

Council Meeting– June 17, 2021

Meeting Minutes

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

Fire Department: Desmond Arsenault and Jason Maddix

Six residents from the Municipality

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Bernard called the meeting to order and welcomed residents to the meeting. He explained that as per the Municipal Government Act, the Municipality does not have an annual meeting but Council sent a special invitation to residents to attend the presentation of the audited financial reports for year ended March 31, 2021 and to get an overview of activities of the part year.

2. Presentation of 2020-2021 Audited Financial Reports and Review of past year activities

Pat McSweeney, BDO auditor, presented the 2020-2021 audited financial reports and highlighted the major changes from the previous years. He also stated that the Municipality is in a good financial situation with a surplus at the end of March 2021.

Mayor Bernard highlighted the activities of the past year.

Desmond Arsenault, president of Fire Department presented the FD for the last year.
Calls: 75 calls. 2 Motor Vehicle accidents, 12 Motor Vehicle accidents, 1 vehicle fire, 9 structure fire, 31 medical calls, 2 Flu fire, 2 bale fires, 1 grass fire, 2 car fires, 3 Mutual Aid, 1 utility fire, 1 prep fire for training.

The Covid 19 year was challenging in light of the government's decision to no longer allow Fire Departments from responding to Medical Calls. It was the hope that this situation would change after the Covid restrictions were lifted but that was not the case. The Fire Department appreciated the support from Council and the letter sent from Mayor Bernard to the Fire Marshall's office. The recent communication from government continues to stand by this decision. This is unfortunate for the community as the fire department is able to do this work. They are concerned that the availability of ambulances may not be able to respond to calls within 20-30 minutes.

Throughout the Covid situation, the training process was a bit different with groupings organized to respect the protocol. There are 28 Firefighters at the present time with 7 junior members.

Throughout a regular year, the Fire Department has a role in doing public education events. They spoke on behalf of the department to school classes, to media on various matters, and hold an open house during Fire Prevention Week. This year, because of Covid, it was a bit different. This year, there were a few radio interviews with Desmond on various matters.

The visits held to the major institutions with major risk areas helped the fire department in better planning for incidents. This was very evident when they responded to the Chez Nous fire.

The Fire Department appointed a new Fire Chief, Leon Perry, and Deputy Chief, Chris Arsenault.

Mayor Bernard stated his concern on the fact that the Fire Department no longer responds to medical calls. It is hard to understand why this is done when the Minister states publicly that there is a lack of resources in this area. He also spoke to the PEI Federation of Municipalities on this issue and they were not aware of this. Some Departments do not want to take the medical calls.

Mayor Bernard thanked the Fire Department for their excellent work throughout the year and acknowledged their positive presence in the community.

3. Approval of agenda

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

Motion carried (6/6)-(2021-33)

4. Declaration of conflict of interest

Irene MacCaull will reclude herself from item 7c and Imelda Arsenault from item 10c.

5. Approval of meeting minutes – May 20 and May 31, 2021

It was moved and seconded that the May 20 meeting minutes be approved as presented and with the changes to the May 31 minutes (add Irene in the presence and reclude herself from item 6d.)

Motion carried. 6/6-(2021-34)

Irene MacCaull will reclude herself for item 6d.

6. Business arising from the minutes

a. Age Friendly Communities (AFC) Presentation

Sr Norma Gallant attended the meeting to discuss the present and future plan of the AFC. The main focus of the follow-up from the previous meeting with Peter Holman

was to steer away from the work in Summerside. The focus going forward is to become Age Friendly Islanders. The new group will have its own executive with 4 members from the community and Sr Norma is one of them representing the francophone area. The project is in its early stages and the following steps will take place.

1. A letter will be sent to all municipalities when the translation is completed.
2. Sr Norma will call the municipality to respond to questions for feedback on the content of the letter.
3. Next steps will be identified from those conversations to develop a tool to support municipalities to become Age Friendly Communities. This needs a lot of work as regulations will be needed to support the work moving forward.

It is very important to build on what is already done in the community. It is felt that Wellington is well positioned with the various organizations it has such as Cap Enfants, Boys and Girls Club, Le Bel Âge and le Chez Nous. One of the first steps will be to identify the things that are in place to support the initiative.

There will be a formal recognition when a community becomes an Age Friendly Community. It may be a region or municipality and the expectation is to be ready for the fall.

b. Sewer expansion project on Barlow Road

The work has begun on Barlow Road and is expected to be finished by the end of the week. There was a discussion with the Department of Transportation on the need to dig across the road to get to the other side to connect the future lots that may be developed. The Department is not keen in cutting through the pavement **and as** well it would be costly, up to \$ 24 000 for the cost of the four laterals. If this test is not feasible, it could cost \$ 37 000 before the correct information is collected. It is suggested to stay on the right side of the road, get the testing done once by JC Drilling which would cost \$ 3250 and present the information to the Department.

Stewart Enterprises will speak with JC Drilling tomorrow.

c. Speeding controls

No news on this if the sensors were installed yet. It is in Maritime Electric's hands at this time.

d. Logo

CAO communicated with the contractor but no response yet. It is suggested that she provide the information requested within 5 days.

e. Covid – 19 Status – the new regulations allow for higher numbers within cohorts.

This does not change the situation for the Vanier because of the number of entrances and the washrooms available so still only good for 1 cohort of 50.

Canada Day celebrations will not be held. There was an opportunity to do some type of event but the CSCE did not follow-up with the information required. They confirmed that there will be a stationary float similar to last year. It was questioned if the Municipality should do an event here. Council expressed some concerns on the possibility of crowds gathering to watch the parade and would like to have more details on their plan to respect COVID 19 guidelines for organizing the event. CAO will check with CSCE for their operational plan regarding outdoor gathering guide.

f. **Official Plan Update**—Mayor Bernard send an email to Municipal Affairs. Acting Director D Jenkins confirmed that the first review was completed and the Official Plan was sent to a registered planner for another review. He expected a response fairly soon. A letter was received from Minister Thompson which will be discussed later in the agenda.

g. **Sidewalk Extension on Sunset Drive** – We received the specs used to build sidewalks in Summerside. The construction is different where the soil is softer or where there are different uses for sections of the sidewalk. It is suggested to put asphalt in the driveways. CAO to prepare a call for tender to prepare the detailed construction plans for sidewalk.

h. **Pondside Drive – right of way**

No new information.

i. **Subdivision updates**

Wellington Estates - Discussions are taking place on the issue of the essential land. There are options to consider for a possible exchange of land for the right of way. J Arsenault will be moving to PEI and the end of June so will meet with government officials. If this is successful, a legal letter would be required for the subdivision application.

AJL Ltd -

No new information except that Jamie Clow is drafting a plan to submit for the subdivision application.

j. **Solar Energy Project**

CAO sent the application form to Efficiency PEI for processing. She will call to follow-up.

7. Financials – Year to date report

The Year-to-date reports were presented.

8. Committee Reports

1. Sewer & Municipal services:

The new generator for the lift station has arrived and will be installed soon. The cement pad was installed.

- a) **Sewer Rate – Chez Nous** – It is not certain as to which expenses the Insurance Company will cover. Due to insurance claims pending and further delays for the move in date for the residents, it is decided to wait before making a decision on the dues for 2021.
- b) **Platform** – no new information.
- c) **Fence and bike racks** – The proposed plan was accepted to replace the wooden posts with metal posts, welded plates and cement blocks behind the Vanier Centre. CAO will proceed to get quotes.
- d) **Trail upgrade** – We did not receive any quotes yet. CAO will follow-up to check on this with contractors.
- e) **Playground inspection** – repairs required. Following the inspection by Recreation PEI, the cement where pipes are connected have suffered thaw heave which is dangerous for the safety of children so it was decided to close the slide portion of the playground. It is suggested to hire someone to break the cement portion which is above ground and add more gravel to level it off. This will be done temporarily until Eastern Fence provides us with suggestions and a quote to repair it permanently. CAO to get quotes for this work.

The ADA swing set will be changed as there is not enough space between it and the regular swing. It will be switched with the baby swings.

It is moved and seconded that the Municipality hire a contractor to do the temporary repairs on the playground.

Motion carried – 66 (2021-35)

- f) **Landscaping services** – Landscaping Heroes will do the work in approximately two weeks as she is very busy at the present time. The cost is \$ 20.00 per hour + material used.
- g) **Necessary repairs** – sidewalks, flower box, park benches, boardwalk
Wellington Construction will address the sidewalk and E Gallant will look after the flower box, park benches and boardwalk. We will also ask the contractor who does the gravel to look at putting a draining system outside the perimeter of the playground area to avoid water logged soil. Albert will provide a brief plan and CAO will add to the quote for playground and trail.

- 2. **Financial** – The projects identified for the additional \$ 100 000 of Gas Tax Funding was the storm sewer from the legion to Maple St at \$ 66 650 and the Tennis Court at \$ 33 550. CAO will call Curran Briggs for a quote for the Tennis Court. We may have to go with another company for the painting over the asphalt.

3. Tourism and Recreation – summer employees

Ryanna Ryan and Jerome Gallant are hired with 10 weeks and 8 weeks respectively.

- 4. **Bingo and Social Services** – no new information

5. EMO, Fire and Police

Jeannette attended a meeting of Groupe Consultatif Communautaire Évangéline and the report on helping the people in the area is much appreciated.

6. Technology and Communication

No new information.

7. Welcome/Bienvenue

No meetings were held recently so no new information. It is not known as to why there are challenges with human resources at the present time.

Promotional Card and welcome basket – the rack cards are at print.

8. Planning Board, Policies and Bylaws – Sewer and Fire Dues collection policies

CAO asked to look into present policies or bylaws and report back with a draft at the next meeting.

9. Asset Management – FCM Asset Management Project Report

A meeting was held June 9. The wastewater system map is complete and most of the facilities are mapped. It is a good tool for municipalities to use to manage their assets and provides key information for decision making. The project is nearing completion and we anticipate a final report after the next meeting in July. Wellington is included in the pilot project which is considered a model for Canada.

10. Trails Planning

A Committee meeting was held June 15. Albert Flavell joined by phone as a resource person to discuss the project. He is very passionate and knowledgeable on this work but cannot work directly on this plan because of other commitments. He suggested the following:

- Step 1 - Talk to landowners if they allow this (need this to go further)
- Step 2 – Create a plan on paper
- Step 3 – Meet with owners to discuss the plan – presentation on the benefits of doing this
- Step 4 – Hire a contractor to prepare the trail

There are many steps to reach before this project can be a reality. Owning the land is key as it becomes challenging if the municipality has to renew these agreements every time a new owner purchases the land or may change their mind in agreeing to have the trail on their property. The Committee will meet with Kevin Arsenault, **Provincial** Supervisor of wetland and watercourses, to discuss the project as he is quite knowledgeable about the land in this area. He has concerns of developing a trail in this area. A provincial permit is not necessary if the owners agree to the project.

The Richmond Watershed Group is interested in contributing to the work.

Health Services –

The availability of the Nurse Practitioner is going well. Through conversations with some individuals, Mayor became aware that the Health Center is open Monday through Wednesday and sometimes closed on Thursdays and Fridays. The admin assistant moved to

Summerside and is working for the Coordinator of Services at Harbourside. It is hoped that the hours will be back to normal in the near future.

Crescent Court Situation

No new information. There is no response from the Minister to the letter sent last month.

9. New Business

a. Adoption of Financial Reports

The surplus for the year was \$ 65 572. Included in this amount, the Fire Department had a small deficit of \$ 5 493 and the sewer had a surplus of \$ 1500.00

It is moved and seconded that the 2020-2021 audited financial reports be approved as presented.

Motion carried. 6-6 (2021-36)

It is moved and seconded that BDO be rehired as the auditors for 2021-2022.

Motion carried. 6-6 (2021-37)

b. Official Plan Workplan – Lots for development

There are three lots, owned by the Municipality, that are suitable for development

1. Lot on Maple Street – between John Arsenault and Paul Marchand
2. 1 lot at the end of Maple Street
3. 1 lot to the left of Yves Arsenault on Spring Street.

Alcide will call Kevin Arsenault to check the wetlands before we proceed on putting these up for sale.

10. Correspondence

a) Letter from a Minister Thompson—Land Matters Letter - Minister Thompson sent a letter regarding a consultation process taking place on the Planning Act and the Land Protection Act. This may impact are recently revised Official Plan we submitted for approval. FPEIM was not aware of this and believes it may be a letter to make us aware of the future changes.

b) Lieutenant Governor -Special Covid Warriors

Lieutenant Governor, Antoinette Perry, invites municipalities to submit names who should be acknowledged for this recognition. The following names-groups are suggested;

Evangeline Figure Skating Club - Rachelle Arsenault and Réjeanne Arsenault, accommodation for all participants and parents when the Covid restrictions were imposed and how these two ladies were instrumental in continuing the club during this time for all participants to be able to skate safely.

Staff of the Wellington Coop – their cooperation on being available at all times during the most difficult times of the Covid lockdown.

Wellington Fire Department – Birthday parades, being there during Covid, having to add protocols to all calls, the mental toll on them during the covid situation.

CAO to send in the submissions before July 18.

c) Solar Panels

There is a request for information on what the Municipality allows according to the bylaws to install Solar Panels. The panels on the roof are acceptable however, the municipality needs to review its bylaw regarding structures on the ground. This should be discussed at the Planning Board.

d) CAO discussed allowing residents to have chickens. It is allowed in the Municipality and CAO will ask the resident to write a letter to request this and identify their use and the number of chickens.

d) Full time CAO hiring schedule

Mayors from Wellington and Abram-Village Municipalities recommend to launch recruitment in early fall in order to hire a full time CAO at first of the year 2022. A call for expression of interest from another partner will be made to fill the time exceeding the needs of the two municipalities, (15 hours per week). As it is important to find a qualified individual for the job, Council strongly suggests to start looking immediately for candidates and if needed the date of January 2022 could be moved forward.

11. Next meeting: July 15, 2021

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:50.