



APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR AND ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY MARCH 9, 2015

The regular and annual council meeting was held Monday March 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Murphy presiding and all councillors present also Frances Ready, Chris LeClair, Connor Doucette, West Prince Graphic and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order.

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

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Tremblay and carried for the approval of the 2014 audited financial statements.

YEARLY COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS, SIDEWALKS & STREET LIGHTS

Councillor Tremblay reported that it has been a good year so far and snow removal has worked out well.

ENVIRONMENT & SEWER UTILITY

Councillor Williams said we are in the process of finding funding for the lagoon and she has been in contact with Aaron Taylor and Thane Clark. She said that the water samples that were taken from the four properties next to Westech were checked and sent back. The results for all four samples were negative. Friday someone went door to door with the results to each of the residents who were involved. Councillor Williams read the following email from Aaron Taylor, Manager, Climate, Change and Air Quality.

“Methyl bromide is an ozone depleting substance. Countries have been working together since the 80s to gradually eliminate the production and use of ozone-depleting substances (including methyl bromide). This work is governed by an international agreement called the Montreal Protocol (http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/montreal_protocol.php). Under this agreement, the use of methyl bromide was eliminated in 2005, except for allowable exemptions agreed to by the other participating countries.

Other strawberry runner growers in Canada do not use Terr-O-Gas. Instead, they use Chloropicrin 100 (http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/1_1/view_label?p_ukid=53559861) or Pic Plus (http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/1_1/view_label?p_ukid=53562183). The PEI Department of Environment has not allowed Westech to use either of these products due to the higher concentrations of the ingredient chloropicrin (90-100%) and a potential risk of groundwater contamination. As a result, Westech has been able to show that they do not have any alternative products to use other than Terr-O-Gas 67. This has qualified them for an exemption under the Montreal Protocol. Therefore, Westech is using Terr-O-Gas legally. It is not banned, rather it is allowed under specific circumstances only.



Chloropicrin, the other ingredient in Terr-O-Gas 67, is currently under special review by PMRA (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/decisions/rev2013-06/index-eng.php>). It went through a previous review in 2012 (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/decisions/rev2012-08/index-eng.php>). The most recent review was initiated because the European Union, a member country of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, prohibits all uses of this active ingredient. Based on their review, the European Union found unacceptable risks to operators (farm workers). They also found a high risk to aquatic organisms, birds and wildlife and a high potential for long-range atmospheric transport. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation completed a more recent review of chloropicrin (January 2015). It did not follow the European Union's lead, rather it continues to allow the use of chloropicrin. California did introduce new requirements on the label. These are similar to the requirements that PMRA brought in in 2012 as a result of its 2012 review.

In addition to getting a critical exemption to the Montreal Protocol, Westech must also get a Pesticide Application Permit from PEI Environment. This is required for anyone who wants to use a soil fumigant. Westech's permit has a number of conditions. One of these conditions is that they hire a qualified water sampling technician to collect drinking water samples from properties adjacent to fields that were fumigated. These samples must be analysed for methyl bromide and chloropicrin at an accredited laboratory. These samples are taken in January following the fall fumigation. This allows sufficient time for any material, if it is present in the soil, to make its way into groundwater. The Department also drinks water in January as part of our long-term pesticide monitoring program. Neither methyl bromide nor chloropicrin has ever been detected in the samples taken around Westech's fields.

In addition to the water sampling, staff of the Department were on-site each time an application of Terr-O-Gas 67 took place in 2014. Staff reviewed all of the conditions of the permit prior to the application and determined that they were in compliance prior to the application beginning. Finally, all plastic tarps associated with the fumigation in 2014 have been properly disposed.

I hope this is helpful in preparation for your next council meeting.”

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Duggan reported there is not a lot happening but there was a committee meeting last week.

FIRE & POLICE

Councillor Curtis reported that 157 calls were received in 2014, which was an increase of 25% over the previous year. The fire department got a new tanker truck in operation. There was no annual police report.

RECREATION

Councillor Bernard gave the recreation report. There was an increase in the number of children registered for soccer and ball in 2014. The town has advertised for a fulltime recreation director for 37.5 hours a week.

FINANCE

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve the budget for 2015 with revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$807,095.00 for the general account and revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$145,500.00 for the sewer account.



The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to set the tax rate for 2015 at \$0.56 for non-commercial and \$1.05 for commercial.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to give Jacques Cartier Memorial Arena a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to give grants to the library, museum and curling club in the amount of \$2,000.00 each.

Councillors Cahill, Williams, Duggan, Bernard and Tremblay voted yes and Councillor Curtis abstained from voting.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to give a grant to the Alberton Development Corporation in the amount of \$1,500.00.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to give a grant to the Alberton Area Business Association in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to give the full time staff presently employed a cost of living increase in the amount of 2%.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried that the surplus for 2014 be designated to purchase property for future industrial use.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried for the approval of the minutes of the last regular council meeting held on February 9, 2015.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Williams asked about what was being done to recognize the Regals 100th year and if they would be presented with a plaque.

PRESENTATION AND DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

The Gas Tax Direct Allocation Capital Investment Plan listing the priority of projects for the next five years is due April 3, 2015.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to earmark the Gas Tax Direct Allocation funds for the next five years for the lagoon.

There was a letter from Charlotte Stewart, Heritage Officer with Tourism and Culture to request a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which the Notice of Intention to Designate Heritage Place was discussed and a copy of any resolutions passed. Mayor Murphy said the minutes are online.



There was a letter of request for a donation from the PEI under 16 Girls Fast Pitch softball team.

The monthly report for the West Prince Outreach Project stated that the websites for Alberton and O'Leary are up and running. A welcome reception has been finalized for the two new physicians who will be moving to and working in West Prince. The Navigator has found 20 stakeholders to run the Welcoming Committee and created a list for the West Prince RICH committee.

A letter was received from the PEI Bait Fishers with an update for the winter fishing on the town pond. The total number of people who participated was 109 with 112 trout caught. They will be stocking the pond again in late June with 800 more trout. They were wondering if the town still wants to hold the July 1st fishing derby and if the Mayor and Council would allow them to run the winter fishing again next year. If so, they could restock the pond again in the late fall with 400 more trout.

The motion was made by Councillor Bernard, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to follow through with the PEI Bait Fishers offer for Canada Day and winter fishing.

There was a letter from the Director of Finance, Environment, Labour and Justice regarding the increase of the cost of the RCMP extended service agreement from \$116,404.00 to \$121,860.00 per year.

There was a letter from the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada requesting a donation in the amount of \$250.00 for the reception to be held on September 29th.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Tremblay and carried to donate \$250.00 to the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada for a reception for two new doctors coming to Western Hospital.

The PIF fund application is due March 31, 2015.

The motion was made by Councillor Tremblay, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to apply for the PIF grant for the lagoon.

There was a request from Dave Pizio for the 2014 fire balance sheet showing income/expenditures and if there would be a two year contract. The Mayor said the fire department is not prepared to go with a two year contract. Chris LeClair said if fuel doubles or something comes up it is hard to budget past one year.

Mayor Murphy extended a big thank you to Tom Murphy for helping out with snow removal during the blizzard.

There was a letter from ERC Concepts requesting a refund of the 2015 municipal property tax. The request has been denied in the past. Councillor Curtis asked if they were exempted from municipal taxes and said they should get a provincial exemption first.

The motion was made by Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Tremblay and carried to send a letter to ERC Concepts Ltd to see if they are exempt from provincial taxes and their request will be considered after council has this information.



BUSINESS LICENSES AND/OR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Mayor Murphy gave first reading to the rezoning bylaw amendment and official plan map amendment for PID number 554808-000 from Public Service and Institutional (PSI) to General Commercial (C1).

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Curtis and carried to accept the first reading of the rezoning bylaw amendment and official plan map amendment for PID number 554808-000 from Public Service and Institutional (PSI) to General Commercial (C1).

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to approve the rezoning bylaw and official plan map amendment for PID number 554808-000 from Public Service and Institutional (PSI) to General Commercial (C1).

The second reading will be completed at a special meeting tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

Michael Gaudet applied for a business license for 491 Main Street for buying and selling merchandise.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to approve the business license application for 491 Main Street.

A property development application was received from Western Hospital for minor interior renovations to the existing health care centre.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to approve the property development application for Western Hospital.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS, SIDEWALKS & STREET LIGHTS

Councillor Tremblay reported that there were on problems.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Councillor Bernard read the Recreation and Community Involvement report (see attached).

FIRE AND POLICE

Councillor Curtis read the Police report. There were 166 policing hours and 11 calls for service. Councillor Curtis read the Fire report (see attached).

Mayor Murphy made a suggestion that two residents who received medals of bravery from the Governor General of Canada, Franklyn and Romey Fraser, be given recognition with a reception and the presentation of plaques. Chris LeClair, on behalf of the fire department offered to help. Mayor Murphy requested that the reception be held at the town hall.

FINANCE

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to pay the bills in the amount of \$32,392.12.



ENVIRONMENT & SEWER UTILITY

Councillor Williams said she already reported.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Duggan said we just approved one application for a new business.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to go to a committee of the whole.

The motions was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to return from a committee of the whole.

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

Alberton Fire Department Monthly Report February 8-March 8 /15

There were 11 calls for service

6 Medical First Responder

2 Motor vehicle Collision

1 Flue Fire

1 snowmobile rescue

Stephen LeClair has completed a course in Hazmat Operations, Bradley Gallant and Brett Dumville have completed a course in Hazmat Awareness Tom murphy and John Ellsworth have completed their classroom part for Level 2 Firefighter.

Tom Murphy



Recreation Report from Councillor Bernard

To start off with I would like to inform the public that interviews have started for the new Recreation Directors - Event Planner Job. We hope to have this job filled very soon and this job is a Permanent Position with full time 37.5 hours per week on a year round basis.

The Winter Trout Derby fishing at the Alberton Pond was extended for the Up West Winterfest which took place on Feb 14th. There were a lot of people that came out to try their luck at catching some fish. It was a great success. Lots of happy people took place in this event.

Alberton Silver Blades had their annual Figure Skating Show which always draws a huge crowd. The show's title was Canadian Music Ice Show. I'm not sure how many people were there that night in total but I do know the parking lot was packed along with the school parking lot was also packed. I attend this event every year and I have to say they put allot of hard work into their show. It was a very successful night as usual.

The Pancake Breakfast with Mike the Music Man was held on Feb 28th which was offered by our MLA Pat Murphy. Breakfast was served starting at 8:00 am and there were activities for the kids also such as face painting, a colouring table and Mike the Music Man which is one of the best child entertainers on our Island. There were a total of about 175 people that attended this event. A huge Thank You to our MLA Pat Murphy that offered this free event.

I offered a Free Chocolate Bar Bingo on Feb 27th. Thanks to the Alberton Curling Club for letting me use their facility to put this event on for free of charge. They were very kind also to open their canteen for the little ones while the Bingo was being held. I also would like to Thank Esther Saunders for volunteering her time calling the bingo and also thank Wanda and Gerry Saunders for lending us the Bingo Machine for this event. There was a good crowd of people that attended of all ages. There were a total of 38 people who attended the bingo and there were lots of happy kids with all their winnings. Not one kid went home that night without a Chocolate Bar. The winner take all took home a total of 16 Bars which some were king size bars. It was a great night with a good turnout considering it was Jack Frost weekend. I hope to offer this again sometime in the near future when hockey, figure skating and bowling is over.