

**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD APRIL 8, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The regular council meeting was held Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and Councillors Cahill, Pottier, Gallant and Campbell present also Frances Ready, Allan Graham, Daniel Drouin, Cst. LeFurgey, Geoffrey Irving, Chris LeClair, Tom Murphy, Ray Millman, Cindy Chant – West Prince Graphic and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried for the approval of the agenda.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried for the approval of the minutes from the last regular and annual council meeting held March 11, 2013 and special council meeting held March 15, 2013.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried for approval to enroll for FPEIM Law Legal Referral System.

Councillor Campbell will attend the FPEIM annual meeting in Cornwall on April 29th.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to order town pins at \$0.55 per pin from Treasure House Imports.

The Sports and Recreation Council will host a meeting April 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to hear what the public would like to see for programs in the town as a result of the new contract with them.

Katie Butler, a Holland College Administrative assistant program student is in the office for on the job training from April 2-26th.

The town received a letter from Community Inclusions to request a sidewalk for Church Street.

The town received a letter from Alberton Business Association regarding the vacancy of a full-time Recreational Director/Co-ordinator.

BUSINESS LICENSES AND/OR BUILDING PERMITS

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Report

Councillor Campbell reported for police. The members responded to 15 calls for service.

Streets and Sidewalks Report

Councillor Gallant reported the Dufferin Street project will be ready as soon as the weather permits. The government is currently working on the Church Street project to expand the street to include shoulders so sidewalks can be installed.

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 \$40,906.50.

The balances were as follows:

General –	\$514,896.76
Sewer –	\$45,367.40
Fire –	\$26,701.54

Fire Report

Councillor Pottier reported that the Fire Department received 7 fire calls which included – 1 flue, 1 electrical, 1 residential fire alarm and 4 medical calls.

Recreation Report

Councillor Pottier reported for recreation in Councillor Duggan's absence.

Councillor Pottier said that with the actual anniversary of Incorporation being May 5, the Centennial Committee has recommended celebrations kick off with the official raising of the new Town of Alberton Centennial Flag.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to accept the recommendation from the Centennial Committee and hold the official raising of the flag at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 5th, 2013 to be followed by a small reception in the Council Chamber and that advertisements be placed in the West Prince Graphic, the Journal pioneer and La Voix Acadienne announcing the event and inviting residents to attend.

Councillors Pottier, Campbell and Gallant voted yes and Councillor Cahill voted no.

Councillor Pottier also reported that the Centennial Committee has also recommended the use by Canada Post of a cancellation stamp showing the Town of Alberton Crest and the dates 1913-2013. This stamp has been developed by Canada Post and is ready for use.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to accept the stamp being used for the first time on Monday, May 6th, 2013 to cancel a letter from the Mayor to the Premier informing the Premier of centennial celebrations in Alberton and inviting him to join in the celebrations and there will be one ad for both events.

Councillors Cahill, Gallant and Campbell voted yes and Councillor Cahill voted no.

Councillor Pottier read the activities co-ordinator proposal that we have an opportunity to partner with some local organizations to have a qualified person hired to complement the summer recreation programs being provided by the West Prince Sports Council. We also have the opportunity to have another qualified person carry on activity planning into the winter months. The total cost to enter into an agreement with the first party to provide a mature qualified (UNB Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology,

Sport and Recreation) for 14 weeks, and after this to have another qualified recipient (graduate of Holland College Sport and Recreation Program) for 18-20 weeks would be in the range of \$4,500.00 in total. The Alberton Business Association which has written the Council expressing the need for an Activity Co-ordinator, has been approached regarding a possible cost-sharing arrangement. The Business Association has indicated he would bring the proposal for cost-sharing to the next meeting of the association later this week. The MLA for Alberton-Roseville has also been contacted and has indicated that there may be some sources of funding available to offset some of the cost.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to negotiate a contract with these organizations, to be brought back to council for approval, allowing these individuals to be hired as “Activities Co-ordinator” for the aforementioned employment terms.

The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried for approval of the highest tender from John Perry for the 1956 truck.

Health Care

Mayor Murphy made the following statement -

“Unfortunately, comments were made portraying Council in a bad light. Most of Alberton Town Council will meet with the Minister of Health, Doug Currie tonight for the second time. I requested a meeting with the Minister of Health earlier this year to which all Town Councillors were invited. This meeting was an opportunity to have a candid face to face conversation with the Minister. On January 15th, 2013, Minister Currie travelled to Alberton accompanied by head recruitment officer Marnie MacRae and MLA Pat Murphy.

At this time Councillor/Chairperson of Save Western Hospital ER did not attend this very important meeting. It is unfortunate and unfair that there is a picture being painted that myself and council are not concerned with healthcare in Alberton. This is completely untrue, we will always advocate for the best health care for our residents!

During the meeting, myself, Council and representatives from other communities were assured that at no time was Western Hospital or the ER being considered for closure. There were many questions around recruitment efforts and council and community reps had the opportunity to voice their concerns and receive some answers. It was unfortunate that Councillor/Chairperson of Save Western Hospital ER, Natasha Dunn did not attend.

I do not believe that using media is the way to have open and effective communication around the council table, but I do feel as though I need to defend Council and myself from being portrayed as not being interested in healthcare in Alberton.”

Councillor Gallant thanked Mayor Murphy for his leadership and stated that we have a chain of command to follow.

The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried that effective immediately any future contact with the media be handled by the Mayor’s office and no one else.

Council discussed a representative on National Under 16 Tournament and will check with Allison Griffin to see if she is interested in sitting on the committee also Councillor Campbell will consider it.

Mayor Murphy made a recommendation for the lease for the Stone Station. The draft lease they had prepared was not as discussed. Mayor Murphy suggested that an offer be made for the Alberton

Historical Preservation Foundation to lease the Alberton Stone Station. He also stated that the Stone Station is a wonderful asset to the town and we certainly want to see it used and maintained. Mayor Murphy also recommended that Council offer the Alberton Historical Preservation Foundation the full use of the Stone Station rent free for a period of two years with a possibility of renewal at this time. Alberton Historical Preservation Foundation will be responsible for all costs related to the interior and exterior of the building including, but not restricted to, property taxes, insurance, heat, electricity, garbage removal, renovations, repairs, licenses, permits, grass cutting, and snow removal.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried for approval to accept the station proposal recommended by Mayor Murphy that Council offer the Alberton Historical Preservation Foundation the full use of the Stone Station rent free for a period of two years with a possibility of renewal at this time. Alberton Historical Preservation Foundation will be responsible for all costs related to the interior and exterior of the building including, but not restricted to, property taxes, insurance, heat, electricity, garbage removal, renovations, repairs, licenses, permits, grass cutting, and snow removal.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried for the approval of the Fire Department Executive - Interim Acting Fire Chief -Tom Murphy, Deputy Fire Chief - Chris LeClair, Secretary/Treasurer - Wayne Shea, Captain - Emile Bernard, Captain - Cory Shea, Captain - Darrell Graham.

NEW BUSINESS

NIL

PUBLIC INPUT

Ray Millman asked if there was any chance of hiring a street sweeper to clean the sand on the streets. He also asked if there is a separate contract for snow removal behind the stores. Ray Millman asked if the entire parking lot needs to be cleaned and could the Business Association contribute \$500.00 to a pot and pay to clean the lot. Ray Millman said the town has been cleaning it for years and years. Tom Murphy said he thought the business owners donated the land where the parking lot is and that there was an agreement to clear the lot.

Alan Graham asked about the Stone Station and if they relayed the information to the museum. He said the taxes could kill it.

Daniel Drouin said he moved here in 2006 and there are no activities for his kids in the summer. He said it is a well needed spot for a recreation director.

Councillor Cahill said the town is struggling with money and people did not like their taxes raised and he also stated that this year there are more expenses including HST and electricity.

Mayor Murphy said we do pay for a lot more than Tignish and O'Leary as we pay for the cost of the streets and they don't.

Daniel Drouin said a recreation director is a draw to get families in town.

Alan Graham said recreation does not include just sports and that we need a seniors club and also the arts.

Mayor Murphy said we can raise the taxes.

Alan Graham said he was not here to ask for taxes to be raised.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to adjourn the meeting.