

MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

HELD MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

The regular council meeting was held Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. with Mayor Gordon presiding and Councillors Blair Duggan and Kelly Williams present. Also present at the meeting were Frances Ready, James Smith, Allan Curtis, Frances Ready, Ray Millman, Hubert Lihman, Jillian Trainer-West Prince Graphic, Corporal Lisa Jones and CAO Donna Thomson.

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mayor Gordon declared a conflict of interest for Finance and Environment and Councillor Kelly Williams declared a conflict of interest with fire.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The motion was made by Councillor Williams seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried for the adoption of the minutes from the regular council meeting held July 8th, the remuneration committee meeting held July 11th, the planning board meeting held July 16th and the special council meeting held July 29th.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The nomination notice for the election was advertised on Friday, August 9th and the nomination papers will be available at the town hall Wednesday, August 14th. The date of the election is September 9th, 2019. The next regular council meeting will need to be moved to September 16th.

The motion to move the next regular council meeting to September 16th was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS

A letter of apology from Mayor Gordon was read in which he apologized for not following proper procedure regarding a burn permit application in June from Pat and Karen Murphy and stated that his actions have been disciplined by council and Municipal Affairs.

Mayor's Apology Letter

I would like to admit I did not follow proper procedure regarding a burn permit application in June from Pat and Karen Murphy. I didn't properly follow our Code of Conduct bylaw when I acted outside my rights by not signing the application. This created a lot of drama between me and the Murphy's.

I feel very bad that it went this far and I want to apologize to Mr. and Mrs. Murphy for how I handled this. My actions were inappropriate and I have been disciplined by council and Municipal Affairs.

I would like to explain why I didn't want to sign the permit. Council felt they were not given all the information needed to make the decision by the former CAO. After the meeting, she told them that Huntley residents were bothered by smoke and the smell for several weeks after the burn. The council didn't want the residents to go through this again.

I admit a lot of mistakes were made over handling this. I have learned a lot about the code of conduct and will be doing my best to follow it.

Thank you

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received announcing funding for the Jacques Cartier Memorial Arena in the amount of \$8500.00 from Community Recreation Support Program. The arena is also anticipating funding from the Investing in Canada Program for rink renewal.

The new West Prince Outreach Coordinator asked the council to distribute pamphlets that she provided.

NEW BUSINESS

A recent insurance inspection came up with the following recommendations.

There is an old shed near 34 Albion Street that needs to be torn down or removed.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to place an ad for tender to have the shed removed.

The report also required the town to have a proper storage cabinet and waste container for flammables.

The motion was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve the cost of purchasing the proper storage cabinet and waste container for flammables at the cost of \$1600.00 plus HST.

A letter was received from Dr. Herb Dickenson asking for support to request the Provincial Government to adopt a facilitated physician recruitment and retention plan.

A resolution and a copy of the presentation that was presented to Charlottetown City Council regarding this issue was included in the council's packages. The mayor requested a motion to pass the resolution as it is written.

Alberton Town Council Resolution, endorsed August 12, 2019

Whereas, more than 13,000 Islanders have no family physician.

And whereas, the shortage of family physicians increases wait times, and delays diagnosis and treatment with potential further patient suffering and health risks;

And whereas, physician shortage and associated extended wait times result in a measurable loss of income and productivity adversely affecting the Island economy;

And whereas, a recent survey by the medical Society of Prince Edward Island indicated that 56% of practicing Island physicians are planning to reduce or leave their practice over the coming five years;

And whereas, the University of Prince Edward Island has a proven record of success in the development of the Faculties of Nursing, Engineering and the Atlantic Veterinary College.

Therefore, be it resolved that,

The Town of Alberton appeals to the Government of Prince Edward Island to initiate:

- 1. A facilitated Physician Recruitment and Retention program•**
- 2. Immediate doubling and later tripling of Family Physician Residency Positions.**
- 3. Planning and negotiations for a Medical Faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island.**

July 5, 2019

His Worship David Gordon Mayor

Town of Alberton

P.O. Box 153,3 Emma Drive

Alberton, PE

COB 1BO

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I seek the support of your Worship and Council in consideration of an approach to address the existing and growing problem of physician shortages on Prince Edward Island.

As you have no doubt heard, or may be experiencing in your own family or community, more than 13,000 Islanders are registered on the wait list for a family physician. The number of Islanders without a doctor is probably much greater if those not registered are included.

Future forecasts, as outlined by the Medical Society of Prince Edward Island, are that 56% of current practicing physicians are planning to downsize, leave the province or retire over the coming five years. This calls for a decisive action plan to avert further medical treatment delays, loss of work force and business productivity, ER and hospital closures, and even the viability of some of our rural communities.

We have a new government and Premier on Prince Edward Island with an expressed interest in approaching our Island challenges in a fresh and innovative manner.

It is very encouraging to see that Mayor Philip Brown and his Council representing the City of Charlottetown have endorsed a motion requesting our provincial government to adopt a facilitated physician recruitment and retention plan, increase physician residency positions and to commence negotiation and planning for a medical faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island (see enclosures).

I respectfully ask Mayor Gordon for your Council's consideration of a motion, comparable to that of Charlottetown City Council, to address the ever-looming physician shortage crisis for the benefit of your residents, community and all Islanders.

I am available to communicate further details by phone, email or, if mutually possible, in person. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely

Dr. Herb Dickieson

627 Howlan Road

O'Leary, PE COB 1VO

(902) 856-0259

drhdickieson@gmail.com

(Presentation to the City of Charlottetown Strategic Priorities and Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, May 23, 2019)

Island Family Physician Action Plan

Your Worship Mayor Brown and Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today a plan to address the present and growing family physician shortage in Prince Edward Island.

A robust physician recruitment and retention action plan is required to address our immediate crisis, but we also must act now to provide for the medium and long-term physician requirements in the province.

To achieve satisfactory recruitment and retention objectives we must work together, at all levels of government and institutions with our practicing Island doctors. As a former legislator and retired family physician, experience makes it clear that we must renew focus on our recruitment and retention strategies now, increase the family physician residency positions for mid-term results, and establish a medical faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island to close the physician gap in the longer term.

We have a choice, to maintain the status quo and fall further behind, or we can be ambitious, and do what other growing, forward-looking centres are doing, and work to achieve our goals.

Here's what we can do to address the serious and growing Island family physician shortage:

- * A facilitated recruitment and retention program to extend the physician search beyond traditional sources such as reaching to places including Europe. The Island's rural and small town environment could have appeal to many qualified professionals seeking a more pastoral land and seascape lifestyle.

Direct local participation on the recruitment team is essential to the success of any physician enrollment effort. Assignment of billing numbers by Island region is important to ensure adequate disbursement of physician placement to areas of highest need. Island physician communication and input is critical.

Addressing present local service lapses such as high-speed internet is part of the overall requirement to attract skilled professionals to rural Prince Edward Island. Provision of incentives, both in recruitment and retention, must also be part of the package.

- * Immediate doubling, and later tripling of family physician residency positions, now only at five on the Island, would allow more medical school graduates to complete their education in Island hospitals and clinics; a cost effective way to attract and retain physicians in our province. Preceptor physicians will need our support for this to happen. Results would be apparent in the short and medium-term.

- * A medical faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island is the "brass ring" to solve the longer term issue of physician supply for our province.

The University of New Brunswick, Saint John campus, graduates 30 doctors per year, and is affiliated with Dalhousie Medical School in Halifax. Moncton University also has a medical faculty educating francophone medical students, this in conjunction with the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec. The concept of a medical faculty at Cape Breton University has been raised to address area physician needs.

Discussions for a medical faculty at UPEI must begin this year with modest initial cost at the planning and negotiation phase. A cost-benefit analysis would provide for evidence-based decision making to guide progress on the project toward having our own medical faculty here at UPEI in Charlottetown.

The Atlantic Veterinary School and UPEI Nursing Program have proven that we are more than capable in this province of operating first class educational institutions to serve our local needs and beyond. We must do the same to address the growing need for Island physicians.

Thank you.

Dr. Herb Dickieson

Retired family physician and former member of the Legislative Assembly of PEI

Contact: (902) 856-0259

Email: drhdickieson@gmail.com

Backgrounder:

38% of Islanders place health care as the number one priority (by far) for government in the 2019 Island provincial election, "Health Care Dominates", The Guardian, citing a Narrative Research poll, April 18, 2019.

13,000 Island residents have no family doctor, derived from the Physician Registry. (Unregistered Islanders seeking family physicians are not included in this number.)

Wait times have financial impact, as well as increased pain and suffering, and risk of worse medical outcomes, Fraser Institute Study, The Private Cost of Public Queues for Medically Necessary Care, March, 2019 (\$2,594 in 2018 on average per Islander, second only to Manitoba). Waiting to see a family physician only adds to the wait time with further suffering, risk of worse outcome, and loss of wages with reduced productivity.

56% of Island physicians plan to reduce or leave their practice over the coming five years with 13% moving out the province, 19% retiring and 24% planning to reduce their practice, Medical Society of Prince Edward Island survey, 2019.

Physicians have a preference to practice in the area where they have been educated studies have shown.

Medical Faculty at University of Moncton opened in September, 2006 and admits 24 francophone students per year in affiliation with the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec.

Medical Faculty at University of New Brunswick, Saint John Campus opened in September, 2010 and admits 30 students per year in conjunction with Dalhousie Medical School.

The University of Prince Edward Island has proven its ability to provide working professionals through the Atlantic Veterinary College, the faculties of Engineering, Nursing and Education and other programs. Now is the time to develop a Faculty of Medicine at UPEI.

Mayor Gordon said that now that the election process is underway, the council needs to start the process for hiring for the position of CAO. He suggested establishing a committee of people with HR experience who can run the screening and interviews.

The motion was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to establish a committee of people with HR experience to screen and interview for the position of CAO.

An inquiry was made by the Alberton Community Development Corporation to see if the town would be interested in renting office space to them.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams to rent office space to the Alberton Community Development Corporation and to set the price for the office rental at a later date.

INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Duggan said that he has received complaints from residents about parking on Main Street, particularly from store owners complaining about the residents of the apartments above the Journal office parking for lengthy periods of time, taking spaces from shoppers. Also a complaint was received about the Flea market shop blocking off parking spaces as a loading zone. The mayor said letters could be sent to the owners of the building but until we get a bylaw enforcement officer not much can be done about this.

Mayor Gordon said that council would like to address some concerns about recent events where residents are doing work without the proper permits from council. He said that if residents are unsure whether an action requires a permit to please contact the Town Hall for direction and that the Town's bylaws are listed on the Town's website as well.

Mayor Gordon also said that council has heard concerns from residents as well in regards to recent social media posts from town residents which paint the town in a negative light. Council has no control over what residents post on their private social media accounts but they encourage residents to reach out to Town Hall if they have concerns and we will work closely to resolve them.

INTRODUCTION AND READING OF BYLAWS

A committee of three residents have suggested amendments to the existing Remuneration Bylaw.

1st READING OF BYLAW TO REGULATE REMUNERATION OF COUNCIL AND APPOINTEES

The resolution was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Williams and carried to accept the first reading of the Bylaw to Regulate Remuneration of Council and Appointees Bylaw #220-12-2019.

The resolution was made by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve the first reading of the Bylaw to Regulate Remuneration of Council and Appointees Bylaw #220-12-2019.

Council Meeting #1 - Bylaw Resolution #1 – FIRST READING

Date: _____ August 12, 2019 _____

Moved by Councillor: _____ Councillor Duggan _____

Seconded by Councillor: _____ Councillor Williams _____

Whereas The Province of Prince Edward Island has enacted the new Municipal Government 4 Act (MGA) and the MGA requires the passage of several bylaws by the municipalities governed under the MGA;

And whereas the Remuneration bylaw #220-12-2019 that is replacing the previous Remuneration bylaw #209-2-2018, was read a first time at this Council meeting;

Be it resolved that the Remuneration bylaw #220-12-2019, a bylaw to replace the existing Remuneration bylaw #209-2-2018 be hereby read a first time.

Council Meeting #1 - Bylaw Resolution #2 – APPROVAL OF FIRST READING

#2 – APPROVAL OF FIRST READING

Date: ___August 12, 2019_____

Moved by Councillor: __Councillor Williams_____

Seconded by Councillor: _Councillor Duggan_____

“**Whereas** the Province of Prince Edward Island has enacted the new Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the MGA requires the passage of several bylaws by the municipalities governed under the MGA;

And whereas the Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 82 subsection (1) states a council shall establish the types, rates and conditions of payments to be made to or on behalf of a member of the council or a member of a council committee only by means of a bylaw passed pursuant to this section.

And Whereas the MGA Section 82 subsection (3) states that prior to making a bylaw that alters existing types, rates and conditions of compensation, allowances or benefits to be paid to members of council, a council shall appoint an independent Remuneration and Allowances Commission to review and to make recommendations to council respecting the matters referred to in subsection (2);

And whereas the independent Remuneration and Allowances Commission has made their recommendations to council,

And whereas the Remuneration bylaw #220-12-2019 that is replacing the previous Remuneration bylaw #209-2-2018 was read a first time at this Council meeting;

Be it resolved that the Remuneration bylaw #220-12-2019, a bylaw to replace the existing Remuneration bylaw #209-2-2018, be hereby approved.

Town of Alberton
A Bylaw to Regulate Remuneration of Council and Appointees
Bylaw # 220-12-2019

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Town of Alberton as follows:

1. Title

- 1.1. This bylaw shall be known and cited as the “Remuneration Bylaw.”

2. Authority

- 2.1. Section 82 of the *Municipal Government Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. M-12.1. enables council, by bylaw, to establish the types, rates, and conditions of payments to be made to or on behalf of a member of the council, a member of a council committee or another person.

3. Application

- 3.1. This bylaw applies to all Council members. For greater certainty, this includes the Mayor, Deputy Mayor.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. “Act” means the Municipal Government Act.
- 4.2. “Chief Administrative Officer” or “CAO” means the administrative head of a municipality as appointed by council under subsection 86(2) (c) of the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 4.3. “Compensation” means a form of monetary payment for the performance of some work or service.
- 4.4. “Council” means the mayor and other members of the council of the municipality.
- 4.5. “Councillor” means a member of council other than the mayor.
- 4.6. “Commission” means the Remuneration and Allowances Commission appointed pursuant to subsection 82(3) of the Act.

“Remuneration” means, both monetary payment for the for the performance of some work or service and non-monetary payments such as medical insurance, pension schemes, retirement benefits, etc.

5. Establishing a Remuneration Bylaw

- 5.1. Council may by bylaw, establish the level of remuneration and reimbursement available to elected officials to ensure that:

- (a) residents who have been elected to the position of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or Council member are provided reasonable remuneration for their service to the Town of Alberton;
- (b) individuals who have been appointed by Council to municipal committees are provided reasonable remuneration for their service to the Town of Alberton;
- (c) ensure the orderly and consistent payment and reimbursement to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, and committee members;

6. Remuneration of Council Members

- 6.1. The Mayor shall be paid remuneration for discharge of the duties of office in the amount of \$8,000.00 per year.
- 6.2. Each Councillor, including the Deputy Mayor, shall be paid remuneration for discharge of the duties of office in the amount of \$4,000.00 per year.
- 6.3. Where a Councillor, Deputy Mayor or Mayor does not serve a full 12 month term remuneration shall be prorated on a monthly basis for time served or part month thereof and those monies shall stay in the general fund of the municipality.
- 6.4. Remuneration shall be paid at the end of each quarter each year less any deductions required by law.
- 6.5. Remuneration for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor shall be adjusted on or about the 16th of November of each year by a rate equivalent to the Consumer Price Index, compounded and rounded up to the nearest dollar

7. Allowance for Expenses

- 7.1. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors shall be reimbursed for their legitimate expenses incurred through the execution of their duties as office holders of the municipality in accordance with Schedule A that is attached to, and forms part of, this bylaw.

8. Revisions to this Bylaw

- 8.1. Prior to making any amendments to this bylaw that alters existing types, rates and conditions of compensation, allowances or benefits to be paid to members of Council, Council shall, in accordance with section 82(3) of the Act, appoint an independent Remuneration and Allowances Commission.
- 8.2. The Commission shall be made up of 2-3 members, who shall not be member of council or municipal staff.
- 8.3. The members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for their time in accordance with reimbursement amounts to be set out for appointees to committees.

- 8.4. The Commission shall review and make recommendations to council respecting the compensation, reimbursement or payments that should be made to members of council, giving consideration to:
- (a) compensation, reimbursement and payment rates of comparably-sized municipalities;
 - (b) the budgetary impact of any changes to existing types, rates and conditions of compensation, allowances or benefits;
 - (c) the impact of any changes on the ability of the municipality to ensure an active and engaged council through the recruitment of candidates for election; and
 - (d) The time requirements associated with participation on council and council committees.
- 8.5. The Commission shall report to council within 120 days of being appointed or within another time frame identified in the resolution appointing the Commission.

9. Repeal of Existing Bylaw

- 9.1. On adoption, this bylaw replaces Bylaw # 209-2-2018.

10. Effective Date

This Remuneration Bylaw, Bylaw# 220-12-2019 shall be effective on the date of approval and adoption below.

First Reading:

This Remuneration Bylaw, Bylaw# 220-12-2019, was read a first time at the Council meeting held on the 12th day of August, 2019.

This Remuneration Bylaw, Bylaw# 220-12-2019, was approved by a majority of Council members present at the Council meeting held on the 12th day of August, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: attached

Deputy Mayor Blair Duggan asked for a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$247,275.19 Seconded by Councillor Williams. Motion carried

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

CAO Report

July 8th-August 12th

It's been very busy since the last council meeting. I attended a Remuneration meeting on July 11th to take the minutes, which resulted in changes to the existing Remuneration bylaw. I took minutes for a Planning Board meeting on July 16th. Spent time learning and doing research on the Property development applications we received.

We had the Diversity festival in Alberton on July 21st and it was a great success. Thanks to Garth Davey for all his hard work. Happy to say the Pride flag was flown for the festival and for Pride week at our town pond location.

I spent time preparing for the August 12th regular meeting. I also worked with the Municipal Returning Officer on the upcoming by election. An ad has been placed in the paper and nomination papers will be available on August 14th. Hopefully we will have many applicants!! Don't forget to vote September 8th, 2019 and please note September's regular meeting has been moved to September 16th to allow for the election.

We have achieved Substantial completion on phase 3 of the Emma Drive Subdivision. We will soon be ready to list the lots for sale. *Remember for home builders, for a period of three years, newly constructed homes built in the town will be exempt from municipal property taxes to commence when construction is completed. The deadline for the refund for the tax incentive for new homes will be six months after the three years are up. This policy is effective 13 March, 2017. Any new residential construction within the Emma Drive subdivision will be exempt from municipal property taxes for a period of seven years. Construction must be started within 12-18 months of purchase of the lot. This policy is effective 13 March, 2017.*

I worked on finalizing paperwork for a grant from Rural Growth Initiative for \$1480 towards a new water softener for the Fire Hall. Also completed paperwork and received an \$8500 grant for Jacques Cartier

Arena from Sport, Recreation & Physical Activity and Health & Wellness. I am working with Montrose Municipality on a project for their generous contribution of \$1750 from their Gas tax fund. We are hopeful to use it to replace aging playground equipment.

We heard back from AgriSpirit Fund on a proposal we had submitted for a Side by Side for the Alberton Fire Fighters. Unfortunately we did not receive funding.

I spent time giving representatives from the Federation of PEI Municipalities a tour of our wonderful town. We visited the Stone Station Library, Veterans Fields, Jacques Cartier Memorial Arena, our Town hall, the new walking trail, our Town pond, and the Fire Hall among other places of interest.

Alberton Recreation

- Planned Final Wrap up tournament for the U10 Soccer
- Got medals and treat bags ready for the kids
- Trying to set up a Kayaking lessons for youth in Alberton
- Wrapped up Active Start and other soccer programs
- Keeping the baseball/softball field for use
- Starting to plan our Terry Fox run and getting details down for it.
- Cleaning out equipment room
- Put up batting cage at ball field.

Alberton Public Library
Monthly Report

Reporting to: Town Council

Period: Month of July 2019

Operations: Grounds are nicely kept. The heat pump/air conditioning has been a godsend the past few weeks. Keeping it on "dry" takes the moisture out of the air and no need to open the doors to let unwanted bugs in.

Programs: Summer reading program for ages 3-12 is well attended with 31 children attending. Theme was nature oriented so sea glass, island foxes, fossils, ocean life were all explored so far. Two tutors use the space also and two "brilliant labs" computer coding programs have been offered and 10 children have taken advantage of that. An adult book bingo is also under way which will wrap up in August.

Planning: August will wind down some of the summer programs such as tutoring, summer reading program with a closing party on Saturday August 17th at 11 am and Brilliant Labs on Friday August 16th. Already in September are presentations for Alzheimer's and computer tech help for older adults and participating in a culture event.

Kelly Gillis

Branch Technician

Alberton Public Library

Town of Alberton

Mayor's Policing Report

July 2019

West Prince RCMP Detachment

"L" Division

Prince Edward Island

The West Prince RCMP Detachment responded to a total of 25 calls for service during the month of July 2019.

Prince District RCMP members have thus far reported 167 hours providing policing services to the Town of Alberton, during the month of July 2019.

A short recompilation of the above noted hours includes time spent conducting traffic laws enforcement in the community; conducting routine traffic monitoring; responding to individual calls for service; conducting investigations and required follow-up from previous calls for service and investigations. As well, this may include time spent attending to community visits and school visits.

The calls for service are broken down as follows:

911 act	4
Theft under \$5,000	3
Traffic complaint	3
Mental Health Act	3
False Alarm	3
Fail to comply with Probation	2
Lost items	2
Assault	1
Disturbing the peace	1
Animal call	1
Well-being check	1
Family Relations Act	1

Provincial Statutes for the Month:

Speeding Violations	3
------------------------	---

Involvement with the community:

Three separate incidents of shoplifting were reported during the month. No charges were laid in any of the incidents.

12 Criminal Record Checks were completed for residents of Alberton during the month of July.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Acting District Commander

Sgt. Neil Logan

Ph: 902-436-9300

Fax: 902-432-6515

Monthly Fire Report July 2019

- Fire Calls:
 - MFR - 14
 - Alarm - 1
 - Structure fire - 1

TOTAL: 16

- Training: No training this month
- New Equipment: none
- The Alberton fire department will no longer be doing controlled burn. Due to environmental laws and risk to other properties, we have decided there will be no longer any controlled burning.
- We recently had an open house to which we had fire truck rides, mini combat challenge for the kids, and other activities for the kids. Feedback from the public was very well received. I would like to thank all the firefighters who attended, and for all their continued hard work and dedication to the Fire Department and the community.

Report Submitted by: Chief Shannon Dumville