

Rural Municipality of Wellington

Council Meeting– November 18, 2021

Meeting Minutes

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

Regrets: Kelly Richard

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Bernard called the meeting to order.

2. Fire Department Report

Leon Perry, Fire Chief and Jason Maddix, Treasurer, attended the meeting.

Calls: 2 Mutual Aid, 2Motor Vehicle accidents.

The Communication tower is now working at 100% and working well.

We purchased much of the tools funded through the Community Revitalization Project.

New Tanker Truck

The old truck to be replaced was purchased in 2008. A special meeting was held for the members of the Fire Department prior to the September Council meeting. The Members voted in a non-binding vote in favor of purchasing the new truck without the new pump added to the truck.

A special meeting was held on Tuesday, November 16 of the WFD members to relook at the decision as many members have changed their view on the previous decision. The vote resulted in favor of adding the tanker at a total cost of \$ 398, 500 which surprised the executive of the WFD.

A Council member noted that it was voted at the September Council meeting not to support the new tanker with pump. Fire Department executive indicated not being aware of the decision by Council.

The executive of the WFD does not support the move to a new tanker with a water pump. These are the reasons why:

- There is no need for a large pump – it demands extra maintenance
- A pump is not feasible for our department
- We have many water sources available in the region
- Most other departments on PEI do not have pumps so this would cause a challenge when other departments help out in our area
- The tanker without the pump has a better tank so is more reliable
- The new tanker with pump will be \$ 398 500 while without the pump it will be \$ 287 489. When this amount is added with the remaining balance of the old mortgage, which is \$ 149, 600, it would add up to a new mortgage of \$ 548, 100 instead of a total of \$ 437, 089. This will require

that we pay approximately \$ 70 000 per year on the mortgage instead of the \$ 55 000 we would pay with the lower amount of the new truck.

- If we move forward with the higher cost truck, it will require us to cut budget which could result in less funds to buy equipment and regular operation supplies and we may have to avoid paying the honorarium for a few years.

The delivery time for the tanker with the pump is 15 months and quotes would be good for 30 days. If we move forward with the tanker without the pump, it is possible to get it within 3 -4 months as the company builds many tankers of this kind.

Fire Department requested that negotiations be started with Evangeline Credit Union to discuss possible loan terms for the new tanker and to look at possibility of combining existing loan with the new truck loan.

It is moved and seconded that Council of the Rural Municipality of Wellington support the purchase of the new Fire Truck Tanker at a cost of \$ 287 489 which does not include the water pump.

Motion carried. 5-6 (2021-51)

Electric buses training

Members of the Fire Department attended a training session on how to deal with accidents when electric buses are involved. It is great to save on energy however, there are many issues that fire departments could face when responding to accidents with these buses. The logistics of the operations of electric vehicles are different so there may be a need to purchase different equipment to address accident situations.

Forestry Truck

The existing forestry truck has been kept at the WFD since 2010. There are five trucks across the province to cover the three counties. The department receives \$ 1600 per year for its rental. Over the past couple of years, the truck is costing the department to keep the truck in good running condition as many repairs are needed. These expenses are not paid by government which becomes an unnecessary cost. The FD does not see the value of keeping the truck in Wellington. It is used rarely, only for forest fires.

It is moved and seconded that the Wellington Fire Department ceases to keep the Forestry Truck in the WFD Fire Hall as it is an extra expense which is not necessary.

Motion carried (5/6-2021-52)

3. Presentation by Bienvenue Évangéline

Deferred to a meeting later as they have changes in staff at the present time.

4. Approval of agenda

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

Motion carried (5/6)-(2021-53)

5. Declaration of conflict of interest

Shawn Bernard and Jeannette Gallant will reclude themselves from item 10 f – J Arsenault land

6. Approval of meeting minutes –October 21,2022 and October 28 Special Meeting

It is moved and seconded that the October 21and 28 minutes be approved as presented with the addition of the changes to the Official Plan in the October 21 meeting.

Motion carried (5/6)-(2021-54)

7. Business arising from the minutes

a. Age Friendly Communities (AFC)

The Municipality received a letter from the Provincial Age Friendly Committee asking Council to identify educational sessions they would like to receive in the future regarding AFC.

It is suggested to send the communication to organizations such as the Wellington Boys and Girls Club, Cap Enfants, ATV Club and others to see how they can benefit from this. CAO to inform Sr Norma.

b. Speeding controls

No new information on this. We were informed that RCMP MacLean is now hired to support communities and there is a possibility that speed bumps can be added. There is interest to have him attend a future meeting.

c. Covid – 19 Status – The number of patrons is now 100. Buffets can be served however, it needs to be done properly with the sneeze guards. CAO to check on this.

d. Official Plan Update – The changes are being done by Upland. Mayor Bernard and Deputy Mayor Irene MacCaull met with Minister Fox, Deputy Minister Bob Creed and Director, Christine McKinnon, and once the work is done on the official plan, they are confirming to accept it without the public consultations.

e. Trails Planning –Mayor spoke with the owners of the land adjacent to the west of Mill Road and there is no objection to using some of the land. However, there are possible issues because it is suggested to wait and see how things unfold with the development of this piece of land.

CAO is also discussing with the Dept of Transportation on the use of the land to the east of Mill Road.

f. Pondsides Drive – right of way

Mayor Bernard brought up this matter at the meeting with Minister Fox. The Deputy Minister will bring this up with the Department of Transportation.

g. Subdivision updates

No new information.

h. Solar Energy Project

No news on the ACOA project. We received the quote on the solar panels for the Vanier Centre. More discussion will take place when funding is confirmed.

i. Full-time CAO update

The Municipality received 15 applications from the WorkPEI, Indeed websites and directly to the Mayor. However, many of them are not bilingual. There is a possibility of three candidates that could be interviewed. Shawn Bernard and Alcide will sit on the interview panel for Wellington with others from Abram-Village. CAO to send applications to Shawn.

j. Collège de l'île

Mayor had a conversation with D Arsenault, SDBA president. They are open to identify the specs to respond to the College's needs and to give them more visibility in the community – such as signage. SDBA requested a meeting with the College and the request is at the board level to decide if they wish to meet or not.

Mayor met for a second meeting with President, D. Desroches. The following points were discussed:

- Concerns discussed at the Planning Board meeting.
- Interests on what can be retained at the Wellington campus
- Looking into offering classes at le Chez Nous
- Possibility to have programs at le Centre Goéland on mental health for youth programs
- Look at potential to house Covid-19 related work from home solutions or to accommodate DVA employees who work from home during Covid
- House teachers to do programs on-line
- The Board member list on the website is not updated but will do so
- President will let Mayor know when the board will be meeting

Mr DesRoches indicated receiving a call from the Commission scolaire de langue française (CSLF) board member to discuss the situation and questioned the space available. It is difficult to plan anything when all the facts are not known or clear.

Mayor received calls from the public, Pat Mella and others to discuss the situation. Donald Arsenault is providing some information to the Mayor on the funding regulations for post secondary institutions and suggested he contact the Minister of Official Languages. He also shared that 40% of the colleges in Canada are located in rural areas.

Mayor spoke with the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning, Natalie Jamieson and she confirmed that no proposal was received from the college and that the information would be shared with the board. MP Morissey said there is no interest to pursue with a private investor as the funding would be minimal if this was the case. He will let the Mayor know if anything moves further with him.

At this time, there is no point to pursue the discussions until more concrete information is presented to the Dept of Education.

k. Pollinator's Park

Irene did a lot of ground work to get details on how to create this park. The Bedeque Environmental Group will help in getting a plan developed. A meeting is planned with Tracy Brown on November 30 and Gary Snider from Heritage Woods. It is important to look into the native plants and Indigeneous Medicinal Plants as well.

It is better to start with the plants and plant the trees later.

Deed to property: CAO to check with M Richard on the deed transfer.

Canada Day Fund Contribution – Irene to confirm who the funds should go to and ask for an invoice before we submit the cheque.

l. Meeting with Minister Fox

Mayor Bernard and Deputy Mayor MacCaull attended a meeting with Minister Jamie Fox, DM Bob Creed and Director Christine McKinnon. The issues addressed were:

- Lack of response to issues identified in letters addressed to 4 Provincial Ministers.
 1. Minister Hudson regarding Doctor's Office in Wellington
 2. Minister Thompson regarding medical calls by fire departments
 3. Minister Aylward regarding speeding issues and right of way on Pondsider Drive
 4. Minister Trivers regarding Crescent Court unruly resident safety issues
 5. Official Plan edits
 6. Collège de l'île

Responses by Minister:

- ❖ Minister indicated he would talk to Ministers Hudson, Thompson and Trivers and he would get the Deputy Minister to address the issues with Minister Aylward.
- ❖ Minister informed that it is possible for municipalities to purchase speed bumps and Department of Highways will assume responsibilities to maintain them (remove for Winter and reinstall in Spring)
- ❖ Minister indicated his support towards efforts to keep Collège de l'île in the Municipality; suggested to call Minister of Education Jameson to express our views
- Minister Fox also referred to Land Matters and the promotion of municipalities) to get organized re Official Plans, bylaws, etc. This will be discussed more in detail in 2022. Plans will be done by the province for areas outside of existing municipalities.

m. Christmas Appreciation Dinner

The event will take place on December 5 at the Gentleman's Jim restaurant. It is suggested to change the time from 6:00 pm to 5:30.

n. Mental Health Project

Mayor suggested for CAO to contact Janet Wood to discuss the signage regulations as it could be problematic to install signs in the parks. CAO to contact her and speak with Corinne on the project if signage is possible.

8. Financials – Year to date report

The Year-to-date reports were presented.

- Add the payment for the generator
- Funds to Lennox Island should be added in Donations
- AJL submitted a quote for snow removal which was the same price as 2020.
- Council honorarium to be paid on Dec 5

9. Committee Reports

1. Sewer & Municipal services:

a) Generator: no new information – delivery expected in mid January.

b) Playground – No specific additions to make at the park. A sub-committee will meet to discuss the changes needed in the tennis court. Shawn Bernard will lead this group.

c) Trail– The gravel will be added next Spring as it is too late for this year.

e) Sewer on Maple Street–Mayor spoke to the operator in advance of talking to WSP. Preston discussed this with the Department of Environment. He believes the work can wait for next spring, however it is important to follow protocol so we will wait to have engineers brought in to discuss the work needed to happen next spring and the need to get the permit required.

f) Street Lights – Since there are new residents and lots are sold, street lights will be added on Barlow Road.

It is moved and seconded that the two street lights be added on Barlow Road as part of the development plan for this road.

Motion carried 5/6 (2021-55)

2. Finance – no new information.

3. Tourism and Recreation – Discussion took place for the plan for the outside rink for this winter. It was discussed as to the possibility to setup behind the Boys and Girls Club but it is an insurance risk. It is suggested to buy a water pump for easy access and a sled to move it around. Shawn will ask Roger if he is interested in helping with the preparation of the rink.

It is moved and seconded that the Municipality purchase a water pump and a sled to setup the outside rink on the pond.

Motion carried 5/6 (2021-55)

The cost to repair the Christmas Lights was very expensive, \$ 954.00 + HST. The village should look at other options to repair the lights next year.

4. **Bingo and Social Services** – no new information.
5. **EMO, Fire and Police** – A meeting for the EMO exercise will be held November 25.

Technology and Communication – Minutes on website will be updated.

6. **Welcome/Bienvenue**

Karine Gallant stepped down from her position for medical reasons. Le CSCÉ will look into taking the responsibilities for this project. No meetings will be held within the next few weeks as the Director of CIF is out of the country until December 15.

7. **Planning Board, Policies and Bylaws** – Planning Board November 8 Meeting – report accepted

8. **Asset Management – FCM Asset Management Project Report**

CAO is testing the tool provided by Land Info and it is a good tool to use with practice. The final reports will be submitted soon. It is suggested by Asset Management Program Report to do a Lagoon Condition Study. Albert to talk to Preston.

9. **Health Services& Government Health Homes:**

Crescent Court Situation

No new issues have arisen since the last meeting. One resident moved to another area. CBC did a piece on the security needed at the senior housing buildings. It is difficult to understand why the resident with the mental issues does not have a social worker. There are similar cases at other facilities. Minister Fox will speak with Minister Trivers on the matter.

Doctor's office

A meeting with Minister Hudson is planned for November 29 at 3:30 pm.

10. **New Business**

- a. **Official Plan& Bylaws Workplan**–No new information.
- b. **FPEIM Report** – Councilor Irene gave an overview of the discussions held during the FPEIM held November 27.
 - Minister Fox spoke to the group and informed there will be a change in financial reporting for municipalities and a Information Package will be prepared for incoming Council members. A new code of conduct will also be presented. He also named various funding programs which municipalities can access.
 - Pace Program and Green Energy– This is a program regarding Energy Savings Cost to residents within municipalities to promote Solar Panels and Heat Pumps where there are no upfront costs to residents. The province continues to invest in green energy with the purchase of electric cars, Zambonis, Battery and solar projects and more building jobs.
Council discussion: This program would be a benefit to the community. It would be a way to encourage projects to renovate to reduce carbon emissions. The funding is interest free and the cost is attached to the property tax bill.

- Land Matters – Department of Agriculture – new strategies will be identified and new planners will be hired. The report is not available yet.
- Watershed and Forestry – A great deal of work is being done in this area to identify areas for wildlife protection, animal habitats and spaces. Work is also being done regarding erosion, and web maps are prepared to look at coastal risks.
- Community Exchange – A lot of discussions on various items on playground additions, library box swap, butterfly park, program for better homes, Fit benches, picnic tables.
- The FPEIM annual meeting will be held April 25, 2022.

There was discussion on Sustainable Communities, Mayor Bernard, attended the national conference. We should encourage residents to do this as at this time it will take 50% of all residents in Canada to improve the energy consumption. There may be a provincial program on this later. Should we partner with Abram-Village to develop a program collectively?

c. Development Permits – no new permits

- 11. Correspondence** – Sewer on Sunset Drive – The Municipality received a letter from Stephen Yeo stating that they do not have time to address this project and check back in the spring. The budget on this project may have to be pushed out one year.

J Arsenault Land – J. Arsenault purchased the land west of Mill Road (behind Shawn, Marcia, Donnie etc). She is interested in selling the land to extend properties behind the existing lots. Jordan Arsenault may purchase a lot which is not impacted by the land development behind his property.

Should the Municipality consider the long- term impact for Wellington. Should we keep some of the land for development, sell one part and save the rest for development. We also have to consider the other subdivision submitted for development as we are waiting for confirmation on the funding.

Mayor to talk to owner to discuss the options presented. This should be discussed at a Planning Board Meeting to see what should be approved.

- 12. Next meeting:** December 16, 2021
11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.