



APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

The regular council meeting was held Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. with Mayor Murphy presiding and all councillors present also Tom Murphy, Paul Martin, Darcy Rennie, Melissa Heald – Graphic, Eric McCarthy – Journal and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to approve the agenda.

Councillor Duggan said there was an error on page 2 of the minutes regarding the ATV group constructing a trail it should say a trail not Confederation trail. Mayor Murphy said it was the Confederation trail that was being discussed in the letter.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried for the approval of the minutes from the last regular meeting held November 9, 2015 and the special council meetings held November 10, 2015 and November 18, 2015.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Duggan said that the letter that was to be sent out supporting ATVs using the trail was rejected by council due to liability concerns.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL

Darcy Rennie said he was speaking on behalf of himself and Paul Martin and he said that at 7:00 a.m. the snow is pushed back and they can't get through. The administrator will talk to the maintenance man about snow removal. Darcy Rennie asked what the proper procedure was for snow removal and what time snow removal would start. Paul Martin said that his workers go to work and ask his customers to go through Poplar Street. Tom Murphy said that when it stormed he could not get up Main Street and that the snow was piled on Sunday morning as well. Darcy Rennie said that somebody has to call for back up and they need to start earlier to remove the snow or Raymond Gaudette could do the whole thing in two hours. Paul Martin asked what it costs to run the tractor and said that common sense says that it costs more than what Raymond Gaudette charges an hour. Paul Martin said he has 18 employees. Darcy Rennie said that Save Easy and other businesses get their snow removal done for nothing.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Bray's Independent requesting more street lights and better snow removal and ice control. Mayor Murphy asked each council member for their opinion. Councillor Curtis said that business taxes should go up to cover it. Councillor Cahill asked if you going penalize all the businesses. Mayor Murphy said it is a double standard and other businesses clean their own parking lots. Councillor Williams said it is the contractor's job to decide when snow removal needs to be done. Councillor

Duggan said that they need to get a plan and keep cleaning it for this year. Councillor Bernard said if they own it they should be responsible and that lighting should be discussed at budget time. Councillor Tremblay said the same. Councillor Cahill said they should not have maintenance people clear the snow and they should contract it out and that snow removal was always good until the town did it.

A letter was received from the Memorial Tournament to request sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the January 15-17, 2016 tournament.

The motions was made by Councillor Bernard, seconded by Councillor Curtis and carried to sponsor \$1,000.00 donation for the Memorial Tournament.

There was a request from Island Press Ltd. for Christmas and New Year's ads.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to get an ad from Island Press Ltd for Christmas for \$84.42 plus HST and if there is a levee to include it. Councillor Williams, Duggan, Bernard and Tremblay voted yes and Councillors Curtis and Cahill voted no.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to run a black and white ad in the Journal for Christmas for \$105.06 plus tax and to include the levee if there is one.

A letter was received from Lois Graham, 58 Wallace Drive regarding concerns about rezoning at 382 Main Street.

A request was received from Welcome PEI Travel Guide and another request from 2016 North Cape Coastal Tourism Area Partnership Guide book.

BUSINESS LICENCES AND/OR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

A survey plan was presented showing a subdivision of properties of Shirley Wallace.

A letter was received from the Department of Environment stating Lot 2015-3 is Category 1 for a septic system. Mayor Murphy also read bylaw 4.12 Access (3) (iii). Councillor Williams left the room due to conflict of interest due to being related to the property owners.

The motion was made by Councillor Tremblay, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve a subdivision plan for three lots for Shirley Wallace.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to approve the property development application for a work shop 40 feet by 72 feet for Wayne Wallace.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve a property development application from Stephen McNeill for a work shop 24 feet x 32 feet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE AND POLICE

Councillor Curtis read the police report. 179 hours were spent providing policing services to the town and there were 23 calls for service. The calls included - 4- Mischief, 4- Traffic Violations, 2- Theft, 2- False Alarms, 2- Crime Prevention, 1-Assault, 1-Uttering Threats, 1-Break & Enter/Residence, 1-Impaired

Driving, 1-Fraud, 1-Disturbing the Peace, 1-Assistance to General Public, 1-911 Act, and 1-Coronor's Act - Sudden Death. Councillor Curtis read the attached fire report.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS & STREET LIGHTS

Councillor Tremblay said that the first snowfall was a learning experience. Councillor Tremblay said the CAO should have a meeting with the maintenance man about the parking lot and Main Street as well a meeting with the contractor and staff. She said the plan must be early enough and seven days a week. Councillor Tremblay said there were a lot of complaints regarding the lawns being torn up by the sidewalk machine. She requested that the minutes be emailed to all the councillors with a plan in place. As a result of numerous calls and letter to the government the government storm sewer culvert was cleaned.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Councillor Bernard read the attached recreation report.

Councillor Curtis left the meeting due to sickness.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Duggan read the attached economic development report.

ENVIRONMENT AND SEWER UTILITY

Councillor Williams gave the environment report. She said that things were quiet. The CAO collected \$6,020.57 for overdue sewer bills and the sewer work on Elizabeth Drive was completed.

FINANCE

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, and seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to pay bills in the amount of \$175,960.60.

Financial statements and honorariums were distributed.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to pay the town administrator the same Christmas bonus as last year.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to pay the recreation director a Christmas bonus of \$200.00.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to pay the office casual worker a Christmas bonus of \$100.00.

Councillor Williams asked about a bonus for the two maintenance men.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to give Kevin Gillis \$350.00 for maintaining the town website.

The motion was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Bernard and carried to give the maintenance men a \$50.00 Christmas bonus.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to apply for a Skills Grant for the maintenance salary.

The parking lot at the ball field and payment to the contractor was discussed. Councillor Duggan said that we got what we asked for and would be glad to work on a specification as he had 31 years of experience. Mayor Murphy asked each councillor if the contractor should be paid. Councillor Duggan said that if doing a tender we should do it right and that we should be ashamed of what we asked for and should pay the invoice. Councillors Williams, Cahill, Bernard and Tremblay said the invoice should not be paid.

The motion was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried for council to meet with the contractor to discuss the issues.

The motion was made by Councillor Bernard, seconded by Councillor Tremblay and carried to send thank you cards to Verna Pridham and Randy Barbour for their business over the years.

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

Alberton Town Council

Fire report October 13-November 8/15

There were 5 calls for service

4 Medical first responder calls

1 Flue fire

Kelly Williams, Jacquie Lidstone and Tom Murphy completed a course on Hazardous Material Awareness and Brett Dumville completed a course in Confined Space Rescue

Recreation Report – December 14th, 2015

The Alberton Christmas Shopping Weekend took place between November 19th and November 22nd. Local businesses offered special deals as well as the opportunity to win prizes. The Recreation Department worked in cooperation with the Business Association to offer two events during the Christmas Shopping Weekend. On November 19th, we showed “Frosty the Snowman” and “Home Alone 2” at the Alberton Heritage Center. The movies were free of charge and children were given popcorn and juice. Parents were able to leave their children for 2 hours to take part in the shopping weekend. There were 8 children who participated and one volunteer. On November 20th, schools were closed for parent teacher meetings. Children could be dropped off at Alberton Bowling Alley and were able to bowl and/or make a holiday craft. The cost of bowling was 5\$. Parents were able to leave their children for parent teacher meetings or take part in the shopping weekend. 17 children participated in the Alberton Bowling and craft event.

A presentation on the Pace Car Program was delivered to Grades 4-6 Students at Alberton Elementary on November 19th. Students were given a copy of the Pace Car pledge for their parents to sign, should they wish. Some students were also given a bookmark which showed bicycle helmet safety guidelines. The Recreation Department worked with local RCMP to conduct a pre-program survey on November 23rd. The speed radar was used to track vehicles that were speeding in three different locations in Alberton. On Church Street, within the Alberton Elementary school zone, 141 vehicles were surveyed and 41% of vehicles were driving over the posted speed limit of 50km/hr. The average speed of vehicles in this location was 48 km/hr. On Main Street, near to the credit union, 168 vehicles were surveyed and 45% of vehicles were driving over the posted speed limit of 50km/hr. The average speed of vehicles in this location was 48 km/hr. The final survey was conducted on the Dock Road, entering into Alberton. 98 vehicles were surveyed and 10% of vehicles were driving over the posted speed limit of 90km/hr. The average speed of vehicles here was 69 km/hr as vehicles were prompted to slow down as they reached town limits. A Walk About Survey will be conducted on December 11th with local volunteers to determine how pedestrian friendly the community is. In the new year the Recreation Department will set up at local shops such as the Independent and the Credit Union, encouraging the public to sign up to be Pace Car drivers and pledge to drive the posted speed limit.

The Hot Chocolate 5KM Run/Walk for RBC Sports Day in Canada took place November 21st. The recreation department had three dedicated volunteers for the event; a police officer, a nurse and, an EMS worker. Volunteers and participants were treated to a hot chocolate following the run and volunteers were also given a Town of Alberton pin in appreciation for their effort. Participants received a certificate of completion. All volunteers said they would volunteer with the town in the future when available.

The Alberton Wellness Group had their final meeting November 25th. All participants commented that the program was a positive experience. The recreation department will offer a similar program again in the spring once the weather allows for more outdoor, low impact, activities. Meanwhile, the Alberton Walking Club continues to walk indoors at Alberton

Elementary each day from 4pm to 5pm. This program will be available until the end of April each day that Alberton Elementary is open.

A Ladies Craft Night event ran November 27th and participants made a sock snowman. As regular participants have become busy with the Holidays, the recreation department will wait until the New Year to host another Ladies Craft Night.

The After School Program ends for grades K-1 on Tuesday, December 8th and for grades 2-3 on Wednesday, December 9th. When the program begins again in mid-January, the grade 2 class will be placed with the K-1 students in an attempt to even out participation in the program. The program will be offered on a different day for grade 3 and grade 4 and the older students will play games for half an hour and then spend a half hour focusing on a sport such as basketball, soccer, dodgeball, hockey or softball.

Seniors at the Phillips have been making holiday crafts, doing light, chair-based exercises, and playing bingo and other games every Monday and Friday with the recreation department. The program is appreciated as there is currently no Activities Director at the Phillips residence. Activities help the day go by for senior residents. The program will continue to run until December 21st and begin again on January 4th.

The Teens Hit the Gym program continues to run at Iron Haven Gym. The program will run December 11th and December 18th at which time, regular participants will be entered into a draw to win a month's membership to the gym for the New Year. A success story will be written and posted on the Participation/Coca Cola website about the program.

On December 16th, a Parent's Night Off will be offered at Alberton Elementary. Parents can leave their children from 5:30pm to 8:00pm for activities in the gym. The cost of the program is \$5 per child or \$10 for a family. A snack will be provided.

On December 18th, an Elf Workshop will be offered at Alberton Town Hall. Parents can leave their children from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for Holiday crafts and games. This is a free program. 9 Children are already registered for the program.

The Annual Christmas Light competition is running again this year. Judging will take place on December 21st and the winner will be announced in the West Prince Graphic and on the Alberton Recreation Facebook page. First place will win 75\$, Second place will win 50\$ and, Third place will win 25\$.

Economic Development Report

December 2015

I regret to report that we are losing another prominent business in town. Barbour Service Station has been operating for over 60 years with several generations involved in the business.

We are very fortunate to have the V&S property reopen as a Great Canadian Dollar Store.

I would like to wish both the Barbour family and Verna Pridham all the best and thank them for the years of service to the town.

I would also like to welcome the new Great Canadian Dollar Store owners into our town and wish them much success.

I want to thank Miss Lois Graham for her letter concerning the recent rezoning. The suggestion of a Strategic Plan being developed is a wonderful idea, I don't believe the town has ever developed one. Economic development is especially challenging now in rural and city centers alike, therefore, I would like to have council's approval to host some planning meetings on this subject. I would also ask Miss Graham to be part of our planning group so we can learn from her experience and I would also like to see town councilors; business owners, previous business owners, and any interested residents of the area join us on this committee.

I realize the retail operators are very busy this time of year but a lunch meeting to kick off the discussions of this group would be very useful. I ask the CAO to please contact Miss Graham and try and arrange a time as soon as possible to get this group together.

I have heard many concerns from the retailers and residents alike about the lack of access to any town staff during and after a snow storm. Our present policy is: the town office is closed when Access PEI offices are closed. This leaves our residents without any kind of contact with town employees if problems arrive. This policy needs to be changed - we are responsible for snow clearing - we must have a plan in place for business owners and residents to be able to contact town staff if problems occur. The town office phone should have a recording giving a contact number to reach a town staff employee. This could be the town CAO during normal working hours and the staff person on duty on all other hours.

Last item is tax exemption for new home construction. I would ask council to have a committee meeting to consider reviewing the present policy of exemption of municipal land taxes for newly constructed home's.