

Minutes - Town of Wabana Regular Council Meeting November 18, 2009

Attendance:

Chair - Councillor Stan MacDonald
Mayor Gary Gosine
Deputy Mayor Kay Crane
Councillor Linda Skehans
Councillor Dave Foley
Councillor Brian Kent
Councillor Scott Clarke (arrived 7:40pm)

Staff:

Town Manager/Clerk Ben Noseworthy
Town Consultant Ed Kent
Account Receivable Officer Joseph Donkers
Recreation Manager Hollie Neary

Deputy Mayor Crane and Councillor Kent opened the meeting at 7:37pm and motioned that the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 13, 2009, the Finance Committee meeting held October 15, 2009, the Regular meeting held October 15, 2009, and the Regular meeting held October 21, 2009 be accepted as amended, some questions as listed, all in favour, carried. (2009-11-08)

Councillor MacDonald asked the Clerk for clarification regarding a motion to accept minutes which in effect accepts all reports referred to within those minutes. The Clerk confirmed that John Moore from Municipal Affairs has stated the practise is acceptable although not best practise.

Councillor Foley requested that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he would support any qualified candidate for the Town Manager position.

Gary received consensus from Council that the meeting will be adjourned no later than 10pm.

RCMP:

Constable Leo-Paul Doiron introduced to council.

New Cadet Jonathan Murphy will be starting in January.

Break-ins update, police believe the dog issue recently in the national news was a random act.

Request for town to fund newsletter (letter) received.

Crime prevention committee being formed, Stan working with Trevor. Stan will update Council when available.

RCMP will be meeting with COP group shortly.

Arena Report:

The Clerk noted an updated financials included in tonight's supplement. Due to the late submission, Councillors are invited to contact the Recreation Manager for any clarification.

Councillor Kent addressed the Rec Hockey issue saying as a former rec player that he doesn't see \$10 being a big issue. Councillor MacDonald noted that originally, they were being charged \$120 and this Council reduced it to \$110.

Deputy Mayor Crane noted that the Jr Blues get a break on ice rentals if gate receipts are low. The Recreation Manager identified that when a game is cancelled at the last minute for Jr Blues not only do we lose ice time but also staff and utility costs. Councillor Foley noted that we have lost money on the last 3 games. The Consultant noted that in Jr Hockey joint venture is common and that the arena keeps 100% of canteen and bar. The Recreation Manager noted that with the Jr Blues she has exercised an option to distribute free tickets to students with a large positive impact on canteen sales, as well as getting youth out.

Councillor Foley noted that the arena is already a burden to the taxpayer.

Mayor Gosine asked to refer the matter to budget deliberations in finance committee next week.

Receivables Report:

Dilapidated buildings confirmation sought for demolition tenders.

Mayor Gosine noted that Brian Tulk's demolition has not yet been cleaned up. The Accounts Receivable Officer to follow up on this property.

Councillor MacDonald motioned, second by Councillor Clarke, that Council issue tenders to be called for demolition of the buildings listed in the Receivables Report, all in favour, carried. (2009-11-09)

Questions, if lowest or any tender must be accepted, and can our employees take the building down. The Clerk responded that we do not have to accept any tender and that if we accept a tender the Town will bear the cost but assess that cost as a collectable on the land. The Clerk responded that these buildings are very large and there is considerable risk to having our employees bring them down.

Councillor Foley questioned who determines if a building is dilapidated. The Consultant noted that once tenders are in the Fire Commissioners will conduct an inspection.

Councillor Skehans asked if the taxes on these properties are current and the Clerk confirmed they are.

Request for Formal Orders be issued to remove wrecks as noted in the Receivables Report. Councillor Kent motioned, second by Councillor MacDonald that Formal Orders be issued to remove wrecks as noted in the Receivables report, all in favour, carried. (2009-11-10)

The Consultant noted that Council can pass an 'unsightly' by-law, which can give Council considerable leeway to act.

Auction update was presented and discussion followed on how properties were selected and how the auctions occurred. The Accounts Receivable Officer to provide a complete update on the process when complete. The Clerk noted that staff are looking for Council to confirm that staff

can convey the properties as title to each is cleared. Councillor Kent noted that we do not have to sell these properties. Councillor MacDonald noted that this process is open and honest. Consensus of Council is that we complete the sales as title is cleared on each property. Councillor MacDonald congratulated the Accounts Receivable Officer on a job well done.

Consultants Report:

The Consultant asked for direction from Council to promote as part of the waste management study a transfer facility on the island operated by the region for the lowest cost and that Lance Cove continue private contractors. Consensus of Council was in favour of this direction.

Mayor Gosine asked if we can distribute the waste management surveys to the schools, as students may be better informed to comment on these issues.

Recommendation that Council immediately appoint a council member to approach Mr. Marshall on issues with the fish plant otherwise we may lose the plant. The Consultant to arrange a meeting with Mr. Marshall and Council.

Noted that the Beamont Hamel seating is not likely to be increased. Is there a Council consensus on traffic plan in the cove. Concern was expressed about fish plant access, an open ditch past the Cozy Corner, parking requirements, traffic in the rock cut, and warning lights for safety. The issue was deferred until more details are made available to Council.

Town Clerk directed to mail the Minister of Transport on behalf of Council to press for a provincial road program on Bell Island.

IIE still on track.

Correspondence:

Raymond Gendreau, Gordon Skanes, Durdle, and Delaney letters deferred to finance committee.

Council requested that the Accounts Receivable Officer attend the NAREDO AGM.

Town Clerk to extend an invitation to the BOD for MAA to meet Council early next year . Council has declined the invitation to attend the MAA BOD meeting on December 4. Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Foley will attend the MAA training session on December 3 to better prepare to meet the MAA Board next year.

Town Clerk to inform the Legion and Mary Neary that the Town is willing to store the Steve Neary mural until such time as a community group comes forward to undertake mural restoration and preservation. Town Clerk to ask NL Power to participate in the removal (as they helped erect the mural).

Acknowledge letter from Theresa Power and note that we will be revisiting this winter, requesting permission.

Councillor Skehans departed the meeting at 9:40pm.

November 26 Finance Committee Meeting at 7:30pm.

November 25 Community Meeting for Vibrant Communities with Linda Hickey at 7:30pm.

December 2 Regular Council Meeting at 7:30pm.

Defer discussion on salt/sand opinion to next regular meeting.

Town Clerk to contact Tidy Towns for results of our summary so we can do better next year.

Councillor Kent motioned, second by Deputy Mayor Crane, that Council resolve to support the MNL NAFO Amendments resolution, all in favour, carried. (2009-11-11)

New Business:

Councillor Kent motioned, second by Councillor MacDonald, that Council cover the cost of mailings for the RCMP community newsletter, all in favour, carried. (2009-11-12)

Councillor MacDonald will be sending out a Council call tree to member of Council.

Mayor Gosine noted that Norm King has a petition circulating to bring dialysis to Bell Island.

Noted that Council is meeting with the acting Minister of Municipal Affairs tomorrow at 4pm.

Mayor Gosine provided a Bonfire update were tires were burned and our fire fighters were spurned. Charges are pending under the Environmental Act with the RCMP continuing the investigation.

Issues of concern on Fitzgeralds Lane raised by Blair Pearl to be addressed by the Consultant

Councillor MacDonald motioned, second by Councillor Kent for adjournment, all in favour at 10:04pm. (2009-11-13)

Mayor

Town Clerk