

**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

Prior to the start of the meeting Mayor Murphy presented a plaque and photos to Coralee Stewart, representing Alberton Branch Tignish Credit Union for the donation of \$5,000.00 for upgrades and equipment for Veteran's Memorial Ball Field.

The regular council meeting was held Monday September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and all Councillors present also John Smith, Frances Ready, RCMP Constable, Tom Murphy, Daniel Drouin, Barry & Raquel Wells, Kelly Gillis, Chris LeClair, Cindy Chant- Graphic, Eric McCarthy- Journal and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn.

Mayor Murphy asked for the approval of the agenda. Councillor Dunn requested that the old manor be added to the agenda. Councillors Duggan and Campbell stated they will ask to be excused when the letter regarding the Up West Winterfest is discussed in the correspondence. Council did not make a motion 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 council meeting held August 12, 2013.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Duggan said that under public input last month discussions were made regarding the signs for Memorial Field. Councillor Duggan suggested letters for Veteran's Memorial Field be put in bold.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from MacPhail Woods looking for a four hectare site for native trees and walking trails. A letter is to be sent back stating the Town agrees with what they are undertaking but do not have the space for it.

A letter was received from Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding PIF grant approval in the amount of \$22,100.00 for life station pump replacement and upgrades.

A request was received from the Journal for a Salute to Firefighter's ad at a cost of \$59.00 plus tax.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to purchase an ad from the Journal for \$59.00 plus tax for Salute to Firefighters.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to give Pam Richards 30 more town pins for her ball team.

Mayor Murphy, Councillor Duggan and Councillor Campbell left the room due to a conflict of interest with the next item. Deputy Mayor Gallant resumed the chair and read a letter from Mitchell Rennie, Tourism Manager, North Cape Coastal Tourism Area Partnership Inc. with a request for \$1,500.00 for the 2014 Up West Winterfest.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to send a letter to approve in principle \$1,500.00 for the 2014 Up West Winterfest.

This is a 2014 budget item so it will be given final approval in the 2014 budget.

Mayor Murphy, Councillor Duggan and Councillor Campbell returned to the meeting. Mayor Murphy returned to the chair.

BUILDING PERMITS AND/OR BUSINESS LICENSES

A property development application was received for a biomass heat plant to be installed at Western Hospital.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve in principle pending environmental input the application from 8230773 Canada Inc. to install a biomass heat plant at Western Hospital and that it is to meet the necessary regulations.

A property development application was received for 409 Church Street for a truck box for storage 53 feet X 8 ½ feet.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to approve the storage box building for 409 Church Street.

A property development application was received for 548 Church Street for a pool and deck.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve the property development application for 548 Church Street for a deck and pool and notify them that the pool has been fenced in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Report

Mayor Murphy left the room. Deputy Mayor Gallant resumed the chair and read the police report. There were 204 hours of policing and 16 calls which included - 4 traffic complaints, 4 off-highway vehicle act, 2 false alarm, 1 mischief, 1 motor vehicle collision, 1 liquor control act, a 911 act, 1 dog act and 1 Mental Health Act.

Recreation Report

Deputy Mayor Gallant read the recreation report which is attached. Allison Griffin arrived at the meeting. Mayor Murphy resumed the chair.

Fire Report

Councillor Pottier asked the administrator to arrange a meeting with the fire department executive. Councillor Pottier said she attended the new comer retention meeting at the Rodd. Councillor Pottier read the fire report which included 10 calls - 1 Mutual Aid, 1 motor vehicle collision, 1 stove fire, 2 commercial fire alarms and 5 medical calls.

Parks & Tourism Report

Councillor Duggan reported the playground equipment has arrived. Councillor Duggan reported that the Evening of Entertainment had 65 plus people with a variety of entertainers and they spent over \$1,000.00 on entertainers and refreshments. He said the next part is a skit and mural and they have a couple of artists interested in painting the mural.

Streets Report

Councillor Gallant reported that the sidewalk machine will be delivered the first week of December. The extended warranty is available for 1 year for \$5,000.00 plus HST.

The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to NOT go with the additional powertrain warranty for the sidewalk machine.

Environment Report

Councillor Dunn reported for Environment.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to research and bring back financial scenarios before the next budget to extend go! Pei's contract or something else.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to hire Genivar to tender and oversee the PIF project.

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 \$16,924.60.

The balances were as follows

General- \$626,753.43

Sewer- \$45,851.82

Fire-\$26,701.54

Mayor Murphy congratulated Alan Curtis on receiving the Royal Canadian Legion's highest award, the Dominion Command's Meritorious Service Medal.

Mayor Murphy said he sent letters to Premier Robert Ghiz and Minister Robert Vessey and copies were distributed to council to get clarification on what the government was planning to do with the disposal of the old manor. He said it was not to be a deterrent to any sale or possible sale. Councillor Dunn said the letters were a surprise to all of council. Councillor Pottier said she would love to see it demolished and has discussed this in the past with Mayor Murphy. Councillor Dunn said it would cost a minimum of \$250,000.00 to demolish the manor and if a business took it over it would attract customers to town and she said the tax dollars would pay for someone like a rec director. Councillor Campbell said he was not sure when the manor was last discussed but that mostly letters are approved by council before being sent.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to send a letter to the Premier, MLA Murphy and the Minister of Transportation supporting the manor to be

developed if there is someone interested to purchase it within one year and if the sale cannot be concluded within one year restate that it be torn down.

NEW BUSINESS

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to tender for snow removal for the fire hall.

Tenders for the audit for the next three years were as follows –

BDO Canada LLP \$12,000.00 plus tax

MRSB Chartered Accountants \$9,450.00 plus tax plus an annual inflationary increase for subsequent years

Grant Thornton LLP \$10,000.00 plus tax for December 31, 2013 with an inflationary increase of 5% to \$10,500.00 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014 and \$11,025.00 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to hire MRSB Chartered Accounts for the audit for 3 years.

PUBLIC INPUT

Tom Murphy asked who looks after the town by-laws and said that smoke from bonfires was filling people's homes with smoke.

Kelly Gillis asked if the portfolios for police and recreation have been filled.

Barry Wells said cars were tearing around the Curling Club parking lot and people were drinking and causing a lot of noise. He said they could be selling their home next year.

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

Western Region Sport and Recreation Council
Monthly Report to Town of Alberton
September 9, 2013

Minor Sports Programs were very successful over the summer in the Town of Alberton. Approximately 115 children participated in Minor Softball and Minor Soccer. The fields were busy for the summer season! This translates into 3 softball teams and 5 soccer teams, approximately 12 volunteer coaches, and many officials and umpires. The soccer teams are in leagues that have teams from Evangeline to Tignish, while the softball teams are in Island Wide leagues. All of these teams have been outfitted with jerseys, uniforms and equipment. Additionally, there are approximately 35 children in an Active Start Program for children age 3-5. We feel that the summer sport programs have the potential to grow in years to come because of the positive feedback and many volunteers involved during this past summer.

Upon completion of our Try Softball Program for boys, we were approached by Softball PEI to send an U12 Boys team to the Atlantic Challenge Cup in Fredericton, NB. This tournament is the first male softball tournament in 5 years and we were able to secure volunteer coaches, hold tryouts and fundraise for the tournament which takes place Sept 13-15. The team was open to all boys on the island but it is a mixture of children from Alberton (8), Tignish (3) and O'Leary (1). We feel this is a very progressive step toward bringing back participation in boys' softball.

We were able to assist with 2 co-ed Softball tournaments in the Town of Alberton during the month of August. One tournament was in support of the Peewee AAA baseball team and we were able to draw 8 teams, the other was in support of the U12 boys team that is heading to Atlantics and we were able to draw 10 teams for that tournament. Local business, Albert and Crown Pub donated \$10 gift certificates for player of the game awards and Save Easy also donated some water/pop for the respective teams to sell throughout the tournament to raise some extra money. These co-ed tournaments are great for a community as it helps fundraise for local teams/charities and it brings a lot of people into the town for a full day.

The Learn to Run Programs in the Western Region are getting ready to roll out with their fall sessions. A 10-week Learn to Run 5K program will be offered in Alberton 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 Alberton Seniors Program started by Terry Stone decided to continue meeting once a week to practice chair yoga with Mandel Fraser throughout the summer months. The final week of their yoga practice will be Sept. 11 at which time Terry plans to start meeting with them again on a weekly basis to promote physical activity and healthy eating practices. The multisport program was offered for 8-weeks from 9-12 each Tuesday at Jacques Cartier Arena throughout the summer. The program is for ages 6-12 was full to capacity with 25 children(boys). The participants learned and played ball hockey, softball, lacrosse, flag football, soccer and basketball. Softball PEI attended one session and offered an amazing Learn to Play session, all participants received a tshirt at this session (paid for by the sports council). The feedback from this program was phenomenal and parents have been approaching Terry to continue such programs. Terry noticed an improvement

with many children as they seemed to grow more confident each week and loved the challenge of trying/learning new sports!

The Backyard Day camp Program was offered for 7-weeks throughout the summer months. The program was full with 30 children age 5-12. Each day they took part in sport specific activities, backyard games, nature education, arts and crafts and healthy, active awareness activities. The program received great feedback through an online survey and the parents have requested that the program be offered more than one day/week next year. Working cooperatively with Mayor Mike and the support of MLA Pat Murphy, the Department of Education and the English Language School Board, we were able to gain access to Alberton Elementary School to offer this program. This was the first time we were able to use an English Language School Board facility during the summer months and we did face some challenges with the custodial staff which we will address with the department of education.

The Get Back to Biking Fall Series is scheduled to start Sept 18 and will be offered once per week for 6 weeks lead by Terry Stone on Confederation Trail. We are hoping for a large turnout during the fall months.

U16 National Softball Tournament (reported by Terry Stone)

The U 16 tournament ran extremely well in Alberton. Even with the bad weather the field was in perfect condition to play @ 8:00 am. on Saturday morning. Unfortunately the games were pushed back to 11:00 am. because a decision in O'Leary. We received a number of compliments on how well we maintained the field and the Memorial Field Facility in general. Many of the out of town teams inquired why more of the more significant playoff round games were not in Alberton, as they felt the facility was excellent.

The spinoff of the tournament was extremely beneficial to the local economy. In talking to some local business people, they were quick to point out that it was their best week of the summer, especially the restaurants and lodging facilities.

Even with a limited staff, compared to other locations, we managed to facilitate the event with great success.

We are looking forward to a successful fall season in the Town of Alberton!