mount Moriah Recreation Committee.

Mount Moriah Volunteer Fire Department

- The Fire Extinguishers need a six-year maintenance check done the total cost is \$1,417.38.

Motion 2024-035 Penney/LeRoy

Be it be resolved that the Mount Moriah Town Council approves the six-year maintenance check done on the fire extinguishers for the total cost of \$1,417.38.

All in Favor

Carried

Mount Moriah Community Events

- The next Mount Moriah Community Events meeting is Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Errors or Omissions of Minutes

No errors or omissions in the minutes

Adoption of Minutes

Motion 2024-036 Wells/Butt

Be it be resolved that the minutes of the February 7, 2024 council meeting be adopted.

All in Favor

Carried

Business Arising from Minutes

Will have to get in touch with the Town of Lark Harbour in regards to the cylinders and breathing apparatus.

The roof of the Town Hall has been cleaned off by Bill Gallant Roofing and Contractors Ltd.

Check with Richard Carter regarding scrappers for the roof of the Town Hall.

Newfoundland Power has put the Town of Mount Moriah on the list to have the trees cleared away from the No Parking sign at 3 Serpentine Road.

Still need to get a cell phone for Maintenance Man.

The Loader Operator has cleared the snow on Main Street from Serpentine Road to MacDonald Drive.

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has widened out Main Street.

Councilor Porter brought it to the attention of the council that James Gillam, 2 Serpentine Road, is blowing snow toward the crosswalk near his property. The council will send Mr. Gillam a letter asking him not to blow his snow toward the crosswalk area on Main Street.

The Mount Moriah Recreation Committee has applied for 4 students on the Student Summer Program.

The Town Clerk/Manager, Carol Skeard, informed the council that she has applied for an Accessible Communities Grant to move the door coming into the council office and put on a patio.

Mayor Lisa Duffney attended the Professional Development session at the Hew & Draw Hotel on February 21, 2024.

Maintenance Man, Kyle Specker, will not be attending the Water and Wastewater Workshop in Gander from March 26 to 28, 2024.

Town Clerk/Manager, Carol Skeard, has to look at the Town of Mount Moriah Vehicles Regulations to see where the regulations have to be amended to make the Town of Mount Moriah ATV-friendly.

Fire hydrants have been shoveled and Welshman's Drive widened out.

The Town Clerk/Manager, Carol Skeard, asked if any of the councilors have given any more thought to putting two street lights near the Cook's Brook Bridge.

Public Concerns

Letter from Tammy Bennett, requesting information from the council to allow her a permit to build just past 5 Bennett's Lane, Mount Moriah. Ms. Bennett attended the council meeting. Mayor Duffney pointed out that there will have to be an engineering study done in this area at her expense. Also, even though the council owns Bennett's Lane, the council will have to check to see if the main line for the water and sewer is installed on Bennett's Lane. Also, the council would have to check to see if this property would have to be developed as a subdivision. The council will check to see if the main water and sewer are on Bennett's Lane.

Email from Eric Bourgeois, 115 Main Street, Mount Moriah, regarding receiving a bill today for property tax and water and sewer tax. I called the town office to discuss the error of being billed for water and sewer tax since there is no home on the property and no water and sewer have been used at the property since 2022. I was informed that it was not an error and that water and sewer tax is charged to people who own properties in the town without those services being provided as long as it's "serviceable". Is there a way I can appeal this? Is this a town policy and if it is, should it be a policy? I owned a vacant and fully serviced lot in Corner Brook before building a home on it in 2015. Never was I charged water and sewer tax until the home was complete and occupied. I purchased a vacant property in Benoit's Cove in late 2017, spent 12 months renovating, and was not charged water and sewer tax until the beginning of 2019 once the business was open. I am very surprised and disappointed that the town is charging residents "water and sewer tax" when no such services are being used for my property! Please advise further if this tax can be appealed. According to the Municipalities Act, 1999. Section 130. A council of a municipality served by a water system, sewage system or a water and sewage system shall impose upon the owner of real property located inside or outside the municipality that is connected or is capable of being serviced by that system, a tax, to be known as the water and sewage tax. The council will send Mr. Bourgeois an email informing him of this section of the Municipalities Act, 1999 for all Towns.

Letter from David Butt, Town Councilor of the Town of Mount Moriah requesting that the water meters be brought up again at the next council meeting. I am doing this at the request of some Taxpayers of the Town of Mount Moriah whom he was elected to serve. Mayor Lisa Duffney pointed out that since this is a very important matter, she feels that all councilors should be present to discuss the water meters.

Motion 2024-037 LeRoy/Wells

Be it be resolved that David Butt's letter concerning the water meters be deferred until all councilors are present at the council meeting.

In favor: Deputy Mayor Leroy
Councilor Wells
Councilor Penney
Councilor Porter
Mayor Duffney

Opposed: Councilor Butt

Carried

Finance (Bills payable for Approval)

Motion 2024-038 Butt/Porter

Be it be resolved that the bills are paid, see attached list.

All in Favor

Carried

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Maintenance Committee

Correspondence

- Letter from Holly Scott-Walsh, Regional Manager, Municipal and Provincial Affairs regarding the 2024 Municipal Budget Form.
- Email from Chris Power, P. Eng., Regional Engineer- Municipal Infrastructure, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the scope change form for the council's contemplation/submission. These are being handled on a first-come, first-served basis. The Town Clerk/Manager, Carol Skeard, pointed out to the council that the government is offering additional funding for Capital Works Projects this would mean that the council could apply for additional funding to change the scope of work for the Water and Sewer for Main Street, Mount Moriah. Currently, the project came in over budget and the council had to change the scope to just water for Main Street. However, the council can apply for additional funding of approximately, \$1,000,000.00 to include the sewer with this project. This would be on a 90/10 ratio, where the council would be responsible for the 10% which will be approximately \$100,000.00. There was some discussion regarding applying for additional funding to include the replacement of the sewer on Main Street.

Motion 2024-039 Wells/LeRoy

Be it be resolved that the Mount Moriah Town Council will apply for additional funding to include the replacement of the sewer on Main Street, Mount Moriah. The approximate cost is \$1,000,000.00 with the council's share being \$100,000.00 which the council will borrow.

In Favor: Councilor Wells

Opposed: Councilor Butt

Deputy Mayor LeRoy
Councilor Penney
Council Porter
Mayor Duffney

Carried

- Letter from Don Hearn, M.I.M.A., ICD.D, Executive Director/CEO, Municipal Assessment Agency enclosed was the Contractual Agreement between Municipal Assessment Agency Inc. and the Town of Mount Moriah.

Motion 2024-040 Porter/Penney

Be it be resolved that the Mount Moriah Town Council accept the Contractual Agreement between the Municipal Assessment Agency and the Town of Mount Moriah.

All in Favor

Carried

- Email from Judy Bolt, B.A., Constituency Assistant to Eddie Joyce, MHA, Humber-Bay of Islands District regarding the Provincial Government Announces Grants to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Confederation.

- Email from Judy Bolt, B.A., Constituency Assistant to Eddie Joyce, MHA, Humber-Bay of Islands District regarding Residents Asked to Provide Suggestions for Road Construction Projects for the 2024-25 Season.
- The council received a copy of the letter that Edward Joyce, MHA, Humber-Bay of Islands District sent to Hon Tom Osbourne, Minister, Department of Health and Community Services regarding Radiation Services – New Western Memorial Regional Hospital.
- Letter from Kim Kieley, P. Eng., FEC, Director-Municipal Infrastructure, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding Update to Procurement Thresholds.
- Email from Lucie Papineau, The Telecommunications Alliance regarding the new 879 area code came into effect on Saturday, February 17, 2024.
- Email from Wendy Porter, Fire Services Division, Deer Lake regarding HazMat – Awareness & Operations Training, Clarendville. This e-mail has been forwarded to Robyn Eddison, Mount Moriah Volunteer Fire Department.
- Email from Teara Freak, RD MBA, CHE, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Western Zone, regarding NLHS Board of Trustees and executive team will be visiting the Western Zone for its regular Board Meeting. On Thursday, Feb 22, the NLHS Board of Trustees and the executive team would welcome an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Town Councils, Community Advisory Councils for Corner Brook and North, and our Western Memorial Hospital Foundation.
- Mayor Duffney asked if the council received an email from Peter Antle, Western Health regarding a tour of the new hospital. The council did not receive either email.
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- Email from Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador February 8, 2024.
- Info Note February 5, 2024.
- Info Note February 13, 2024.

Development and Building Applications

- No Development and Building Applications.

New Business

- Mutual Aid will be discussed later.

- Councilor Penney suggested that the council start locating curb stops in the Spring of 2024.
- Councilor Wells brought it to the attention of the council that the exit sign in the Town Hall is pointed towards the washroom. The council will see about getting an exit sign put over the back door in the Town Hall.
- Mayor Duffney brought it to the attention of the council that the light bill in the fire hall is approximately \$1,300.00. Mayor Duffney contacted Gord Batt to look at the electrical in the fire hall.

Notice of Motions

- No Notice of Motions.

Adjournment

Motion 2024-041 Penney/Leroy

Be it be resolved that there being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

All in Favor

Carried

Town Clerk/Manager

Mayor

