



VILLAGE OF GAGETOWN

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 20th, 2020 - Regular Meeting of Council

1. This meeting was held using Zoom Conference Software due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Blaney at 6:30 pm with a welcome to those who are listening in via the conference call. Councillor McNamee, Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and Clerk White were present.
2. Approval of Agenda:
 - Call for Motion to Approve Agenda: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee to adopt the agenda. With no questions and all in favour, the motion was carried.
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - Regular Meeting of Council – March 23rd, 2020: It was moved by Councillor McNamee and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell to approve the minutes as presented. With no questions and all in favour, the motion was carried.
 - Special Meeting Of Council – April 2nd, 2020: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee to approve the minutes as presented. With no questions and all in favour, the motion was carried.
4. Correspondence:
 - Permits February 2020: no permits issued in March 2020
 - DFA Funding Letter – A letter was received from NBEMO with a payment of \$5,350.07 as reimbursement of expenses incurred during the flooding of 2019. This amount represents nearly all the amounts claimed by the Village for the 2019 flooding event.
5. DRAFT of BY-LAW 45 – the first draft of the by-law regarding the processing of firewood was circulated to council. It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the Council was again able to meet in person.

6. CALL FOR BORROWING – The application to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board has been submitted. However, some modifications were needed. The required motion was passed during the April 2nd Special Council Meeting. A copy of the newspaper advertisement that was to be published on April 20th and 21st was circulated to the Council. The Municipal Finance Corporation also asked for fiscal projections for the Sewerage Budget for the next five years. The projections are being compiled by Clerk White and will be forwarded to NBMFC.

7. STAFF REPORTS

- Village of Gagetown Volunteer Fire Department – John Thomas: Chief Thomas gave a report to council outlining the recent activities of the Fire Department.
 - Update on PPE being delivered to the Fire Departments
 - Operationally, the Fire Department is at full capacity. The Pumper/Tanker (Unit 618) had to go to the dealer for some recall repairs and to fix an issue with the REGEN system. It is anticipated that the unit will be back in service the next day. The truck in Hampstead was brought back to cover for while the repairs were being done.
 - Flood mitigation is ongoing. Daily updates from EMO are being watched. Looks like the levels will not be as high this year as it has been in the past two years.
 - We received a donation of two digital imaging cameras (thermal cameras) from another Fire Department in Alberta. This was a generous gift that was obtained through a connection with our Village Training Officer.
- Public Works – Ryan McNally: Report is attached detailing general activities over the past month.
 - The last snowstorm required a lot of plowing and cleanup.
 - Cleaning up garbage on Village Streets.
 - Had one fire call this month.
 - Did up a schedule for the repairs and maintenance for the upcoming season.
 - Started the street sweeping for 2020. Most of the Village core is completed. Moving to the outlying areas next.
 - Once sweeping is complete we will be moving to hot mix patching and pothole repairs. Hoping to start the last week of April or first of May.
 - Counted the streetlights in the Village – there are 188 lights within the Village limits.
 - Participated in the Parade of Salute to health care workers in Oromocto.
 - Measured the fence at Rotary Park. The fence must be removed because it is in poor condition and parts are falling down. We will remove the fence and place concrete bumper curbs instead of another fence.
 - Ryan's report is on file and is available for viewing at the Village Office.

- Village Administration – Robert White:
 - Normal recurring administrative duties continued over the month as usual.
 - Square Point-of-Sale system is now set up for the Village. Residents can now pay the sewer bills using debit or credit cards here at the office. However, the rollout of the system is being delayed until after the pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Once we can welcome residents back into the office, we will do a website and social media announcement.
 - The application for the Welcome To signs was prepared and submitted to the NBDTI earlier this month.
 - ELG has asked municipalities to track the savings/losses due to COVID-19. There was a format for the report distributed and the first report was sent in earlier this month. The results of the survey were sent back to the municipalities today.
 - Spoke with Claude Leger of Shannon Buffett. Still no firm date on when we can expect the audited financial statements.
 - Gas Tax Funds 2019 summary is nearly complete – report is due to government on April 30th, 2020
 - The 2019 Annual Village Report is in progress and should be finished shortly. It is due by April 30th, 2020
 - Village website updates are ongoing.
 - EMO –
 - Our local EMO Committee is meeting by conference call weekly to stay up to date on the current situation. We discuss the COVID-19 situation and the flooding.
 - I have been participating in a weekly conference call with Dr. Lamptey, the Regional Medical Officer of Health.
 - Minister Wetmore called to offer pre-filled sandbags for the Village. I indicated that the Village still had a number of sandbags on hand from previous years and that we didn't anticipate a need for them at this point. However, if they were available to the Village at no cost, we would be willing to take some.

8. Councillors' Reports

- Councillor Pleadwell
 - Tourism and Beautification:
 - Deputy Mayor Pleadwell reported that it was encouraging to hear the government saying that it was possible to see an easing of the current restrictions at some point. This could be a boost to the Village and all municipalities in NB.
 - Thank you to Ryan for the sand clearing getting done early this year. Many good comments have been heard from the residents.

- Fire Department – nothing to add to the Chief’s report.
- Finance:
 - Glad to see the information for the borrowing is being looked after. Hopefully, we won’t have to use these funds, but it is good to follow the process.
 - Payables were presented for payment as follows:
 - General payables: \$ 24,228.65
 - Sewerage payables: \$ 254.75

Motion to approve General payables and Sewerage payables as made by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and seconded by Councillor McNamee. With no questions and all in favour, the motion was carried.

Deputy Mayor Pleadwell added that the Village should not spend any money that is not considered essential during this time.

- Councillor McNamee;
 - Policing: no report from RCMP.
 - Recreation: GDRC is not operating any programs at this point.
 - Councillor Massoeurs underwent an operation and is recovering well in hospital. He has a telephone in his room if council or staff wish to reach out to him.

- Mayor’s Report:
 - RSC11 activities have been delayed until Zoom has been set up. The meetings are resuming this week using the teleconferencing software.
 - Conference call with Dr. Russell and the mayors of the communities was held earlier this month. Question was asked about the flooding and how it would be dealt with in light of the pandemic. She said that any pandemic-specific messaging on that would come through the EMO. Key message that she wanted to leave everyone with is to continue the social distancing and hand washing.
 - Premier Higgs had a conference call with all the mayors of the municipalities in NB. One of the key messages was that the SOE would continue in two week increments and change as the situation allowed. There would be a slow rollout of the re-opening over the next number of months. However, it will be some time before we can remove the physical distancing and some of the other measures. Premier Higgs spoke about the economic recovery. The province will work with each community to help them get their economy back up and running. Mayor Blaney suggested that we reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to see if they have any direct suggestions that we could take to the province. Clerk White stated that he would reach

out to the Chamber to deliver the message. Opportunities New Brunswick Deputy Minister and the Post-Secondary Education Training & Labour Deputy Minister will co-chair the committee on rebuilding the economy after the pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

- Areas of Responsibilities – with the vacancies on council the following areas of responsibilities have been distributed amongst the remaining councillors:
 - Mayor Blaney:
 1. Solid Waste
 2. Planning & Development
 3. Transportation
 4. Sewerage
 - Deputy Mayor Pleadwell:
 1. Finance
 2. Tourism & Beautification
 3. EMO
 4. Fire Department
 - Councillor McNamee:
 1. Policing
 2. Recreation & Youth
 3. Buildings & Properties
 4. Human Resources

It was noted by Clerk White that the flags at the Recreation Centre and the Fire Hall were lowered to half mast in honour of those who lost their lives in the tragic events in Nova Scotia this past weekend.

9. Open Floor:


- Nothing from the floor.
- If anyone has any feedback on the conference call format, please reach out to the Village Office.


10. Closed Session:

- Moved by Councillor McNamee to move into closed session at 7:45 pm.
- Open Session: Moved by Councillor McNamee to move into open session at 8:15 pm.

11. Next Meeting: April 20th, 2020.

12. Motion To Adjourn – moved by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.


Mike Blaney, Mayor


Robert White, CAO