

**Rural Municipality of Wellington
Council Meeting– September 16, 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 presented the information to Council.

Calls: 3 medical calls, 2 structure fires, 2 Flareups, 2 False Alarm, 1 contained fire, 1 combustion fire.

The Wellington Fire Department assisted in activities at le Festival acadien and received a \$ 600.00 donation for their assistance. Two memorial activities will take place in the next few weeks: a monument to honor firefighters in Miscouche and one for Janice Arsenault. The WFD donated to the bike for Alzheimer's fundraiser. The Chase the Ace is going well and it is up \$ 5000.00 as the present time.

A lobster social will be held at the Vanier Centre for the fire department members on September 25 or October 2. CAO to confirm availability to Jason.

Two firefighters left the department, one left the province and the other is to focus on a new business.

Work is being done to finalize the quote for the fire tanker. Council was informed of the discussion within the WFD on the addition of a pump (stash tank) on the tanker. Some members of the truck committee would prefer the new pump. The executive is recommending not to move forward with the extra pump as it is not a part of the trucks from the other fire departments who help on fire calls which would cost an extra \$ 50 000. They feel it is not necessary for the area as they have access to water sources in the area. It will take approximately 14 months to get the truck after it is ordered.

There is no word yet if the department will be able to resume the medical calls.

3. Approval of agenda

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

Motion carried (6/6)-(2021-44)

4. Declaration of conflict of interest

None declared.

5. **Approval of meeting minutes –July 15, 2021**

It is moved and seconded that the July 15 minutes be approved as presented.

Motion carried (6/6)-(2021-45)

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

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

The province approved the Age Friendly Communities project. More information will be provided after the next committee meeting.

b. **Sewer expansion project on Barlow Road**

The project is finished with the four laterals added with a total project cost of approximately \$ 115 000. CAO to request a transfer of funds and inform the department in which project it should be transferred to. The initial amount for this project was \$ 140 000.

c. **Speeding controls**

The sensors are installed but there are issues with the communication of the data so no data is available at this time. Maritime Electric will look into this. There is also a request to add a speed sign on Mt Carmel Road but no response yet. The sign on Sunset Drive does not work all the time so will check on this issue.

d. **Covid – 19 Status** – the new regulations will bring the mask requirement back. The Vanier Hall is still capped at 50.

e. **Official Plan Update** – The changes required by Municipal Affairs were sent to Upland and will update us shortly.

f. **Sidewalk Extension on Sunset Drive** – Mayor informed WSP that they were the successful bidder on the design contract.

g. **Trails Planning** – In light of the latest issue with the legal matter on PID, it is suggested to find another loop. The land included in this area is Community Pasture and the government of PEI. Mayor will speak to Melvin Gallant. The Active Transportation Fund funds projects that prioritize connections to the Confederation Trail and this loop would provide this. There are also possibilities of getting bicycle pumps, benches, signs and symbols and shelters

h. **Pondside Drive – right of way**

No new information.

i. **Subdivision updates**

Wellington Estates is working on the approval of the land transfer. No new information to report on AJL.

j. **Solar Energy Project**

The office received the energy audit reports for the Vanier Centre, Fire Hall and Barlow Mills. CAO will send the reports to Council before a further meeting is scheduled.

k. **Full-time CAO Update**

An expression of interest ad was sent for an interested organization to join the Municipalities CAO responsibilities with three interested parties submitting their interest. An ad will be posted to recruit a new CAO and this person will be involved in selecting who the third party would be a better fit with the municipalities.

- I. MP Bill c-313– item removed due to new government after election

7. Financials – Year to date report

The Year-to-date reports were presented. The capital expenses should be reported in that account. The funds remaining in the Club should be transferred to the Municipality. It was noted that level of funds in the general chequing account was high. CAO asked to check on better rates on deposits before making the decision to transfer over from chequing account to another investment fund or CDR.

The sewer accounts in arrears will get information regarding the new policy and the office should proceed with the disconnection process.

8. Committee Reports

1. Sewer& Municipal services:

a) Generator: The pad and the switch are installed. There are delivery delays in getting the new generator so it will be installed as soon as it is in.

b) Platform – The platform is now fixed.

c) Fence – Fence is done and installed.

d) Playground – Albert chopped the cement blocks. It will have to be built up more to cover the cement that is there. Welding will be done shortly and the gravel is to be delivered as soon as possible.

e) Sewer - Albert to call Preston to prepare a flushing plan.

2. Finance – no new information.

3. Tourism and Recreation – summer employees

The students completed the job placement. The concern of students working alone was brought up regarding the situation with the visitor. If another situation arises, it is recommended by RCMP that a meeting be held with involved individuals and parents where necessary to prepare a plan. It was mentioned that the employees need to work in a safe environment at all times.

4. Bingo and Social Services – Bingo is going very well.

5. EMO, Fire and Police

As a follow-up to last December, it is suggested that a special needs committee be setup. Irene will communicate with the Coop Manager to discuss how to move forward. There are gift cards left from last December. These will be donated for this committee to distribute.

The tabletop exercise did not take place this fall.

As per discussion during the Fire Department on the new tanker truck,

As per the WFD member vote, Council supports the Wellington Fire Department executive committee's recommendation to exclude the Stash Pump in the quote of the new tanker.

Motion carried 6/6 (2021-46)

6. Technology and Communication – Minutes will be updated.

No new information.

7. Welcome/Bienvenue

No new developments on future meetings. CAO to ask Karine for the welcome baskets and distribute to new residents. Irene will provide bingo certificates. Karine will be invited to meet Council the same evening as the Asset Management Meeting. Council is asked to reflect on potential projects to discuss with Karine to attract immigrants or repatriate former islanders to our area.

There was discussion on the recruitment through Destination Canada. The region has seen successes with this recruitment event at the school board and the preschool centers. The Chez Nous could benefit from this organization.

The Housing is still a major concern for new immigrants or any new resident in the area.

There is a possibility that a new housing complex would be added near the Bel-Âge units. It is still in the preliminary stages. RDÉE hired Aubrey Cormier to manage a project to address housing for seniors in the community.

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

CAO presented the changes to the policy presented at the previous meeting.

It is moved and seconded that the Sewer and Fire Collection Policy be adopted with the proposed changes.

Motion carried 6/6 (2021-46)

9. Asset Management – FCM Asset Management Project Report

The final report is nearing completion and Land Info will make a presentation to Council in a separate meeting from the regular Council Meeting either October 7 or 14. CAO to check with Land Info.

10. Health Services:

The electronic records system is now ready for use. It is still not confirmed if a doctor will have hours in Wellington. The nurse practitioner provides excellent service every Wednesday in Wellington. Mayor had a conversation with Minister on August 15th; the Minister indicated that he wanted a face-to-face meeting to discuss the matter. A request was officially communicated on August 16th and to this date no reply from Minister Hudson.

Crescent Court Situation

At this point, there is no process identified by the Minister on the Crescent Court matter.

Government Health Homes – no new information.

9. **New Business**

a. **Collège de l'île**

Mayor was informed that the Collège de l'île is planning to move to Summerside. The board president asked him if the municipality had any issues with this move. There are 56 students registered presently including 6 from PEI. The College has recruitment challenges with islanders while most of the students are immigrants.

Council is concerned with the move as it will take away employment in the community. It is important to ensure that the Chez Nous does not lose on the job placements for the students. It is recommended to push for a transportation system if the move does happen. Housing for students remains a major concern for the college. Mayor will meet with MLA Sonny Gallant to discuss further and get his perspective. The provincial government has a priority to develop rural communities and the move would not be in the best interest of this initiative. Requesting that the Province not grant to undertake this move may be the only alternative available at this time.

b. **Jouffret Property**

Claude Jouffret and his daughter met with Mayor and CAO on September 13 to discuss his property. The property is poorly insulated and in need of renovations. He was looking for guidance on what he needs to proceed with a renovation or to address the issues upon purchase of this property. He received information on surveying and legal contacts to help him with this matter.

c. **Official Plan & Bylaws Workplan**

We are presently working on the trail development. More discussion at the next meeting.

d. **Playground addition**

Council is asked to visit other playgrounds on the island and reflect on potential equipment that could be added to the existing playground. CAO shared examples. It is suggested to have a committee to look at future plans.

e. **Canada Day Fund**

Since Canada Day Funds were not used, Councillor Irene suggests to look into donating these funds to commemorate the matter of the residential schools for Indigenous children such as providing books to Lennox Island Library. She will check things out and bring back more information for a decision at the next meeting.

f. **Green space on Barlow Road**

Councillor Irene suggests that a Pollinator's Garden be planted in the green space on Barlow Road. She communicated with Kathy Gallant from Richmond Watershed Group to discuss a possible plan and they are interested in helping. Signs could be added to identify plants and a pathway around the various sections. It is important

to discuss this with the neighbors if they are ok with this. More details to come for the next meeting.

10. Correspondence – none

11. Next meeting: October 21, 2021

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:45