



**Minutes Regular Council Meeting**  
Held Monday December 12th, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was held Monday December 12th, 2022, at 7:30 pm with Deputy Mayor Duggan presiding. In attendance were Councillor O'Brien, Councillor Adams, Councillor Curtis and new Councillor Brian Poirier. New Councillor Krista Murphy and Mayor Gordon sent regrets. Also present were CAO Donna Thomson, Jillian Trainor from the West Prince Graphic and resident Leonard Fraser.

**Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Deputy Mayor Duggan called the meeting to order. He went over the conflicts of interest being Councillor O'Brien for health-related topics.

**Approval of Agenda**

Deputy Mayor Duggan called for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Councillor O'Brien and was seconded by Councillor Poirier. The motion carried.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 14th regular meeting of council. The motion was made by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Curtis and the motion carried.

**Business arising from the Minutes - nil**

**Public presentations –**

Deputy Mayor Duggan invited Leonard Fraser to address the council. Mr. Fraser spoke about the outdoor rink at the fire hall. He said if the rink was going to be a

year round thing that it should be levelled properly and paved so it would only need to be flooded. He mentioned that it could then be used for ball hockey in the summer. Deputy Mayor Duggan advised that Council were working on a usage for the property and were weighing the options on that proposal. He stated that Council didn't want to spend too much money only to have to tear it out later. Mr. Fraser said he had heard of the proposed plans for that area, but he didn't think it would affect the rink. Deputy Mayor Duggan said it could be looked at in the next fiscal as a project. Mr. Fraser said himself and Tom Murphy were willing to take over the maintenance of the rink. He also mentioned that the area that had previously been used for getting the kids skates on was not available for this year. He said the area was being used to store the generators that the province had sent to each department. Councillor O'Brien suggested that a seating area similar to the ones that were on the trails with a bench and a roof over the top. Mr. Fraser thought that was an agreeable solution, and that he would offer to build it. Council agreed that the town would pay for the supplies. And that Mr. Fraser should get in touch with Donnie Bernard who would arrange for the materials to build the shelter. Deputy Mayor Duggan called for a motion for the town to cover the building materials cost. The motion was made by Councillor Poirier and was seconded by Councillor Curtis. The motion carried. Deputy Mayor Duggan thanked Mr. Fraser for his input. Mr. Fraser left the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Duggan moved on to the next item on the agenda.

### **Reading of Correspondence – Nil**

### **Committee Reports**

Deputy Mayor Duggan moved to the committee reports. He asked the CAO if a police report had been received. The CAO answered that no report had been received.

## **Property — Mayor Gordon (absent)**

Deputy Mayor Duggan read out the property report as Mayor Gordon was absent. A report was received from Donna Johnson of PEI Bylaw Enforcement.

### **TOWN OF ALBERTON – November 2022.**

- Patrolling around the Municipality and monitoring open files.
- Watching 555 Church St. for debris and unwanted furniture in back yard. There was a complaint called in but I found it not bad enough to issue NOV at this time.
- Travelers Inn continues to maintain its property.

Officer - DONNA J. JOHNSON , PEI Bylaw Enforcement

Deputy Mayor Duggan said that we should try and contact the company who owned the old Myrick's building on the corner of Church and Main. He said it didn't look too good driving by to see broken windows. He also said we could inquire on the proposed plans for the building. The CAO said she would get the Bylaw officer to contact the new manager at the Independent for a contact name and number.

## **Seniors Report — Councillor O'Brien**

Councillor O'Brien noted that as of December 6<sup>th</sup> there was \$866.57 remaining in the Senior's Transportation budget that was transferred to Transportation West.

## **Library Report – vacant**

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked Councillor Poirier if he would read the library and recreation report. Councillor Poirier read out the report submitted from the library.

November 2022

Operations: Nothing new to report.

Programs: Very quiet November

Planning: Chillin' in December! Putting away the bike pump/ bike tool kit and the Nordic walking poles and replacing it with snowshoes and hockey skates! Why not make a reading resolution for January 2023: Make a visit to the library a routine; engage your imagination with a musical instrument or game to borrow; buy an armload of books for \$2 from our book sale cart and help support next summer's reading program

(books go great with storm chips!); donate your gently used books; promote the library to others by offering a ride.

Merry Christmas!  
Kelly Gillis  
Branch Technician  
Alberton Public Library

### **Recreation – vacant**

Councillor Poirier read out the recreation report. He mentioned that the job ad for the vacant Recreation & Events Coordinator position had been placed on the Job Bank and at Work PEI. He said there would be upcoming ads in the Guardian, Journal Pioneer and the West Prince Graphic. He noted that the CAO has reached out to the instructor at Holland College for the Sport and Recreation Management course so he could notify past and present students.

Deputy Mayor Duggan then asked Councillor Curtis to go over the Fire Report submitted by the Alberton Fire Fighters. Councillor Curtis read out the report.

### **Fire report – Councillor Curtis**



Nov- 2022 fire report

Responses:

M.V.C.-2

Alarm-4

Medical first responder-2

Utility fire-1

Brush fire-2

Flue Fire-1

Training:

1 fire training-Ground search and rescue (demo Rescue Mule)

1 medical training-pediatric care.

Fire Prevention: our members conducted several hall tours and outreach visits this month in support of fire prevention month.

Jamie Coutts Former Slave Lake (Alberta) Fire Chief and Discovery channel star of Hell Fire Hero's was in for a tour of our fire hall. He was very impressed with the number of volunteer firefighters and equipment that the Alberton Fire Dept. has.



Respectfully submitted Deputy Fire Chief: Darrell Graham.

### **Sewer Report – Councillor Adams**

Deputy Mayor then asked Councillor Adams to read out the sewer report. Councillor Adams noted that testing continued on the lagoon for the provincial covid project. He said that a curtain on the lagoon had let go during Fiona and that the CAO was in discussions with Curran and Briggs to have it repaired.

## **Finance Report – Deputy Mayor Duggan**

As Deputy Mayor Duggan was chairing the meeting, he called for a motion from the floor for the Finance report. Councillor Adams made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$333,316.06. The motion was seconded by Councillor Curtis and the motion carried. Deputy Mayor Duggan noted that the amount included the final invoices for the Rink project as well as Council and Fire Department honorariums.

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked the CAO to present her report.

## **CAO Report**

CAO Donna Thomson presented her report:

How is it December already?? Since the last meeting I applied for Canada Day funding and we had the Canada Games Torch Run through town. I met with Anthony Aucoin from CIBC to go over our existing business with them and to identify other areas they may be able to assist us. I have working on the projects that are ending soon and looking at funding for other potential projects. Diane and Donnie have the Christmas decorations up and the town is looking very festive.

Our community pantry project is coming along nicely. We had a local company offer to do the demolition work which saved Donnie a lot of time that he could put to other areas. We have also secured donations from Tignish Coop for materials for the pantry. We had 2 donations of fridges for the pantry. We hope to have it up and running and stocked this month. A local hockey team is doing a food drive for us and there will be a donation box at the rink as well. It sounds like we may have the first snow storm of the season tomorrow. Donnie has the snow machine all ready to go.

Looking back at the year:

- We were the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest growing town according to the Census with a growth rate of 13.6%

- There were many new buildings cropping up around town with duplexes in the subdivision and the new Health Centre- we gave out permits for projects amounting to 1.9 million in growth
- The trail project has seen many walkers enjoying the area. We still have signage to get completed which we will have ready for spring.
- The splash pad will be finished up in the spring. The components are ordered and a new well has gone in.

I'm sure 2023 will continue with more development and more opportunities for our town. I want to say a huge thank you to Donnie and Diane as well as to Council. Happy Holidays to all!

**Planning Board Recommendations – Nil**

**Introduction of New Business**

Deputy Mayor Duggan moved to new business.

The first item on the agenda was 2 loans with RBC that are coming up for renewal. He noted that the CAO had received quotes from 3 banking institutions. He asked the CAO to go over the quotes.

Ms. Thomson noted that the first loan was a loan for the sewer and that the amount received from the loans officer at RBC was approximately \$55,770 once the December payment was applied later in the month. She said the second loan up for renewal was a loan for the 2013 fire truck. That loan is approximately \$119,750 for the renewal. Ms. Thomson went over the rates from the 3 lenders:

RBC	Provincial Credit Union	CIBC
1 yr at 6.75%	1yr: 6.75%	1 yr: 6.295%
2 yr at 6.80%	2yr: 6.95%	2 yr 6.432%
3 yr at 6.85%	3yr: 7.13%	3 yr 6.382%
4 yr at 6.90%	4yr: 7.11%	4 yr 6.338 %
5 yr at 6.95%	5yr: 7.22%	5 yr 6.322%

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked Council's thoughts on the submitted numbers. Councillor Poirier said that the CIBC offer of 5 year was the best rate in his opinion.



Councillor Curtis agreed. The CAO noted that the CIBC representative had told her that he didn't expect rates to rise much higher in the next year and that it may go down. Councillor Adams said they may still rise and that 5 year would be better. Deputy Mayor Duggan polled Council members if they wanted to accept the CIBC rate of 5 years @ 6.322 %. All councillors responded yes to the inquiry. He asked for a motion to go with CIBC with the 5yr rate at 6.322%. The motion was made by Councillor O'Brien, was seconded by Councillor Poirier and the motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Duggan thanked council and moved to the next agenda item.

Deputy Mayor Duggan spoke to Council that last year Council had voted to give honorariums in the amount of \$500 to each of the resident Planning Board members, as well as one to our Web administrator. Deputy Mayor Duggan called for a motion. The motion to pay the 2 resident Planning Board members an honorarium of \$500 each and the Web administrator an honorarium for \$500.00

The motion was made by Councillor Poirier, seconded by Councillor Curtis and the motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Duggan moved to the next agenda item. He asked the CAO to go over the item. Ms. Thomson said that she had met with the town's representative at CIBC to go over the quote rates for the above loans. He asked if Council would approve to send 3 months of our current bank statements for a diagnostic review to see CIBC could offer easier banking and if they could pay more interest than the current bank of the Provincial Credit Union. Deputy Mayor Duggan asked council if they thought that would be worthwhile. Councillor O'Brien said it wouldn't hurt to try. Deputy Mayor Duggan called for a motion. The motion was made by Councillor Adams and was seconded by Councillor Poirier. The motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked the CAO and the reporter from the Graphic to exit the room while Council had a discussion on Christmas bonuses for staff. The motion to go into a closed session was made by Councillor Poirier and was seconded by Councillor Curtis. The CAO and Jillian Trainor exited Council chambers.

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked for a motion to come out of the closed session of council. The motion was made by Councillor Poirier and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and the motion carried. The CAO and Ms. Trainor rejoined the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Duggan asked for a motion to pay the CAO \$600 and Ms. Broderick and Mr. Bernard \$400 each as a Christmas bonus. The motion was made by Councillor O'Brien and was seconded by Councillor Adams. The motion carried. Ms. Thomson thanked Council for herself and the other staff members.

Deputy Mayor Duggan moved to the next agenda item. The Deputy Fire Chief had sent the CAO a request to open a credit line with Parts for Trucks in the amount of \$5000 for the event they needed parts. The motion to approve the request was made by Councillor Poirier and was seconded by Councillor Curtis. The motion carried.

The final agenda item under new business that Deputy Mayor Duggan brought up , was Council's thoughts on upcoming projects for the 2023-2024 fiscal. He said that he thought we may be able to use the concrete slab at the Disc Golf course for a pickle ball court. He tasked the CAO with getting the measurements to see if it was feasible. He said another thing to look at could be a few pieces of playground equipment at the Memorial ball field once the splash pad was installed. Councillor Poirier mentioned he would like to see the Santa Claus parade come back to Alberton. Deputy Mayor Duggan also mentioned the possibility of having the rink open all summer so that events could be held there. Councillor Poirier also mentioned that the sign at the Travellers' motel at 330 Church should be removed as the property no longer has that usage. He told of coming to Alberton and getting in late and trying to find a room at the motel. He said it probably happens to others as well. The CAO said she would bring it up to the Bylaw Enforcement officer.

Deputy Mayor Duggan reminded council of the upcoming meeting with the town planner on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm to go over some of the town owned properties and what they could be used for.

### **Inquiries by members of Council-nil**

### **Introduction and reading of bylaws – nil**

### **Appointment to Committees – nil**

Deputy Mayor Duggan said before he called for a motion to adjourn that he wanted to thank outgoing councillors Kelly Williams and Mike Murphy for their contributions to Council and the Town. He said they will be missed. He also said

that on behalf of himself and his wife Vicki he wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Deputy Mayor Duggan called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councillor O'Brien and was second by Councillor Adams. The motion carried and the final regular council meeting for 2022 adjourned.