



VILLAGE OF GAGETOWN

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 16th, 2021 - Regular Meeting of Council

1. The regular meeting of Council was held at the Village Office. The in-person meeting was open to council, staff and presenters. The meeting was also available via Zoom Conference Software. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Blaney at 6:30 pm with a welcome to those in attendance. Councillor McNamee, Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and Clerk White were present.
2. Approval of Agenda:
 - Call for Motion to Approve Agenda: It was moved by Councillor McNamee and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell to adopt the agenda. With no questions and all in favour, the motion was carried.
3. Presentations:
 - Bernie Hoganson presented his report for the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee meeting held on January 26th, 2021. A copy of the report is available for review at the Village Office.
4. Approval of Minutes:
 - Regular Meeting of Council – January 18th, 2021: 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 – January 28th, 2021: 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.
5. Correspondence:
 - Permits January 2021: one permit issued in January for a \$200,000 project.
 - Insurance Binder Letter: letter from Cain Insurance stating that coverage has been bound as of January 1st, 2021.
 - Bicycle Tour – wants to organize a cycling event to the Village. We will send the email to the Chamber of Commerce. Deputy Mayor Pleadwell will also talk with them if requested.

- Propane conversion proposal: staff checked to see if the fire department vehicles could be converted to propane. This would not be an economic benefit to the Village.
- State of the Forest Report – report is available from Irving. The report is available online at the Village Website.
- February is Black History Month – notice has been posted on the Village Website and on the sign at the Village Office.
- Report from Chief Electoral Officer – report is available from the Chief Electoral Officer regarding the unscheduled Provincial Election in 2020. The report is available online at Elections NB.
- Public Health Review – the Dept of Health is hosting virtual public meetings to get feedback from the public. The dates of the meetings are posted on the Dept. of Health website.
- Future of Air Service – Lynwood Strategies is looking to meet with Council regarding support for lobbying efforts to maintain air service to New Brunswick. Council is willing to meet with Lynwood once a date can be established.
- Municipal Elections – announcement from Elections New Brunswick regarding the upcoming Municipal Election on May 10th, 2021. The notice is posted on our website.
- Community Recreation Funding – new funding for accessible infrastructure. The Village is coordinating with GDRC to see if there are any projects within the Village.
- Renewable Energy Tool – there is new tool to help Municipalities implement renewable energy processes.
- Safe Restart Agreement – the Province has released the table of the amount of money that will be given to municipalities. Gagetown received \$38,597.31 and the money has been deposited into our bank.
- National Building Code – the Regional Service Commission 11 is looking into what this will mean for local municipalities.
- Ivan Corbett Announcement – Ivan Corbett has moved into another position with the Government of New Brunswick. Brittany Cain and Ronald Gaudet have been hired and will assume the duties previously held by Ivan Corbett.

6. Local Government Reform:

- Local Governance Reform is proceeding in 2021. This will be a recurring item on the agenda until the process is completed. It appears that the process will happen.
- Mayor Blaney and Clerk White participated in a conference call with UMN and Ryan Donaghy on February 13th, 2021. The only item that was considered “off the table” was forced amalgamation. Everything else is being considered during the process. Sharing and collaboration seem to be the driving force this time.
- Four working groups have been created – Structure, Finance, Land Use Planning and Collaboration.
- The process is scheduled to result in a White Paper (Government Policy) by the end of 2021. There will need to be a lot of work completed before then.

- The Government has created a dedicated website. There is a link to that site on the Village of Gagetown website.
7. Unified Broadband Fund – a request for support was received from Rogers regarding their application to the Unified Broadband Fund. Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and Clerk White met with Rogers and discussed their plan. The availability of fast, reliable internet is critical to the Village as we grow over the few years. Staff prepared the letter for council to approve and sign. The letter was reviewed and accepted. The letter will be sent to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.
8. Regional Development Corporation Applications:
- A letter was received from RDC confirming our award under the Integrated Bilateral Agreement. The agreement was presented to Council and approved.
 - The process of borrowing has begun. The Municipal Capital Borrowing Board hearing for the Village application is being held on March 8th, 2021.
 - The Village has asked the NBDTI to fund the shortfall between the funds provided by IBA and the total cost of the project.
9. Property Tax Changes:
- A memo from the Environment & Local Government was received regarding the elimination of the Property Assessment Gap (P-Gap). This removal means there is some additional funding available to municipalities. A table was provided outlining the amounts that will be provided to each municipality. The Village of Gagetown will get an additional \$1,426 in July 2021.

10. STAFF REPORTS

- Village of Gagetown Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Thomas was not available for the meeting:
 - The summary of calls was presented for the month of January 2021. The information is available at the Village Office if anyone wishes to see the reports
- Public Works – Ryan McNally was detained by snow clearing operations and was not able to make the meeting: The Public Works Report is available for viewing at the Village Office.
 - Cleaning up garbage on Village Streets.
 - Completed weekly checks of sewer structures to monitor for issues.
 - Attended meetings with staff and council re 2021 road maintenance
 - Fixed sewer blockage by flushing with water from fire truck.
 - Picking up supplies for the Village in town.
 - Plowing, sanding & salting operations are under way now as needed.
 - Repairs and maintenance to Village equipment & vehicles.

- Village Administration – Robert White: Report is available for review at the Village Office.
 - Normal recurring administrative duties continued over the month as usual.
 - Participated in update Zoom calls with DOH re COVID-19.
 - Met with Deputy Mayor Pleadwell, Chief Thomas and Deputy Chief McNally at the fire hall to review the software requirements.
 - Working on the application for the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board.
 - Participated in conference call with Deputy Mayor Pleadwell and representatives from Rogers re the Universal Broadband Fund.
 - Meeting re 2021 Transportation program.
 - Met with residents regarding issues and concerns.
 - Attended Special Meeting of Council on January 28th.
 - Conference call with Deputy Mayor Pleadwell, Alison Murphy and staff from RDC regarding the possibility of getting funding for upgrades at the Village Green.
 - Working with Claude Leger at Shannon Buffett re financial audit.
 - Draft Report of the Climate Change Adaption Plan has been circulated for comment. It will be posted to the Village website for public comment soon.
 - Working on the various year-end reports that are required.

11. Councillors' Reports

- Deputy Mayor Pleadwell
 - Tourism and Beautification:
 - Still working with RDC regarding funding for work at the Village Green.
 - Fire Department:
 - Level 1 Course still ongoing. Council is grateful for the many hours of volunteer time that is given at our fire department. We are very fortunate to have people willing to give of their time for fire fighting and medical call.
 - Software analysis at the fire hall ongoing.
 - Finance:
 - Payables for the period from January 19th through February 12th were presented for payment as follows:

General payables:	\$ 58,053.24
Sewerage payables:	\$ 1,865.74

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.
 - EMO – the local EMO Committee is in the process of the annual review of the EMO Plan for the Village.

- Councillor McNamee:
 - Policing: No update on policing. We still have no point of contact since Sgt. Griffiths went off work.
 - Recreation: GDRC Director submitted a report highlighting the 2020 activities – bottle drives, summer programs, movie night, Santa’s visit. Also There has been some discussion of a pre-school daycare operation. GDRC feels it is an item for a private business to pursue. The weather has not been conducive to getting, and keeping, ice at the rink.
 - Building & Properties: the new heat pumps have been installed.
 - Human Resources – Nothing new to report.

- Mayor’s Report:
 - The first Regional Service Commission meeting of 2021 took place in February. There is no update on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted at the landfill site. The EIA was required to get permission to increase the previously approved elevation of the landfill.
 - There were three motions to approve the purchase of equipment for the landfill.
 - There was some discussion regarding the possibility of reducing the frequency of waste pickup during the summer months from weekly to every other week. The issue will be discussed at future meetings.
 - Nothing to add on the Transportation or Sewerage files.
 - Municipal Reform has been added as a recurring item on the council agenda.
 - RSC11 Finance Committee is meeting later this week.
 - John Lutes called about Manny MacIntyre. Manny was born in Gagetown in the early 1900’s and was the first black person to be signed to a professional baseball contract in Canada. There was some discussion about naming a local facility after Manny MacIntyre. Council was wondering if the new ball field could be a candidate. Mayor Blaney and Councillor McNamee will meet with GDRC to discuss.

12. Open Floor:

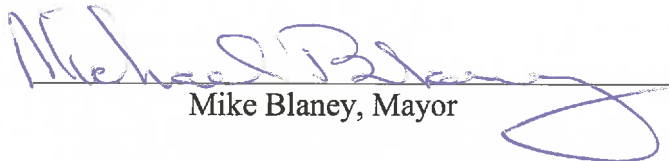
- Pat Whipple – Art-In-The-Village is being planned for June 2021. Is it possible to use the Village Green property for the event? The request should come to the Village Office for approval.
- Bev Harmon – the meeting was informative.

13. Closed Session:


- Moved by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell to move into closed session at 8:20 pm.
- Matters discussed in closed session were under the Local Governance Act Section 68 (1).
- Open Session: Moved by Deputy Mayor Pleadwell to move into open session at 8:35 pm.

14. Next Meeting: March 15th, 2021.

15. Motion To Adjourn – moved by Councillor McNamee. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.



Mike Blaney, Mayor



Robert White, CAO