



**QUISPAMISIS TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**December 15, 2020, 7:00 pm
Electronic Meeting**

Present:

- Mayor Gary Clark
- Deputy Mayor Libby O'Hara
- Councillor Sean Luck
- Councillor Kirk Miller
- Councillor Emil T. Olsen
- Councillor Pierre Rioux
- Councillor Beth Thompson
- Deville, Susan; CAO
- Brandon, Krista; Town Treasurer
- Kennedy, Aaron; Communications Manager
- Losier, Gary; Director of Engineering & Works
- Purton Dickson, Dana; Director of Community Services
- Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk
- MacInnis, Lisa; Assistant. Clerk

Absent: Councillor Lisa Loughery (sick)

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Luck
Seconded By Councillor Miller

The Agenda be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

2. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Clark reflected on the 2020 year and the impacts of the pandemic. Events were organized under the 'new' normal including drive-thru selfies and drive-thru high school graduations. The Town's trails saw a tremendous increase in use as people opted to get outside for fresh air and exercise.

Three major infrastructure projects took place in the Town – the Gondola Point Arterial roundabout, the Meenan's Cove Beach House renovations, and the construction start of a new Net Zero Ready Utility Building. The 2021 Budget was passed one month earlier than normal at the request of the Province with Council holding the tax rate the same as the 2020 rate at 1.3428 per \$100 of assessment value. The Town has increased its investment in a new singular economic development entity that will have greater impact and alignment to propel growth in the Greater Saint John region well into the 2020s.

Moving forward to 2021, residents will see increased dollars put towards road infrastructure including much needed work to the Quispamsis Road, Hammond River Road, several subdivision streets and the qplex and QMA parking lots. Municipal elections will be held in May with this Council finishing up a five year term that was extended one additional year due to COVID. Mayor Clark concluded his comments by thanking Council, CAO Deuville and her Staff for their hard work throughout 2020 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

3. Moment of Reflection

Councillor Luck read the Moment of Reflection.

4. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were declared.

5. Presentations

5.1 Cain Insurance Services Ltd. Presentation (Town's Insurer) - Electronic Attendance, Mr. Luke Cain, Owner, Vice-President

Mr. Cain made presentation to Council providing an overview of the reasons Canadian municipalities are experiencing premium increases, deductible increases, and program changes in 2021. With insurance premiums globally escalating, the Town of Quispamsis will see a 15% increase to its 2021 insurance premium. Mr. Cain related his company has been insuring the Town for many years, along with 26 other NB municipalities. He

acknowledged Quispamsis continues to invoke good risk management practices resulting in the Town's total assets, and fleet size being ranked on the low-risk scale. The increase has more to do with poor market conditions due to the 2019 hardening of the market with insurers withdrawing from certain classes of business, increasing premiums and deductibles, and placing limits and restrictions on coverage to mitigate their exposure. Municipal insurance is particularly volatile, he said, due to its greater risk of liability exposures connected with use of public facilities and infrastructure. The increased premiums are occurring to ensure the insurers are charging premiums that will be commensurate with the risk being insured. The Town's Insurance Company is Frank Cowan, one of three main companies that service municipalities, and their premiums are all similar.

Mr. Cain noted it is too early to determine what the potential impact of COVID-19 will be on the insurance market. Lloyd's of London predicts it will be in the \$6 billion range for Canada, and globally, over \$100 billion. He noted it is not fair to blame the increases on COVID, rather, COVID is lengthening the period of hard market times, which should, hopefully, stabilize over the coming years. A *Virus & Bacteria* exclusion has been added to the Property coverage, with Mr. Cain noting virus and bacteria were never included in insurance policies, however, with the COVID outbreak, it is being challenged, and insurance companies are now specifying this exclusion in policies.

The rise in insurance costs that are impacting New Brunswick have more to do with events that are happening all over the world - flooding, fires, earthquakes, etc., with approximately only 20 percent of the escalating costs resulting from what is happening in Canada.

Mayor Clark thanked Mr. Cain for his attendance and informative presentation clarifying the reasons for the 15% increase to the Town's insurance premium for 2021.

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Mr. Cain be thanked for providing Council with the Insurance Update, and his presentation be received and filed.

Motion Carried

5.2 Hook & Paddle Fishing Series - Proposal to 'Spotlight' Quispamsis and Hammond River as Tournament Host - Television Episode - Sportsman Channel (\$7,500 Ask)

Presenter, Mr. Bryan Cawthra, Organizer, Hook & Paddle Kayak Fishing Series

Mr. Cawthra made presentation to Council noting Hook & Paddle have partnered with the Hammond River Angling Association the past few summers, along with eight (8) other NB communities. Last summer, their tournament saw 245 participants registered for their fishing derby event. They received \$21,210 in Provincial funding to film a pilot episode for television, and also received over \$20,000 in retail value prizes from their various sponsors.

Hook & Paddle are now looking forward to a unique opportunity in 2021 to film and produce a TV series featuring several New Brunswick communities that will be aired on a major TV network, the Sportsman Channel, Canada's #1 Hunting and Fishing Network that averages 9.5 million viewers. It is their hope to partner with Quispamsis for the first episode to be held Saturday, June 12, 2021 and will highlight Quispamsis and the Hammond River. The derby is a catch and release event of the nine various species native to the area, with participants only using non-motorized kayaks.

If the Town agrees to host, the sponsorship fee is \$7,500 and will provide opportunity for Quispamsis to be showcased as the official location host, that will include the Town's branding recognition for a minimum of two appearances, as well as promotion on their social media and website listings.

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Luck

Council authorize the \$7,500 expenditure to sponsor the Hook & Paddle Fishing Series Tournament event to be held June 12, 2021 in Quispamsis featuring Quispamsis and the Hammond River areas, in return for Quispamsis being recognized as the official location host of the Tournament, acknowledging the \$7,500 sponsorship fee could be made available from the General Operating Reserve Fund.

Motion Carried

6. Public Hearings (none)

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

7.1 December 1, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Moved By Councillor Luck

Seconded By Councillor Rioux

Minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Ratification of Email Poll – RFP No. 2020TQ11-41 – Dog Park Lighting Upgrade

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Council ratify the Email Poll conducted on December 8, 2020 authorizing the award of the Dog Park Lighting Upgrade RFP No. 2020TQ11-41 to the low bidder, FCC Construction Ltd., for the low proposal price of \$49,675.

Against (1): Councillor Luck

Motion Carried

9. Correspondence

9.1 Support for Saint John (YSJ) Airport Re Suspension of Air Canada Flight Service - Draft Letter of Support to the Federal Minister of Transport

The above referenced proposed letter, drafted by staff for Council's consideration, was addressed to the Federal Minister of Transport and referenced Air Canada's recent decision to temporarily suspend all flights in and out of the Saint John Airport, effective January 11, 2021. The draft acknowledged this is devastating news for the local economy, noting YSJ has an economic impact of more than \$90 million annually and supports 650 jobs. Over 280,000 passengers used the airport in 2019, and its airfield and lighting system were modernized through a \$10 million investment from Transport Canada, a \$6 million investment from the Saint John Airport

Authority, and a \$4 million investment from the Government of New Brunswick. The draft letter concluded by requesting the Government of Canada to consider pandemic relief funding for Air Canada a priority, under the condition that an acceptable level of service be maintained to local airports in Atlantic Canada such as YSJ.

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Councillor Rioux

Council authorize sending the draft letter to the Federal Minister of Transport, The Honourable Marc Garneau, urging the Government of Canada to consider pandemic relief funding for Air Canada a priority and to include conditions mandating an acceptable level of service be maintained to local airports in Atlantic Canada such as YSJ.

Against (4): Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor O'Hara, Councillor Luck, and Councillor Thompson

Motion Defeated

Members who did not support the above referenced motion expressed their views that Air Canada flights returning to YSJ at this time would not necessarily be sustainable given the low number of travellers due to current COVID-19 restrictions, and were hopeful once the pandemic is over, Air Canada will return to YSJ.

9.2 Correspondence from Deputy Mayor O'Hara - "Thank you" to Employees, (Town, Police, Fire, & Library)

Deputy Mayor O'Hara's correspondence recognized the support Council gave to town staff throughout the past year, and further extended her sincere thanks to CAO Deuille for her leadership, and the tireless work of all Staff, including the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department personnel, the Kennebecasis Regional Police Force personnel, and the Kennebecasis Public Library staff. She recognized the challenges that were presented on a worldwide scale due to COVID-19, and through strong leadership and guidance, the Town remained a safe and secure place, and business continued as usual in these unusual times.

Moved By Councillor Luck
Seconded By Councillor Rioux

Deputy Mayor O'Hara be thanked for her correspondence and it be received and filed.

Motion Carried

9.3 Update from Joe Kennedy, DNR Wildlife Biologist - Deer Management Plan 2020

An update from Mr. Joe Kennedy provided the latest stats of the KV Deer Management Plan, including a summary of numbers over the past five (5) years for comparison purposes. The summary indicated the number of landowner applications and the number of permits does not vary too much from year to year, but the number of participating hunters varies a bit, and the number of harvested deer generally varies with the number of hunters.

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara
Seconded By Councillor Miller

Mr. Kennedy be thanked for his update, and the Town offer to host an Information Session by DNR in the spring to update residents on the KV Deer Management Plan.

Motion Carried

10. **By-laws** (none)

11. **New Business**

11.1 Federal/Provincial Safe Restart Agreement to Cover COVID-19 Related Expenses Incurred by Local Governments

Moved By Councillor Luck
Seconded By Councillor Miller

BE IT RESOLVED that The Town of Quispamsis had additional COVID-19 specific costs of \$369,155, COVID-19 specific losses of \$599,200, and COVID-19 specific operational savings of \$601,855 for a Net COVID-19 impact of \$366,500, in 2020.

Motion Carried

11.2 2020 Projected General Operating Surplus & Transfers to Reserve Funds
(Staff Report will Follow Prior to Meeting)

Moved By Councillor Thompson
Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

BE IT RESOLVED that \$255,100 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Operating Reserve Fund as per the 2020 budget.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Rioux
Seconded By Councillor Miller

BE IT RESOLVED that \$201,500 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Operating Reserve Fund for future expenditures.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Luck
Seconded By Councillor Miller

BE IT RESOLVED that \$116,000 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund as per the 2020 budget.

Motion Carried

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

BE IT RESOLVED that \$766,500 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund for future use.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Luck
Seconded By Councillor Thompson

BE IT RESOLVED that \$400,000 be transferred from the General Capital Reserve to the General Capital Fund as per the 2020 budget.

Motion Carried

11.3 2020 Transfer to Utility Capital Replacement Reserve Fund

Moved By Councillor Rioux
Seconded By Councillor Miller

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$45,661 be transferred from the 2020 Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Replacement Reserve Fund to pay for future costs of replacement of capital items for the Wastewater System Upgrades.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Miller
Seconded By Councillor Luck

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$14,119.06 be transferred from the Utility Capital Replacement Reserve Fund to the Utility Capital Fund to cover the cost of aerator work at the Longwood Lagoon done in 2020.

Motion Carried

11.4 2020 Utility Operating Surplus & Transfers to/from Reserve Funds

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara
Seconded By Councillor Luck

BE IT RESOLVED that \$69,912 be transferred from the Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund as per the 2020 budget.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Councillor Thompson

BE IT RESOLVED that \$250,000 be transferred from the Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund for future use on the Utility Building

Motion Carried

11.5 Hillside Estates - Scott Bros. Ltd. - Council Final Acceptance

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Rioux

Whereas the Developer has satisfied the minimum requirements in accordance with Subdivision By-law 035 and the Developers Agreement, it would be appropriate for Council to grant final acceptance of the Hillside Estates Subdivision development. In addition, we recommend that Council approve release of the \$17,011.95 bonding to Scott Bros. Ltd.

Motion Carried

12. Reports

12.1 Planning Advisory Committee – November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

12.2 Town Treasurer – Unaudited Financial Statements As at October 31, 2020

Moved By Councillor Luck

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Reports be received and filed.

Motion Carried

13. Business Arising from Committee of the Whole

13.1 Memorandum of Understanding - Short Term Funding for New Regional Economic Development Association - Greater Saint John

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Seconded By Councillor Luck

The Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign a MOU committing Quispamsis to advance to the Regional Economic Development Agency of the Greater Saint John \$42,000 on or before January 8, 2021 which represents 25% of the annual amount attributed to Quispamsis in Table 2 on page 15 of the document titled, "Collaborating to Ensure the Municipalities in Greater Saint John Will Prosper in the 2020s: A New Economic Development Model - Prospectus, July 2020".

Motion Carried


14. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Councillor Thompson

The Regular Meeting of the Quispamsis Town Council adjourn to January 19, 2021.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

X 

Gary Clark
Mayor

X 

Catherine P. Snow
Clerk

