



**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The regular council meeting was held Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and Councillors Cahill, Williams, Curtis, Bernard and Tremblay present also Cst. MacGrath, Ray Millman, Phillip Weeks, Tom Murphy, Chris LeClair, Frances Ready and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn. Councillor Duggan was absent due to sickness.

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

The motion was made by Councillor Bernard, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried for the approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting held December 8, 2014.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Cahill asked if there was any more correspondence from Westech. They have not responded to the last letter.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the fire chief to request a letter be sent to Pat Murphy MLA regarding the possible installation of a dry hydrant at the new bridge in Huntley.

The motion was made by Councillor Tremblay, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to write a letter to request the installation of a dry fire hydrant at the new bridge in Huntley.

Mayor Murphy said at first there were no funds requested by the Up West Winterfest but there is an email from Councillor Duggan with a request for \$250.00 for transportation of seniors to the Rodd.

The motion was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to provide \$250.00 for the Up West Winterfest senior's transportation.

A letter was received from Cletus Dunn, secretary for Alberton & Area Rural Fire District that stated "Due to the fact that the Government of PEI only sends out fire dues to us on a monthly basis, we are not able to cover the second cheque issued for the end of this month to the Town of Alberton for the Jan-March 2015 payment until the December deposit is made to our account due to the holiday season." The letter also requested that we either hold their final cheque for at least 10 days into the new year so that it will clear or they could put a stop payment on the cheque and issue a new one for mid-January. Councillor Tremblay asked if the rural people had their fire dues paid. Mayor Murphy asked Susan to explain the payment schedule. Susan read a letter dated April 24, 2014 that council had sent to Cletus Dunn, secretary, Alberton Rural Fire District. The letter acknowledged receipt of two postdated cheques dated June 30, 2014 and September 30, 2014 in the amount of \$27,986.39 each in payment of fire protection dues for the periods April 1st – March 31, 2014 and April 1st – June 30th, 2014 and July 1st – September 30th, 2014. The letter stated that the fire department provided fire protection

services to the Alberton Rural Fire District for the period January 1st - March 31st, 2014 and the town has not yet received payment for the services provided during this period. The letter asked for payment as soon as possible in the amount of \$27,986.39 for fire protection services provided in the period January 1st – March 31, 2014. Councillor Tremblay asked if the residents knew it was not paid. Mayor Murphy said they have the service, the fire department has new equipment and the service was good. Councillor Tremblay said it is putting us in a position where money is being taken from the town. Mayor Murphy said it is very difficult to meet with them. Councillor Cahill said that we have to protect the people and people have to get out at their annual meeting. Councillor Curtis said the last letter received from Cletus Dunn, secretary Alberton & Area Rural Fire District does not make any sense and to ask them for clarification on the part they cannot pay January-March 2015 payment because they did not get the December deposit because of the holiday season. Councillor Tremblay asked if she could see the Fire District's books. Councillor Cahill said to try to meet with them again, follow with another letter and try to set up a meeting.

Mayor Murphy read part of an email from Dave Pizio, Chairperson, Greenmount/Montrose with a request for a detailed debit/credit ledger for all monies associated with the operation of the Alberton Fire Department for 2013-2104 and also for 2014-15 up to the time of meeting. Mayor Murphy said they had already been given a copy of our audited financial statement prepared by a Chartered Accountant.

Councillor Williams said the information is already available and that all large purchases are itemized on the monthly fire reports.

BUSINESS LICENSES AND OR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Heritage and Town Expansion

Councillor Williams said there is not a lot to report.

Roads, Sidewalks, Streetlights and Parking Lots

Councillor Curtis said the snow ploughing is going okay but that the sidewalks are either too icy or too slushy. Councillor Cahill said if it is a certain temperature outside, salt will not work. Councillor Curtis suggested spreading sand.

Recreation

Councillor Bernard read the recreation report. (See attached)

The motion was made by Councillor Bernard, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to submit an application for funding for the Canada Day events this year.

Fire and Police

Councillor Tremblay read the fire and police reports. (See fire report attached)

Finance

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$42,885.70.

Financial statements for the General Account including balance sheet, income statement and trial balance were distributed.

There was discussion on the closure of Palliative beds at Western Hospital. Mayor Murphy said that Dr. Wedge said that the beds were settled back in 2004 when the deals between the two hospitals were being made. O'Leary Community Hospital got four palliative care beds and traded beds off when the ER closed in O'Leary. Mayor Murphy said that doctors can still admit patients to receive palliative care at Western Hospital.

Mayor Murphy said that Selena has resigned as Recreation Director effective next Monday.

NEW BUSINESS

Second reading for the Council Procedural By-Law.

The motion was made by made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to accept the second reading of the Council Procedural By-law.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to formally adopt the Council Procedural By-Law.

PUBLIC INPUT

Phillip Weeks said that regarding the floods on April 17th and December 10th that the first flooding was to the top of the overflow. He also asked if council was concerned. Mayor Murphy said we are working with the government to get them to upgrade their storm drain system and put in larger culverts.

Councillor Williams said she got a tour of the lagoon and is trying to educate herself.

Ray Millman said as for the fire dues we will have trouble with Mr. Dunn as long as he is Chair of that Committee. Councillor Cahill said the people from the Fire District need to attend the annual meeting. Ray Millman said they should ask for a new Chair.

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

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

The motion was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Curtis and carried to offer Andrew MacKenzie full time work with benefits including Blue Cross cost shared 50-50, an RRSP at 5% of salary and cell phone allowance.

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

Recreation Report- January 12, 2015

After School Activity Programs wrapped up the week of December 15th. They will begin again starting The end of January and will encompass all grades this time. K-3 will be on Monday's and 4-6 on Friday's, forms will go out to the school this week.

December 23rd was the last day of exercises at the Philips Residence until the new year. I will be changing the day of the exercises from Tuesday's to Wednesday's as I won't be in the office on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

Due to weather and some unforeseen circumstances a few chair yoga sessions were cancelled so Mandel has agreed to make those up this winter. I will look to confirm dates with her this week and advertise ASAP. We will also be calling the ladies that participated prior to Christmas to let them know about the additional sessions. After these sessions I will start a senior's balls and bands exercise class in its place.

Dates aren't confirmed yet but there will be an after school curling program where the kids will take the bus from Alberton to the curling club after school with instruction given by Wendy Fraser.

Learn to Curl on Tuesday evenings, wrapped up in December and has now started again on Tuesday evenings for 4 weeks at the curling club.

Walking group has had very low participation so I am looking at offering it at a different time perhaps later in the evening but it won't be offered as frequently as the gym is booked a few evenings each week.

Parents night off was a huge success, lots of kids and great volunteers. I would love to continue to do these but the only issue is that I need a school board employee to be able to use the gym on a Friday night. Lindsey Clements did it with me on the 19th of December but it would be nice to have more than one person that I could ask to volunteer to do these programs at the school after hours.

There was not a ton of contenders for the outdoor Christmas decorating contest but the top three were, Lennie Skerry, Pam Corrigan and Cheryl O'Brien. Cheryl donated her \$25 winnings back to the rec dept.

No School Friday Bowling will continue on Friday's that there are no classes. Advertising will start soon. They will need to pre- register again.

I would like to do winter carnival Feb 19th-22nd. I will put a call out to members of the community this week to see who is interested in helping and to get ideas of what the town would like for events.

Up West Winterfest is including the Ronnie Kinch Memorial tournament in their schedule and I am waiting on contact from the tournament director to see what I can help with for the tournament. I am also volunteering with Winterfest and there was a mention of possibly hosting a fishing derby that weekend but I will need to confirm, if it doesn't happen then it will perhaps be an event we will include during winter carnival as the PEI Bait Fishers Association has expressed interest in coming back here this winter.

The application for Canada Day funding through the Canadian Heritage Dept is due the 15th of January. Can council approve the submission of the application for funding for the Canada Day events this year?

Alberton Fire Department

Monthly Report -December 7-January 11/2015

There were 14 calls for service

9 Medical First Responder

2 Motor vehicle Collision

1 Power Pole Fire

2 Structure fires

The Fire Department got our new tanker back from HF Stewart there are a few things to finish before we put it in service.

The Fire Department finished off 2014 with 157 fire calls which is an increase of 25% over the previous year. Of the calls received 30 calls were between 12-AM and 8-AM, 71 calls were between 8-AM and 4-PM, and 56 calls were between 4-PM and midnight.

The amount of calls increased this year but the split in calls inside town and outside town remained almost the same. Last year we had 43.7% of our calls inside town and this year we had 43% of our calls within the town.

Tom Murphy