

**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and Councillors, Gallant, Campbell, Dunn, Pottier and Duggan present also Jim Smith, Frances Ready, Tom Murphy, Robert Profit, Maxine MacLean, Vicky Graham, Chris LeClair, Eileen Kinch, Ray Millman, Federico Cahis -CBC reporter, RCMP Constable, Alan Curtis, Sandra Keough, Greg Wilson, Brian Matheson, Cindy Chant- West Prince Graphic and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn.

Mayor Murphy opened the meeting and introduced Greg Wilson, Manager of Environmental Land Management, Department of Environment, Sandra Keough, Inspector Department of Environment and Brian Matheson, Manager, Agriculture Regulatory, Department of Agriculture. Mayor Murphy opened the meeting to the public to ask questions regarding the smell of compost mixture used at Westech. Greg Wilson said that the Department of Agriculture may go to the farmer and say plough down the material and if the farmer does not do it then it goes to the Department of Environment. He said the last resort is an order served on the people with a time limit to spread the material. He said when it is put on a field hopefully the smell will disperse. Greg Wilson said if the inspector is in agreement and the smell is still too much they will order it to be ploughed under. Mayor Murphy asked if there was a set time frame. Brian Matheson, Department of Agriculture said there is none for seaweed or shellfish. He said that the Best Management Practice is that it be ploughed within 48 hours but there is no way to enforce it. He said we could try mediation through the Farm Practice Review Board.

Maxine MacLean from Westech encouraged any neighbors to call and report the smell. Councillor Cahill arrived at the meeting. Vicky Graham said she understands the concept of farming and has worked at a garden center over 20 years but it was not like this and she said she has had a fly infestation and her house still smells. She said that Westech had ploughed some under and then stopped, she said she can't open windows and children can't play outside and that the farmers just need to plough it under. Eileen Kinch said that on September 9<sup>th</sup> she called Susan and it was running into the brook and she felt it was more than just seaweed from the beach. She said she was fed up and was just here in the spring. She said her taxes are the same as anybody else's. Tom Murphy said it was bad at his place. Vicky Graham said she left her home several days because of odor in her own home. Councillor Cahill said it is in the air system at the hospital. Greg Wilson said council has the power to apply a by-law in town limits. Eileen Kinch said she sent pictures to the Department of Environment. Councillor Pottier asked what the bottom line was with the farmers and their rights. Greg Wilson said they encourage farmers to use organic products instead of pesticides and if the odor continues they ask the farmer to spread it within 48 hours. Ray Millman said it calmed down because the wind shifted. Eileen Kinch said they have nearly fifty Mexicans hired and nearly everyone can drive a tractor. Vicky Graham said it has to be impacting property values. Greg Wilson said Environmental Health can also lay an order. Maxine MacLean said she would pass the request to plough it under to management. Greg Wilson said the longer it is left in the field the better it can break down. Tom Murphy said the field slopes towards the stream and should be ploughed under at all times. Maxine Maclean said she can't speak to what Westech plans to do in the future. Councillor Dunn asked what the town can do. Eileen Kinch said there was nothing ploughed under for weeks on end. Jennifer MacLean said they did not get any calls. Susan Wallace-Flynn said she had called on September 10<sup>th</sup> and talked to Dan and Jennifer said Dan did pass on the message. Vicky Graham said she never once got a phone call when they sprayed the fields. Brian Matheson suggested the next step is to contact the Farm Practice Review Board and give a written submission. Greg Wilson encouraged everyone to work directly with Westech. Maxine MacLean said it rained a lot. Eileen Kinch

said she walks a lot, there was not that much rain since the end of August, it was only spread a week to a week and a half ago and that was no excuse.

Mayor Murphy thanked Sandra Keough, Greg Wilson and Brian Matheson for attending the meeting and then asked for the approval of the agenda. Councillor Pottier said council discussed the manor at two meetings in the past and she said the Province owns the building, not the town and it should not be discussed any further. Councillor Dunn said residents wanted the information from the public meeting brought forward at the meeting tonight. Councillor Pottier said that meeting was not sanctioned by Council. Councillor Dunn said the public was not allowed to ask questions at the special council meeting.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to not discuss the manor as the views of council have been made known.**

Councillors Gallant, Cahill, Pottier and Duggan voted yes and Councillors Campbell and Dunn voted no.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried for the approval of the agenda with the exception of #10 manor meeting update.**

Councillors Cahill, Pottier, Duggan and Gallant voted yes and Councillors Campbell and Dunn voted no.

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried for the approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting held September 9, 2013 and special council meeting held September 17, 2013.**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to improve the signage to Veterans Memorial Field.**

Councillor Dunn said in Public Input at the last regular council meeting Kelly Gillis had asked if the Mayor had appointed portfolios.

A request was received from Kim Ellsworth for 10 additional pins to the 20 pins already received for her curling team which will be representing PEI in Thunder Bay, Ontario in November at the Dominion National Curling Championships.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to give Kim Ellsworth's curling team 10 town pins.**

A request was received from Heidi White, a member of Summerside's Canadian Council of the Blind, Prince County Chapter for 100 town pins for the annual Sports and Recreation weekend in May 2014.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to give Heidi White 30 town pins.**

A request was received from the Journal Pioneer for an ad for Halloween with a curfew of 7:30 p.m. at a cost of \$77.00 plus tax.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to run a Halloween Curfew ad in the Journal.**

A request was received from the Journal Pioneer for an ad for Remembrance Day at a cost of \$87.00 plus HST.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to purchase an ad for the Remembrance Day issue for \$87.00 plus HST.**

Councillor Pottier said she was interested in attending the semi-annual FPEIM meeting in Kinkora on October 19th. Randy Noye arrived at the meeting.

An email was received from Cooke Insurance to obtain more information on the request to install an outdoor rink beside the fire hall. The insurance company asked if it would be an open space or fenced, if there would be lighting and hours of operation safety guidelines.

A letter was received from the Western Community Curling Club regarding the request to fence the lot off overnight due to complaints from the neighbours about noise. The club contacted the RCMP and they said the calls should be made to the RCMP at the time. Councillor Dunn asked if the residents who complained will be notified as a follow up.

**The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Dunn and carried to put a ½ page ad in the North Cape Coastal Drive Touring Guide for \$803.00.**

A request was received from Alan Shaw for a letter to be sent to Sheila Scott, Canadian Heritage to state that the town owns Jacques Cartier Memorial Arena and provides the arena to Prince County Exhibition rent free during the days of exhibition. Councillor Dunn said she would remove herself from the vote as she is on the Prince County Exhibition Committee.

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to send a letter to Sheila Scott, Canadian Heritage that the town owns Jacques Cartier Memorial Arena and provides the arena to Prince County Exhibition rent free during the days of exhibition.**

Councillors Gallant, Campbell, Cahill, Pottier and Duggan voted yes and Councillor Dunn abstained.

A letter was received from Jerome Hannah, Cooke Insurance to offer a quote for pollution liability insurance.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to get a quote on insurance from Cooke Insurance.**

## **BUSINESS LICENSES AND OR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

An application was received from Western Community Curling Club for an extension to the entrance 8 feet 8 inches by 14 feet 3 inches to accommodate storage and a bathroom. Councillor Campbell asked what kind of storage it would be at the curling club. The permit was put on hold until the information is obtained.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Fire Report**

Councillor Pottier reported for fire. The department responded to 11 calls which included 1 motor vehicle collision and 10 medical calls. September was a busy month for training and 2 firefighters complete recertification for Medical First Responder, 2 firefighters finished a pump operator course and 3 firefighters spent 4 days working on Level 2 firefighter course in Charlottetown. For fire prevention week the department had a hall tour by Kids West on Tuesday Oct. 8, Grade 1 and Kindergarten on Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup> and 9 firefighters went to the school where they gave smoke detectors to all the grade one students. The cost of smoke detectors was shared between Alberton Firefighters Club Inc. and Alberton Home Hardware. On Wednesday night they had their regular monthly training on water supply and on Friday evening they had another open house for Kids West where the kids used a hose to spray a target and a tour of the trucks. On September 19<sup>th</sup> the fire Dept. voted in John Ellsworth as a member of their auxiliary. Councillor Pottier reported that they now have 30 members in the department. The Firefighters Club paid Preston Murphy to repair their parking lot which was completed on Thursday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Street Report**

Councillor Gallant reported for streets. Councillor Gallant said a big thanks to MLA Pat Murphy for following through after repeated requests for pavement on Albion and Poplar Streets. The snow removal contract was discussed and will not be ready until November after the fuel index pricing is completed.

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried that the Mayor and Administrator sign the snow removal contract when we receive it from the Government.**

### **Environment Report**

Councillor Dunn reported for environment. The sewer work has been completed on Main Street by the Credit Union. Councillor Dunn said that hearing the concerns with Westech and the smell, that it is unique to the Island, as we allow farming in town limits. Councillor Campbell said where the sewer line was replaced the sod was laid two inches higher than the lawn and asked if it would it be fixed before spring.

### **Parks & Tourism**

Councillor Duggan reported for Parks and Tourism. Councillor Duggan reported that the playground equipment has been installed. The Centennial Committee is planning a skit for later this fall. Councillor Duggan reported that the Mural Committee has awarded the contract to paint a mural, to be placed in council chambers, to Nan Ferrier. The unveiling of the mural and skit will be held in November. Councillor Duggan reported that he had been told by Mr. Curtis that visitation to the Welcome Centre has risen significantly since moving to the Old Stone Station location. The Rails to Trails are still looking at putting an Alberton business directory on the trail.

### **Police Report**

The RCMP Constable read the police report. There were 14 calls for service and 181 policing hours. The breakdown for calls was as follows: 4 traffic complaint, 2 Mental Health Act, 2 suspicious persons, 1 impaired driving, 1 assault, 1 sudden death, 1 Off-Highway Vehicle Act, 1 Dog Act and 1 Crime Prevention.

Randy Noye left the meeting.

### **Recreation Report**

Mayor Murphy read the recreation report.

The Learn to Run Programs in the Western Region are being offered in Alberton again this fall as well as a Learn to Run 10k program in Elmsdale. We are also currently recruiting volunteers to lead another session of Nordic Walking on Confederation Trail.

The go!play after school activity hour program is being offered this fall at Alberton Elementary for children in grade K-6. This play based, non-competitive program is free to all Alberton Elementary students and with cooperation from the school we hope to offer it 2 days per week until the end of June. We have 43 children from grade K-2 participating and 25 children from grade 3-6, both programs have increased in attendance since last year.

We are currently trying to recruit a volunteer(s) to lead a Participation Teen Challenge in the town of Alberton. The WRSRC sent a request to town administrator, Susan Flynn, asking for the possibility of having one of two town hall staff members dedicate 1 hour per week to this program, but unfortunately the work does not fit in the job description for Meaghan Henderson and Natasha Pridham's contract with the town is almost over. The WRSRC also reached out to some council members asking for help in identifying some residents that might be interested in volunteering. We have had great discussions with Councillor Natasha Dunn with regard to this program and we hope to move forward with a teen program very soon.

The Try Hockey Program which introduces children in grade K-6 to the sport of hockey is being offered at Jacques Cartier Arena for 8-weeks beginning October 24. This program is led by community volunteers and is supported by Alberton Minor Hockey Association.

The WRSRC partnered with West Prince Minor Basketball to offer a Try Basketball session at Alberton Elementary for children in grade K-2. We have successfully recruited volunteer coaches that will allow West Prince Minor Basketball to offer their small ball program in Alberton from January-March.

Mayor Murphy also said we had a successful Terry Fox walk/run.

### **Finance Report**

Councillor Cahill reported for finance.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to pay bills in the amount of \$85,917.75.**

### **Street Light Report**

Councillor Campbell reported for street lights. Councillor Campbell said the street lights are in and he thanked Susan for contacting Maritime Electric and for the correspondence. Councillor Campbell said that the letters he signed were all either further to a conversation or perhaps just follow up letters and if we checked further would find the motions. This was in reference to material Susan had researched and distributed to council before the meeting started regarding letters sent by past Mayors as far back as 1997 with the minutes to show that past practice was to send letters out without a motion as long as there was no financial commitment. Councillor Campbell thanked Susan for all that work but said he felt he was being targeted. Mayor Murphy asked Susan to respond to Councillor Campbell. Susan said she did check further in the minutes than what was copied in the package.

Susan gave a report on miscellaneous revenue as requested in previous meetings. The total miscellaneous revenue was \$7,819.54 to September 30<sup>th</sup> with \$4,215.06 reimbursement from an insurance company for an accident that caused damage to a decorative street light, this was spent to replace the light, \$250.00 and \$900.00 credited to the fire department for insurance and sale of a truck,

\$808.52 and \$365.96 transferred as requested by the auditor, \$30.00 rent from the room and \$1,250.00 office rent. One month's rent was donated to Spencer Myer's ball team and in September four new street lights were installed at a cost between \$14.27 and \$18.15 per month.

Snow removal tenders were received for the fire hall. The tenders included O'Meara's Heavy Equipment \$1,600.00 plus HST and Gordon's Enterprises \$1,470.00 plus HST.

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to hire Gordon's Enterprises for fire hall snow removal.**

Councillor Dunn reported 31 overdue sewer accounts. A letter is sent with a deadline and if the bill is not paid a second letter is sent out with a deadline of 48 hours or the sewer will be disconnected.

Mayor Murphy left the meeting. Deputy Mayor Gallant resumed the chair.

**The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to give permission to send letters to overdue sewer customers.**

Mayor Murphy returned to the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the smell from Westech. Mayor Murphy suggested Councillor Dunn look into the farm practice review board and other options and bring them back to council.

A letter of support was requested for a government department to be located in Alberton. Councillor Dunn asked if there were any leads on a department or any location. Mayor Murphy said we would be open to any department.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to send a letter of support for a government department in Alberton.**

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to look into Section 30 of the Municipalities Act and the recent news story that Rustico is applying for town status and the Government will look after their streets.**

Councillor Pottier said the Liaison Committee met with Doctor Wedge on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The discussion included an update on the CEC, 811 system and changes to ambulatory care as well as an update for community groups. Councillor Campbell said 811 calls were taking too long. Councillor Pottier said she will check into it. Councillor Pottier reported that the Provincial Recruitment Coordinator is arranging meetings with health professionals in Alberton. The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada had approached the Mayor and Councillor Pottier to meet with the physician and organize activities during a 2-3 hour visit to Alberton which will showcase what the town has to offer a physician considering settling here. Councillor Pottier arranged a visit to the Town Hall to learn about the town, lunch at Chez Cartier, a walking tour of Main Street, a visit to Northport and weather permitting a 30 minute sail on a fishing boat. The doctor will be here between 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to pay for lunch tomorrow at Chez Cartier for the visiting physician, those accompanying him on his tour of Alberton, not expected to exceed four people, and any Councillors who wish to attend.**

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to ask Councillor Dunn to research twinning with a town in Kosovo and bring it back to council.**

Councillor Dunn suggested that a New Year's Levee be held at the fire hall with partners and help from council.

**The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to host a New Year's Levee.**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Robert Profit had a concern with a barking dog at 607 Main Street and he said if something is not done he will be charged with something. He said he has called the Humane Society and RCMP.

Tom Murphy said regarding Westech the town could easily make a by-law. He said that all summer camp fires were put out on Wilkie Lane and Weeks Drive because of a bylaw.

Councillor Duggan congratulated Councillor Dunn on being nominated to attend the Georgetown Conference.

Alan Curtis said council should be lobbying the Government to have a Government Department near the French Lane. He said that tonight CBC was here for one aspect of news and one mission. Alan Curtis said that was not objective reporting when the reporter packs up his gear and leaves the meeting before it is over. He said he would strongly object to his manager and that the press should be open and objective.

**The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried that the meeting be adjourned.**