

**Rural Municipality of Wellington  
Council Meeting– October 21, 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

**1. Call meeting to order**

Mayor Bernard called the meeting to order.

**2. Fire Department Report**

Desmond Arsenault, president of the Fire Department and Jason Maddix, Treasurer attended the meeting. Desmond presented the following information to Council.

**Calls:** 1 medical call, 2 structure fires, 1 fire1 Fire Alarm, 1 Motor Vehicle fire.

The Wellington Fire Department held its open house on October 9 which went very well and appreciated by all who attended. Many donations were received from Evangeline-Central Credit Union, Kent, Home Hardware, Canadian Tire, and various other organizations.

The Community Revitalization Grant to purchase equipment was approved. The new overhead doors were installed and makes a big difference to keep the heat inside the fire hall.

The Communication tower was replaced. There are minor adjustments to make in the technical for it to work at 100%. It should be much better than the previous tower.

There is still no confirmation on the medical calls. A few departments seem to do some but it is not certain on the reason why they are requested. A question was brought forward on the situation with a firefighter and at this time there is nothing confirmed on the situation.

**3. Approval of agenda**

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

Motion carried (6/6)-(2021-47)

**4. Declaration of conflict of interest**

None declared.

5. **Approval of meeting minutes –September 16, 2021**

It is moved and seconded that the September 16 minutes be approved as presented.

Motion carried (6/6)-(2021-48)

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

a. **Age Friendly Communities (AFC)**

The provincial committee is working on a manual to inform us on the various programs.

b. **Speeding controls**

No new information on this.

c. **Covid – 19 Status** – The number of patrons remains at 50 as the operational plan we have is for that number. The checking of the VaxPass at the door is working well at Bingo and for other events. **CAO to check with staff regarding the various contractors who come in for work and their vaccine status outside of events.**

d. **Official Plan Update** – Upland sent the required changes requested from Municipal Affairs. The optional changes will require approximately 15 hours of work to complete. Mayor shared information on the Sustainable Communities conference he attended virtually. From the sessions, it seems that most municipalities across the country have a clearer plan and more direction. The goal is for households to improve their energy savings by 50%. A councillor asked a question on the climate change adaptations and should we not have a direction or clear requirements from government before identifying what we should do regarding climate change at the municipal level.

**Mayor Bernard will discuss with Danny Jenkins and when Minister Fox meets with members of Council on this issue.**

**It is moved and seconded that the Municipality adopt the proposed changes to the Official Plan prepared by Upland and requested by Municipal Affairs.**

Motion carried. 6/6 (2021-49)

**It is moved and seconded that the Municipality adopt the proposed changes to the Zoning and Development Plan prepared by Upland and requested by Municipal Affairs.**

Motion carried. 6/6 (2021-50)

**CAO will inform Upland on the proposal to move ahead with the contract.**

e. **Trails Planning** –Mayor communicated with Community Pasture and they are in agreement to let the trail go on their property as it is not used by the pasture and located in the wooded area. There is also a need to speak with owner of the

adjacent property to discuss and will be done very soon. **CAO to send a letter requesting to use a part of the land for the trail and provide a map of the proposed trail to Community Pasture.**

**f. Pondsides Drive – right of way**

No new information.

**g. Subdivision updates**

No updates and no confirmation on when we will be informed of the decision on the ICIP applications.

**h. Solar Energy Project**

All items regarding the changeover to Heat pumps, LED lighting and the water heater have been submitted through the ACOA project. These items are all included in the Energy Audit and we will proceed with quotes in preparation for the approval of the ACOA project. For other pieces such as solar panels, there are other programs to tap into to receive funding through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities or other programs. It is important to get work done on assessing if solar panels are a possibility which will require contract work with a company who deals with these matters as well as integrate this work with our energy audit items. CAO to request a quote for solar panels on the Vanier Centre from the company who prepared the energy audit reports earlier last month. The final objective is to get rid of burning oil

**i. Full-time CAO update**

The ads were posted locally with no suitable candidates considered. The ads were posted on other websites such as JobsPEI, Indeed and the resumes are coming in.

**j. Collège de l'île**

Mayor met with President, D. Desroches and indicated to him that he is trying to better understand the reasons for the possible move to Summerside. They seem to have a better financial option in Summerside with various items one of which is the following space costs: (Wellington \$12.00 per sq ft, Summerside, \$ 8.00 per sq ft in Summerside and Charlottetown \$ 6.00 per sq ft). There is a major concern for housing of students in Wellington and this is another reason to move to a major centre. In light of this, and for other needs in the community, the Municipality requested funding to do a study on a transportation option for the Evangeline area. Le Chez Nous supports this request as does the Municipality of Abram-Village and the Conseil scolaire-Communautaire Évangéline(CSCÉ). This file is a responsibility la Fédération des aînés and supported by le CSCÉ.

Mayor also met with MLA Gallant to inform him of the position of Council. As well, it was shared that the Premier was aware that the Collège was looking at the three sites for the move and consulted with MLA Gallant on the issue. It is not certain as to the exact reason for this consult. Sonny indicated he will follow-up with the Premier.

Mayor also consulted MP Bobby Morrissey on this matter and he would not encourage funding that would encourage a move outside the Evangeline region. He will discuss with the Premier on our behalf. He suggested that the Mayor send a letter to the Premier which was done.

Housing is a major issue in the area. Le Bel Âge is interested in proceeding to add another building to its existing complement but it is unclear who should lead this initiative as RDÉE hired a new staff person to address the housing issue in the area and le Bel Âge was not mentioned in their plan. The plan was to survey existing residents 70+ to plan for their plan beyond selling their homes. It is clear that more units built in Wellington would address the housing challenge.

Mayor also met with N Arsenault, Executive Director of le CSCÉ to discuss the School Board office move outside of École Évangéline. There is concern as to their move outside of the area, possibly Summerside but it is not the Municipality of Wellington's challenge and more for Abram-Village.

**k. New playground addition**

Discussion was held on the addition to the playground. There is not interest in adding new equipment. A councillor suggested to modify the tennis court to accommodate more activities.

- l. Canada Day Fund Contribution** – Councillor Irene contacted Lennox Island and they would be very pleased to receive the funding. They suggested that funding the purchase of drums may be a better option since the library is well stocked but would accept it for any area Council preferred. This would cost approximately \$ 1000. We could ask them to show their talents by doing a musical number during Canada Day. It is important to acknowledge that this is a special donation in honor of the thousands of children who were impacted by the Residential schools tragedy.

It was moved and seconded that the Rural Municipality of Wellington provide \$ 1000.00 from the Canada Day Fund to Lennox Island School to fund band equipment. In return, the band will be asked to do a number at the 2022 Canada Day Celebrations.

Motion carried - 6/6 (2021-51)

**7.**

**a. Pollinator's Park**

Councillor Irene made a few contacts on possible plans with no responses yet and it is a project in progress.

**8. Financials – Year to date report**

The Year-to-date reports were presented. The capital expenses are low and will need to be addressed so we should identify areas we can spend. The amount is low because of projects that did not materialize due to unforeseen circumstances.

Since there are funds left in the Official Plan project, it is recommended to proceed with the 15 hours additional work for Upland which is required to amend the documents as requested by Municipal Affairs.

The sewer accounts in arrears received first and second notice for payment. Disconnection notices will follow ten days later. There are six potential residents who will receive disconnection notices if arrangements are not made by October 30.

## 9. Committee Reports

### 1. Sewer & Municipal services:

**a) Generator:** Not installed yet but should be very soon as the equipment is delivered.

**b) Playground** – the playground is fixed and in operation. The drainage project will be done next spring due to the complex environmental permits required. There is a possibility to look at other options that would be easier. **Mayor and Albert to look into this.**

**c) Trail** – Mayor and Stephen from AJL walked through the trail to look at potential issues to fix while they will be bringing in the gravel and should be done soon.

**e) Sewer** - Flushing was done on Maple Street, part of Sunset and on Mill towards the lagoon. There is an issue on Maple where the line is sagging therefore, added water remains in the pipe. Council recommends to analyse the issue. It is important to get a plan done for a five-year window for the flushing of the line. **CAO to identify what has been done so far with existing maps. Mayor will contact WSP to look into the line issue on Maple Street and proceed with engineering advice.**

2. **Finance** – no new information.

3. **Tourism and Recreation** –

4. **Bingo and Social Services** – Bingo has lost a few patrons due to the Vaccine pass. Councillor Irene met with Annette at the Coop to look into the needy families. The funds could go to the Caring Cupboard where people can access the food bank. It is suggested to keep the funds in the Evangeline area as much as possible. Sr Norma and the school can assist with the decisions for the upcoming Christmas season

5. **EMO, Fire and Police** – no information. A meeting should be held soon for the tabletop exercise.

**Technology and Communication** – Minutes on website will be updated.

### 6. Welcome/Bienvenue

No new developments in this area. No response from Karine who wanted to meet with Council.

7. **Planning Board, Policies and Bylaws** – no new information

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

Land info will make a presentation via zoom to Council on October 28 at 7:00 pm at the Vanier Centre.

9. **Health Services & Government Health Homes:** No new information.

### Crescent Court Situation

Another incident took place with the resident. One resident wants to move from there. Mayor spoke to MLA Gallant. This item will be addressed at the meeting planned with Minister Fox on November 9 at 6:30 pm.

**10. New Business**

- a. **Official Plan & Bylaws Workplan** - Deferred to next meeting.
- b. **Park Preparation for winter**  
The picnic tables will be moved on Monday October 25 – 6:00 pm
- c. **Christmas Dinner or other**  
CAO to call Anson's, Centre Expo and Gentlemen's Jim for availabilities for December
- d. **Development Permits**  
No permits for September and October. The Development Permit form will be adjusted to reflect the Solar panels in ground and for the new Building Code process. It is questioned as to the size of accessory buildings (sheds) on the new Building Code as some residents seem to have these that are higher. **CAO will look into this.**

**11. Correspondence – Mental Health Programs**

- a. A resident suggested a possible program that could bring positive statements in the Municipality – this would require signs to be installed within our parks to promote positive thinking. There is funding available through FPEIM for a \$ 2500.00 grant to promote mental wellness – deadline is December 15. A permit may be required by Tourism PEI to install these. **CAO will work with the resident and get some quotes on signage.**
- b. FPEIM Semi-annual meeting – The meeting will be held November 6 at CU Place in Summerside. Irene and Alcide will attend. **CAO will submit registrations.**
- c. Other: Could trees be replaced at the Laurinda park. CAO to contact John's or Kool Breeze.

**12. Next meeting:** November 18, 2021

**11. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.