

Rural Municipality of Wellington

Council Meeting– February 18, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Present: Alcide Bernard, Mayor, Council Members: Albert Arsenault, Shawn Bernard, Jeannette Gallant, Irene MacCaull, Moira McGuire, Kelly Richard and CAO Imelda Arsenault

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Bernard called the meeting to order and welcomed the Fire Department Representatives.

2. Fire Department Report

James Ryan and Jason Maddix were in attendance.

Calls:

1 Medical call, 2 Structure Fires, 1 Motor Vehicle, 1 Ice Rescue

Two firefighters have taken the safety officer course, two have taken the HSMT (HazMat) course. There are two new firefighters, one who lives in Grand River and one near Higgins Road. One of the firefighters has turned 18 and is now turned over to a regular firefighter. Five of the junior firefighters have gone through the program and remained with the WFD so this program is successful in retaining firefighters.

The Annual Meeting was held February 14. The new officers are:

President: Desmond Arsenault

James Ryan – Fire Chief

Leon Perry – Deputy Fire Chief

Jason Maddix – Treasurer

Captains: Desmond Arsenault and Rodney Mclsaac

The Department will make changes within the fire hall to make a new office. This is necessary to store confidential files or for meetings with individuals following fires, for evaluations, etc. Wall petitions and a new floor for this space will be required. The quotes are in the works.

This year, the annual Mutual Aid meeting will be chaired by the WFD. During these meetings, the Fire Chief and the Deputy will bring items of concern to the attention of the Fire Marshall.

Fire Marshall David Rossitor-briefed all firefighters on the new Bylaw changes regarding the Mutual Aid. It is important to make sure we don't leave any districts empty with no service while other departments are called to other fires. A copy of the amendments will be sent to the municipality.

The recognition banquet will be held on March 20. The Badges and Level 1 certificates will be presented to the firefighters.

There is an issue with the medical calls. Concerns were raised that the Fire Department could be open for criticism for not responding quickly enough to medical calls as residents are not aware that the Fire Department is not being called to medical incidence since the start of COVID-19. The Fire Chief spoke to Island emergency authorities and it is difficult to get a favourable response to address the issue. Following the Nova Scotia matter, the WFD wants to prevent this to happen here. The FD is ready to take the medical calls while others are not. The Mayor will communicate with the Minister of Public Safety to express our concerns.

The WFD will apply to provide recognition to the two employees who worked at the Chez Nous during the recent fire.

Mayor Bernard commended the Wellington Fire Department for the excellent work done during the Chez Nous fire. We were very fortunate to have the ending that took place and this was due to the quick response from firefighters. It was a job well done!

Mayor Bernard referred to the WFD Bylaw which will be sent to James for feedback. Fire Chief advises that the Department's SOG will also be revised.

Capital budget: Mayor Bernard asked why the purchase of the Tanker was moved earlier than indicated in 2020-21 Capital Budget. Treasurer responded that this is done to avoid unnecessary repairs. The previous tanker was replaced with a used one, it was patched a few times and at the end was not dependable. The Department wants to avoid this situation which happened a few years ago so they are recommending a faster timeline.

Appointment of new executive member

It is moved and seconded that per Municipality's bylaw Leon Perry be appointed Deputy Fire Chief for a two- year term.

Motion Carried (6/6 – 2021-08)

3. Approval of agenda

It is moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried (6/6) – 2021-07)

4. Approval of meeting minutes –January 21, 2020

It was moved and seconded that the meeting minutes be approved.

Motion carried. 6/6-(2021-08)

5. Declaration of conflict of interest

None declared.

6. Business arising from the minutes

a. Sewer expansion project on Barlow Road

Albert and Alcide met with the engineers WSP to discuss the project. The project will go to tender in March. WSP has since then been around to look at the elevations. It is requested to have the project finished by the end of July.

b. Speeding controls

There is a program available for six months with no charges to install cameras within the Municipality. It records the speed of vehicles who are speeding and we receive a report on a regular basis. Council is interested in looking further into this.

c. Logo Contest

No new information. The contractor is working on changes.

d. Sale of bike park

No new information. Lawyers are finalizing the transaction.

e. Official Plan Update – Mayor Bernard communicated with Municipal Affairs. The Acting Manager, D Jenkins, said that it could take up to two months before it is approved.

f. Covid – 19 Status

The Safe Restart funds are being spent on the sneeze guard for the kitchen, masks for the Firefighters, disinfectant dispensers and improvements to signage within the buildings and outside.

g. Active Transportation Fund Application and Challenge Adaptation Fund

No word on the applications.

h. Solar Energy – no new information.

i. Right of way – No new information.

7. Financials YTD

YTD – CAO presented the year- to- date report in conjunction with the proposed budget numbers for 2021-2022.

The donations for 2021 will be 2/3 of the Chez-Nous municipal property tax amount.

The Municipality will receive new funds from the new mini-homes that were installed this year thus providing an increase to the property tax income.

Mayor shared that the Canada Day Celebration will be held in 2021 in collaboration with le Centre scolaire Communautaire Évangéline and the municipality will use \$ 750 of the funds for this event.

The sewer budget will work for next year. CAO will check if we can fund the generator through the MSC program.

Mayor Bernard presented the Capital Budget. It appears that the capital funds will be in the area of \$ 53 163. He explained the new amount for the proposed sidewalk on Sunset Drive at a approximate cost of \$ 245 000. He highlighted the WFD tanker that was moved earlier than projected last year.

Items to look into – Lamposts in front of Vanier Centre – CAO will ask Cormier Electric for a quote.

Upgrade trail and tennis courts.

Mayor will ask for ideas at the public meeting.

Public Budget Consultation meeting – March 4 at 7:00 pm.

Lots left in Maple and Spring St subdivision: It is important to look at the existing lots and if they can be developed . Mayor will meet with Albert, Shawn and CAO to look at these pieces of land .

8. Committee Reports

Sewer& Municipal services: no new information. The new contract was signed with the operator.

Financial – reported during YTD and Capital Budget discussions.

Tourism and Recreation – The rink at the pond is being used. There is a concern with the height of the snow mound behind the Vanier. CAO is asked to look after the installation of signage similar to the one for the pond explaining that Municipality is not responsible for any accidents around the snow mound and users are at their own risk. The sculpture competition is being promoted. **Bingo,-and Social Services**– Bingo is going well.

EMO, Fire and Security – EMO Committee met to debrief on the Chez-Nous fire. Many donations were provided by organizations, companies and individuals to help the residents while in Mill River. There was little need for the EMO committee to be at the legion after the fire as the residents’ families were there to help. There is no confirmation on how long it will take for the building to be ready for the residents. The new Building Code will need to be integrated as it did not exist when the first part was built and this could take longer to fix than previously thought.

The 2021 sewer dues for le Chez-Nous were discussed. We will wait to see how it all evolves before making any decision to adjust the rates.

Technology and Communication: no new information.

Welcome/Bienvenue: A meeting was held with the employers to explain how they can be assisted in attracting immigrants to fill vacant positions. There is much enthusiasm with the project. It is recommended to hold these meetings during the evening to attract more employers.

Mayor Bernard attended the Bons Voisins meeting. There is no easy solution to recruit newcomers as there is no housing in the area. Families who wish to live in the area need to move to Summerside to find housing.

Mayor looked into the RCMP home on Spring Street and there is too much work to be done for the Municipality to engage in this solution. It may be possible to work with other organizations who could get the home at a less expensive option.

Questions were raised as to the possibility of SDBA assisting in some way.

Planning Board, Policies, Bylaws:

Alcide and Albert met with Provincial Building Inspector John MacDonald on the National Building Code (NBC) that will begin for the whole province on April 1, 2021. The Municipality will still issue the development permit and the province will issue the building permit. In the new process, there are three inspections necessary to be done during the construction process: After the foundation, Framing and before moving in. The mini homes will not need the three steps because they have been built to CSA standards and thus will only have the final moving-in inspection. Question was raised on issuing building permits before April 1 for work to be done later in the year and Mr. MacDonald advised the Municipality not to do this.

Asset Management: The work is near completion for the data collections phase. The sewer system, the facilities and the trails have been done. M. King came down to do a final assessment of the sewer systems to make sure the data was accurate and correct any inaccurate information.

Health Services – no new information

Crescent Court Situation

Mayor Bernard wrote a letter to the Minister of Housing to address the concerns of the safety of the residents. Another incident took place recently and the residents were upset. Some residents met with an officer to explain what is happening.

9. New Business

a) Official Plan and Bylaws Workplan

Sidewalk and Streetlights – Mayor Bernard discussed the future sidewalk on Sunset Drive and asked Council their preference on including lighting fixtures similar to existing sidewalk. Council prefers to keep in line with the existing format in order to have a continuous look and better appearance on Sunset Drive. CAO will get quotes for this project. It is suggested to work on the existing trail to bring it up to better standards. The Asset Management Program will address this with recommendations.

b) New Programs- Mayor Bernard made reference to the following programs if Council is interested:

i. Billion Trees – part of the federal government climate solutions plan to plant trees.

ii) Public Transit Funding – project to be funded for the next 8 years to encourage efficient and faster commutes, higher productivity and lower emissions. There could be a possibility to get a van for the area and new trails could also be part of this funding envelope.

iii) Healthy Communities – a federal government program to encourage communities to create safe and vibrant public spaces, improve mobility options and provide innovative digital solutions to connect people and improve health. This could assist in getting funds for playground and trails. It is a program to encourage the prevention of health problems.

c) Procurement Policy

Mayor Bernard presented the amendments needed to the Procurement Policy. The items to change are the dollar amount to get quotes from \$ 1500 to \$ 5000.

It is moved and seconded that the amendments to the Procurement Policy be approved as presented.

Motion carried 6/6 (2021-09)

d) Emergency Management Bylaw

Amendments to the Emergency Management Bylaw were presented.

It is moved and seconded that the amendments to the Emergency Management Bylaw be approved.

Motion carried (6/6 – 2021-10)

10. Correspondence

a) Richmond Watershed Association – Mayor Bernard discussed with project manager to discuss work that was done this past year. An invoice of \$ 750.00 will be sent to the Municipality because the work done was reduced compared to the previous year. It will move back to \$ 1500 in 2021-2022.

11. Next meeting: March 18, 2021

12. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.