



VILLAGE OF GAGETOWN

Minutes

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Date: October 21, 2019 - Regular Meeting of Council

1. Called to order by Mayor Blaney at 6:30 pm with a welcome to guests. Deputy Mayor White, Councillor Massoeurs, Councillor McNamee, Councillor Pleadwell and Clerk Johnson were present.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Call for Motion to Approve Agenda: Moved by Deputy Mayor White and seconded by Councillor McNamee to approve agenda as presented. With no questions and all in favour, motion carried.
3. Guests:
 - a. Bernie Hoganson: The last PRAC Meeting was September 24th, 2019. The following four items were addressed;
 - i. the approval of a positive recommendation to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure for the creation of 3 public streets within Charters Settlement, together with suggested terms and conditions, and that these streets be private rights-of-ways until decided upon as public rights-of-way by the Minister. The approval of a lot-width variance for one of 8 lots of the proposed subdivision;
 - ii. the approval of a 6-lot subdivision in a rural area within Mazerolle Settlement, to be accessed by a 15-metre wide private right of way, subject to terms and conditions, and the approval of 6 lot-width variances;
 - iii. the approval, subject to terms and conditions, that the remaining portion of a lot in Bear Island be accessed by a 20-meter private right-of-way across its 1 lot subdivision; and
 - iv. the approval of a positive recommendation to the Hanwell Council on amendments to the rural plan by-law and re-zoning of lands for a vehicle-towing operation.

The full report can be viewed at the Village Office or can be obtained from the Regional Service Commission 11 Office at 860 Prospect Street, Ph 506-453-2956.
 - b. GDRC: Gary Nason, GDRC Board Member was in attendance, he reports that overall day to day expenses are down over the last quarter. The GDRC continues to offer many programs, including tae kwon do, youth/teen drop in, youth leadership, yoga, Shred Fitness group, the adult 55 plus fitness class, adopt a grandparent and 3-on-3 basketball and ball hockey. The GDRC will host the Farmers Market vendors during Christmas in the Village. Chris Goddard will be briefing Council on the Field of Dreams at a later date. The Rec Council is planning to host a Volunteer Appreciation Night for our 30 plus volunteers in

January 2020. Good return at the last bottle drive, held last Saturday. The Ice Rink needs boards and a bench, we have a volunteer to finish the work, will cost out the materials;

- c. Chris Goddard – Field of Dreams: not present, see GDRC above; and
- d. Tony Ratliff/Doug Harmon regarding Public Wharf: not present.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting of Council – September 16th, 2019: It was moved by Councillor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee to approve the minutes as presented, with no questions and all in favour, motion carried;

5. Correspondence:

- a. Permits September 2019 – no permits issued in September 2019;
- b. Firefighters Museum of Nova Scotia – the rising cost in operating expenses, downturn in tourism and the decreasing/elimination of grants has put a financial strain on all entities like the Firefighters Museum. For this reason, we are requesting financial support of \$2.00 per member of the VGVFD. Attached is a membership card which will allow all members and their families free admission to the museum and well as a 10% discount in the gift shop. Letter and membership to be forwarded to the Fire Department;
- c. WorkSafe NB 2020 Rates for Firefighters Compensation Act - Rates for 2020 will decrease from \$515 per firefighter to \$465. This is designed to cover continuing claim costs while reducing the unfunded liability;
- d. 2019 Municipal Review Statistics Report – this document contains the decisions of all Requests for Reviews completed on properties within the municipality over the past year. As per section 28 of the Assessment Act, municipalities have the right to appeal decisions that resulted in reductions. Of the 6 appeals within our municipality, 3 resulted in reductions and 3 were confirmed as accurate. The Village will not be appealing any of these decisions;
- e. Fact Sheets for Candidates in 2020 Elections; a summary of requirements and information for those considering running for local office in May 2020;
- f. Federal GTF 2019 Project Expenditures – a reminder to verify all 2019 expenditures paid are for expenses directly related to GTF projects outlined in the Capital Investment Plans approved by the Department of Environment and Local Government;
- g. 2020 Budget Forms – electronic version of the 2020 Operating Fund budgets have been distributed;
- h. Municipal Designated Highway Program 2020-2024 – acknowledging receipt of the Villages submission regarding the Municipal Designated Highway program;
- i. Local Governance Resource Manual - the Local Governance Resource Manual was an important tool and reference guide, which has not been available to administrators or elected officials since the enactment of the Local Governance Act on January 1, 2018. The AMANB feels that an updated Resource Manual would be of significant value in light of the upcoming Municipal Elections and offer any assistance in developing a new manual as might be required;

- j. Provincial Municipal Council – Input on Infrastructure Funding - at the Provincial Municipal Council, elected official’s associations were asked for input with regards to infrastructure funding. Their comments and input are provided to UNMB for their consideration in developing their positions for discussion with PNB; and
- k. 4th Biennial NB MEPP Training Session – the Biennial MEPP Training session will be held on October 30th, 2019. The Clerk will attend;

6. Staff Reports

- a. VGVFD Monthly Incident Report - there has been a total of 14 calls since the last Council Meeting. Of those, 5 were hot calls, 1 public service, and the remainder were training and maintenance.
- b. Public Works: General duties: Report is attached detailing general activities over the past month;
 - i. Took 3 of the fire trucks for MVI’s over the past week, one passed, the rescue and 616 both need brakes which is going to be costly due to the age and availability of replacement parts;
 - ii. We had three more dead/diseased trees cut down, in the spring we will look at grinding down the stumps and replacing them;
 - iii. Norwood Rd Culvert replacement: the ‘hump’ has been levelled out and the project is complete;
 - iv. Did some ditching on Reid’s Hill and installed a cross culvert across the bottom of the road;
 - v. Wrote provincial exam on 17th Oct, will have the results in 2 weeks; and
 - vi. The trouble light was on at the lift station, on inspection it was full of grease, the floats were stuck in it, we put a solution in and this effectively cleared the clog. The amount of grease was likely from one of the restaurants based on the volume. While it didn’t cause any damage to the equipment this time, if this continues, it will eventually cause issues or even equipment failure in the future, this could cost the Village in the area of 5 – 6 thousand dollars for repairs. The Clerk will put a reminder of what is acceptable to flush in the next newsletter.
- c. Village Office:
 - i. 2018 Gas Tax Fund Projects:
 - a) Catch basins: both catch basins and cross culverts are installed, awaiting paving. cost \$17,454.70 (taxes not inc). (savings of \$6266).
 - ii. 2019 Gas Tax Fund Projects:
 - b) Norwood Rd Culvert Upgrade: Complete, total cost: \$27,914.34 (taxes not inc), the engineering firm was called regarding the ‘hump’, two quotes to fix, one for \$6,300 by Hazen Thomas and the second for \$4,300 by Merle Smith;
 - c) Front Street: repairs and resurfacing to Front St, beginning at Hector and extending 152.5m down Front St, the tender includes paving from catch basin projects on Peters Rd and Front St, this has been completed, total cost of \$38,885 plus HST; and
 - d) Reid’s Hill: repairs and resurfacing to road, est \$29,000

- i. GTF fund balance as of 31 Mar 2019: \$44,559.28;
- ii. 2019 GTF allotment: \$100,997.00 (double payment for 2019 only);
- iii. Total GTF 2019: \$145,556.28;
- iv. 2019 Total Expenditures: \$111,825.17;
- v. GTF Remaining: \$33,731.11;
- 2018 GTF Audit: all paperwork has been submitted for the audit, the Village was eligible to claim 28.57% of the HST, which I was not doing, therefore, the balances have changed to reflect the additional amounts;
- Community Investment Plan Applications: two applications for these funds have been approved, the purchase of picnic tables and a \$1000 grant to the High and Dry Fest;
- Fourth Quarter sewer invoices and arrears letters have been sent out;
- ETF Proposal Development Team Project: Have been in contact with the team and they are keen to get started with the ETF Proposal for the Village;

7. Councillors' Reports

a. Councillor Pleadwell

i. Tourism and Beautification:

1. Welcome to the Village signage: the sign itself will need to meet DTI standards to be put up on the TCH at the entrances to the Village (both ways) I'd like to have an estimate before submitting the application, if only to save some work if its outside our budget for the upcoming year. The Chamber of Commerce is keen to assist and would contribute by organizing some fundraising activities to support. Deputy Mayor White will make some calls to businesses they have used in the past for an estimate.

2. Village Green Improvements: I've received the bandstand plans from Cambridge Narrows and will be meeting with Treasures folks and the Chamber of Commerce to see what can feasibly be done this year.

ii. VGVFD: nothing to add;

iii. Finance: payables were presented for payment as follows:

General payables: \$ 77,299.54

Sewerage payables: \$ 2,441.94

Motion to approve General payables as presented by Councillor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee. With no questions and all in favour, motion carried.

Motion to approve Sewerage payables as presented by Councillor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee. With no questions and all in favour, motion carried.

b. Councillor McNamee;

- i. Policing: I met with Sgt Griffiths this morning in Oromocto to ask for clarification on the comments made regarding ceasing the monthly reporting at the last Police Committee Meeting. He advised the original contract signed between the RCMP and DLG stated we would only receive reports each quarter. He is more than happy to continue meeting once a month and answering any questions we have. The remarks about not

answering calls were not communicated properly, what was meant is they will prioritize calls based on the seriousness of each call. If there is something going on we should know about, Sgt Griffiths will contact either myself or the Clerk; and

- ii. Recreation: Nothing to add.

- c. Councillor Massoeurs;
 - i. Buildings and Properties: Nothing to report;
 - ii. Human Resources: Nothing to report; and
 - iii. Animal Control: Nothing to report;

- d. Deputy Mayor White;
 - i. EMO: in the package is the participant manual for Exercise NB Bravo, it gives the high-level overview on what will happen, contacts and how the 'chit-chat' and VNN will operate. This year's exercise will pick up from where last year's exercise left off. The manual states the exercise will run from 08:00 until 20:00 but we will only be required to participate during normal working hours. There is some interesting stuff lined up, it will test everybody. The exercise will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019;
 - ii. Sewerage: Everything's just about been covered, the ETF proposal is in the works, once complete we'll send it off to the Environmental Trust Fund and hopefully get that project in the works in 2020; and
 - iii. Transportation/Roads: nothing to add here, the next thing will be the breakdown of roads for winter maintenance, we will probably receive that in the next couple weeks.

- e. Mayor Blaney
 - i. Mayors Report:
 - a) RSC11: Deputy Mayor White attended the last RSC11 meeting, so I'll ask him if there was anything worth passing along.
Deputy Mayor White: there was a really good presentation made by Brett Janes from the Operations side of the SWC on recycling - what we recycle and why we chose to recycle these particular things and not others. He remarked that 90% of the plastics in the oceans come from 10 different rivers, 8 of them are in Asia and 2 are in India. Plastic straws and wrappers account for only about 0.002% of the plastic in the ocean and yet we spend all this time and effort to counteract that. The carbon footprint of stainless-steel straws is 19 million times higher than plastics. The presentation generated a lot of discussion and Brett indicated he would be happy to come to the municipalities and present. 'Voices for a Sustainable Environment' and other climate action groups might be interested in hosting something like this;
 - b) SWC will have a finance meeting Wednesday evening at 5pm to go over the last quarter finances. The vote to pass the budget will be Thursday evening;

- c) UMNBA Annual Conference: was held in Fredericton over the first weekend in October, the session had some interesting presentations, one by ELG Minister Brian Donahey who discussed the equalization grants. They have been getting a lot of pressure to make serious inroads into some of the items around municipalities, with a review into the structure of equalization payments in particular. When asked specifically about the Village, how or why the Village of Gagetown's grant has been reduced from \$100,000 to just under \$2,000. He replied the Village was never entitled to those grants to begin with, under today's formula. The hope is they will really dig in and involve the municipalities to figure out a clear and transparent formula for these grants;
- d) Minister Carr also spoke regarding the payments and bringing the Municipalities Act into the present. He also discussed about giving municipalities greater authority over tax revenues; and
- e) 13 Ways to Kill your Community: the author spoke at the conference, very good information based on real life experience.

8. Open Floor:

- a. Pat Whipple – Unsightly premises: what defines it, is it different in each municipality or one general bylaw for all municipalities? Mayor Blaney: It is different for each municipality, some bylaws may be very proscriptive, detailing everything down to how long grass can be, ours isn't very detailed. We have, in the past with respect to grass, sent a letter to the homeowners, but we don't do enforcement. We are reactive, beginning with a complaint by a resident, then we react, sending a letter or involving one of the enforcement officers from RSC11.

9. Closed Session: Moved by Councillor Pleadwell to move into closed session at 8:00 pm.

10. Open Session: Moved by Councillor McNamee to move into open session at 8:50pm, seconded by Councillor Massoers.

11. Motion to adjournment – It was moved by Councillor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee to adjourn at 8:51 pm.


M.L. Blaney, Mayor


H.J. Johnson, Clerk/Administrator