



QUISPAMISIS TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

February 1, 2022, 7:00 pm

Electronic Meeting

Present:

Mayor Libby O'Hara
Deputy Mayor Mary Schryer
Councillor Mike Biggar
Councillor Noah Donovan
Councillor Kerrie Luck
Councillor Kirk Miller
Councillor Emil T. Olsen
Councillor Beth Thompson
Brandon, Krista; Town Treasurer
Kennedy, Aaron; Acting CAO
Losier, Gary; Director of Engineering & Works
MacInnis, Lisa; Assistant. Clerk
Purton Dickson, Dana; Director of Community Services
Shannon, Katherine, HR Manager
Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Donovan

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Schryer

The Agenda be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

2. Mayor's Comments

Mayor O'Hara acknowledged February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the daily contributions that Black Canadians have made to Canada. She encouraged

everyone to learn more about the achievements, accomplishments and history of Black Canadians.

3. Treaty Acknowledgement - Moment of Reflection

Councillor Olsen read the Treaty Acknowledgement – Moment of Reflection.

4. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were declared.

5. Presentations

5.1 Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency - Presentation Updating Council on Key Performance Indicators

In Attendance - Paulette Hicks, CEO, Envision Saint John

Ms. Hicks provided an update to Council on Envision Saint John's KPI's, established as part of its Strategic Plan priorities, summarized below -

1. Growth Readiness;
2. Talent Acquisition & Pipeline;
3. Entrepreneurship & Business Growth.

Ms. Hicks stated, Envision Saint John has been working towards its 10 Year Outcomes, and have identified Short and Mid-Term Opportunities including -

- UNBSJ MBA - Targeted Recruitment; Building the Talent Pipeline for Home Team with increased Student Enrollment, Retention of Post-Secondary Students, and Retention of Newcomers;
- Port Saint John – Hoping to create 800 – 1000 more jobs;
- Fundy Sea Shanty Festival - Showcasing St. Martins and the Fundy Trail Activation, noting DP World Saint John is a major investor of this event;
- UNB's Integrated Health Initiative - Preparing the Region for Growth, Increasing Population, including 500 New Students, \$40m in Economic Impact, \$2.9m in Research Funding Growth, and yet-to-be-defined Private Sector Investments and Spin-offs.

New and/or potentially new entrepreneurs can go directly to Envision Saint John, and they will act as navigators to steer them to the appropriate resources. Their office is located on the 16th floor of Brunswick Square.

Ms. Hicks concluded by acknowledging Envision Saint John has now been operating for a full year, and will continue aligning their activities with their 10 year

Strategic Plan. They will also continue to report regularly as part of their full transparency efforts to their investors, which includes the participating municipalities.

Moved By Councillor Donovan

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

Ms. Paulette Hicks be thanked for keeping Council up-to-date on Envision Saint John's KPIs, and her presentation be received and filed.

Motion Carried

6. Public Hearings (none)

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

7.1 January 18, 2022 - Regular Meeting

Moved By Councillor Biggar

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Schryer

Minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 (Jan.18/22) Concerns Re Consumer Fireworks - Staff Report from Acting CAO Aaron Kennedy

Responding to Previous Correspondence from Councillor Luck and Residents with Concerns re Consumer Fireworks

A Staff Report from Acting CAO Kennedy informed Council, further to Council's motion of January 18, 2022 requesting Staff to investigate what other communities do, there appears to be no 'best practices' when it comes to local Fireworks By-laws in Canadian municipalities. The larger NB Municipalities have banned the detonation of consumer fireworks, some only permit them during special occasions such as New Year's Eve and Canada Day. Some allow fireworks with the written permission of the Fire Chief. By-law enforcement is primarily complaint driven as it is in Quispamsis. Mr. Kennedy's Staff Report offered the following three options for Council's consideration:

1. Create a Fireworks By-law that would limit the detonation of consumer fireworks to Friday and Saturday evenings only from dusk to 11 p.m. during the months of May to September, inclusive; permit the detonation of consumer fireworks on New

Year's Eve until 12:30, Canada Day and New Brunswick Day; and implement higher fines for violations of the by-law.

2. An outright ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks in Quispamsis, effective July 2, 2022; and

3. Maintain status quo since restrictions on the use of consumer fireworks are already included in the Fire Prevention and Noise Prohibition By-laws.

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Council direct Staff to come back to Council in March with a reworked Consumer Fireworks By-law that would limit detonation of consumer fireworks to the following five (5) Statutory Holidays per year: Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Brunswick Day, Labour Day, and New Year's Day from dusk to 11 p.m. with the exception of New Year's Day, when the time can be extended to 12:30 a.m., to include a clause to allow for a special permit consideration, as well as regulating distances consumer fireworks can be detonated from, for example, hydro poles, trees, homes, etc., and the by-law to include higher fines for those in violation of the By-law requirements.

Against (4): Deputy Mayor Schryer, Councillor Biggar, Councillor Donovan, and Councillor Luck

Motion Defeated

A lengthy discussion ensued on this topic with members commenting it seems most citizens are not looking for a complete ban on consumer fireworks but possibly more restrictions, more communication and education including Fire Safety information as well as possibly more review needed by a small Working Group including input from By-law Enforcement and KRPF. The discussion concluded with Mayor O'Hara stating she will recommend appointments for a small Working Group Committee to review further the issue of consumer fireworks. Councillor Miller offered to serve on said Committee.

8.2 (Jan. 18/22) Trail Maintenance - Staff Report from Director of Community Services

Responding to Previous Correspondence from Councillor Luck and Residents Requesting Winter Maintenance of Trails

A Staff Report from the Director of Community Services responded to Council's motion of January 18, 2022 directing staff to look at the possibility of being able to plow trails for the 2022 winter season. She received an estimate from the contractor who currently plows the town's municipal and Comex parking lots of

between \$7,000 and \$8,000 to plow and sand two kilometers of the QR Trail, 15 times as well as an additional 5 times for just sanding.

An update from the Director of Engineering & Works stated if there was no priority placed on the timing of the plowing and clean up, then the QR trail could be plowed by the Town's Works equipment after storm events and after street clearing operations have ceased. This would normally be 48 to 72 hours after the main snow event. He noted the paved trail system is approximately twice as wide as a normal sidewalk and would take multiple passes to get to the paved surface. The key is that some residents have asked Council to place a high priority on trail snow removal which he interprets as responding at the same time as they plow their sidewalks. If this is the priority requested then the Works Crews cannot respond in this timeline. The Works Department is equipped to deliver a level of service on the sidewalk network that will see all the sidewalks cleared to a snow packed surface 12 hours after the end of a storm event.

The primary areas are immediately around schools for the students to walk, then the secondary sidewalks are along the collector roads - Hampton Road, Pettingill Road and Vincent Road. Then the off-road sidewalks such as Southwood and Gondola Boulevard after schools zones are completed. If the sidewalks are left with pushback snow from the road plows for an extended period, he said, the snow will freeze making it that much harder for the smaller sidewalk units to properly clear the sidewalks. He noted if there is a will of Council to examine dedicated or specialized equipment for the trail along with the appropriate operators to run the new equipment, he can revisit this request to include the QR trail.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Schryer

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

Receive and file as this item has been referred to the 2023 budget process, if it is identified as a requested level of service through the recreation master plan, master transportation plan or strategic plan.

Against (1): Councillor Luck

Motion Carried

8.3 (Aug. 2015) Stonehurst Subdivision - Phase 1 - Woodleigh Development Ltd. - Final Acceptance

Staff Report from Engineering Manager, Mark Morrison

A Staff Report from Mark Morrison informed Council Woodleigh Development Ltd. entered into a subdivision developer's agreement with the Town for Stonehurst Subdivision Phase 1 on August 18, 2015. The purpose of the agreement was to

subdivide land and create 13 residential building lots, land for Public Purposes, a public utility easement, and to vest an extension to Westminster Drive as a public street, as well as to create public utility easements. The requirements of the Agreement and the Subdivision Specifications and Guidelines have been met by the developer, and staff are now recommending release of the bonding.

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Whereas the Developer has satisfied the minimum requirements in accordance with Subdivision By-law No. 035 and the Developer's Agreement, Council grants final acceptance of the Stonehurst Subdivision Phase 1 development, and, further Council approves the release of the \$15,147.30 bond to Woodleigh Development Ltd.

Motion Carried

9. Correspondence

9.1 Letter from Joyce McElman, Warden - St. Luke's Anglican Church - Request to Exempt Church from Annual Sewerage User Fee for Five Year Period

In Attendance (Virtual), Mrs. Joyce McElman

Ms. McElman expanded upon her correspondence informing Council the congregation has taken on a significant project to refurbish the church building exterior. They received 50% funding through a Parks Canada Grant because the church is a designated Canadian Historical Site, leaving a further \$50,000 for the Church to raise. Ms. McElman noted years ago, the former Village of Gondola Point waived the sewerage user fee in return for the Church allowing the Village to use their hall for their EOC, as well as permitting six Scouting groups use of their hall each week. When Gondola Point amalgamated with Quispamsis, the sewerage bills were reinstated. The Church currently hosts three scouting groups per week and are requesting Council consider reinstalling the sewerage exemption for a period of five years to help the Church pay for their renovations.

Staff Report from Town Treasurer – Ms. Brandon's Staff Report informed Council the Town's Utility Services are a user pay system with no property taxpayer dollars used to support the utility and as such, the Town does not waive Utility fees for any reason.

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

As it is not the Town's practice to waive utility fees as the Town's utility services are a user pay system with no property taxpayer dollars used to support the system; Council deny the request from St. Luke's Anglican Church for a five-year exemption to their sewer user fees.

Motion Carried

9.2 Staff Report from Human Resources Manager, Katherine Shannon - New Minimum Wage Increase

HR Manager, Katherine Shannon, was in attendance and expanded upon her Staff Report. She noted after Council had approved the 2022 budget, the Province had announced an increase to minimum wage effective April 1, 2022 to \$12.75; and then October 1, 2022, to \$13.75 per hour. She stated the Town typically hires 24 students in spring/summer to aid in operations. The rate budget for 2022 is 12.50 per hour and slightly higher for the four specialized technical positions. Therefore, she stated, for 2022, it is recommended Council approve a new rate of \$13.50 per hour for student wages and evaluate the 2023 season during the budget process; a financial implication of \$14,637 noting the Town continuously looks to maximize grants available to offset costs as much as possible.

Councillor Luck suggested a 2% increase vs an 8% increase for summer students' wages for the 2022 year as it was not a budgeted item.

The Town Treasurer informed Council funding to cover this amount would be available in the Town's overall salary plan budget, acknowledging the Town has traditionally paid its summer students a little bit more than minimum wage as an employer of choice, which helps the Town recruit and retain high quality students. She noted the Town also maximizes as many summer student grants such as SEED as possible.

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Donovan

Council approve an increase of the student wage rate to \$13.50 per hour for 2022 as recommended by the Human Resources Manager.

Against (1): Councillor Luck

Motion Carried

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

11. **New Business**

11.1 Award of qplex Roofing Tender - Staff Report from the Director of Community Services

A Staff Report from the Director of Community Services informed Council eight (8) bids were received for the qplex Roofing project. Ms. Purton Dickson noted \$150,000 was allocated in the 2022 Capital Budget for this item, and another \$32,000 was allocated for this project in reserves as this funding and work were deferred from 2021.

Moved By Councillor Biggar

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Schryer

That Council award Tender 2021TQ12-34 to the low bidder A-Tech Roofing for \$163,691, which includes HST.

Motion Carried

12. Reports

12.1 Kennebecasis Public Library Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2021 - Councillor Donovan reported the Kennebecasis Public Library will be closed over the next week due to a flooding issue. He noted the Acting Library Director has advised, in the interim, users may drop off books at the Saint John Library.

12.2 Planning Advisory Committee - Annual Review for 2021

12.3 Planning Advisory Committee - Minutes of January 11, 2022 Meeting

12.4 Regional Collaboration Implementation - Wayne Tallon Appointed as Transition Facilitator for Fundy Regional Service Commission - Correspondence from Ryan Donaghy, Acting Deputy Minister

12.5 Update from Hammond River Angling Association on Crowley's Pool Rehabilitation Project

12.6 Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick - January 17, 2022 Bulletin

Moved By Councillor Donovan

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Reports be received and filed.

Motion Carried

13. Business Arising from Committee of the Whole (none)

14. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Donovan

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Meeting adjourn to February 15, 2022.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

X

Elizabeth (Libby) O'Hara
Mayor

X

Catherine Snow
Town Clerk