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Town Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2024
Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Didham, Mayor
Don Corrigan, Councillor
Joan Nolan, Councillor
Paula Linehan, Councillor
Brenda Pike, Town Clerk

Absent: Loretta Nash, Councillor

Three members of the public were present.

MEETING CHAIR:

Ben Didham, Councillor

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting is called to order at 7:09 p.m..

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion #2024-18: Joan Nolan; Paula Linehan

Adopt the Agenda of April 9, 2024.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion #2024-19: Paula Linehan; Joan Nolan

Adopt the Minutes of March 12, 2024.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

FINANCE:

The Clerk presented Council with the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2024.

- **Monthly Financial Report**

- **Motion #2024-20: Don Corrigan; Paula Linehan**

Adopt the Financial Report for the month ending March 31, 2024.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Town Clerk Report

- An ATIPP Request has been received and a response is complete.
- Resident (Corey Rohan) expressed concern over speeding, especially in front of his property. Advised him Council has been discussing this and are looking for answers.
- Cemetery Committee: spoke to Betty at the Parish Office. She is unaware of a committee at present. Town has \$100 in account at present from cemetery fees.
- Tax invoices have been mailed.
- RCMP are contacting owner of abandoned car on Markland Rd. requesting its removal. It has been tied up with insurance claim.
- Permits:
 - Demolition Permit – Shawn Hearn
 - Renovation Permit – Gerard Linehan
- Request for pro-rating of outstanding 2023 poll tax bill: The property in question sold in June 2023; previous owner is requesting they pay ½ and bill ½ to new owners. Ordinarily law firms ensure all outstanding taxes are paid. Owner was advised that because this was a poll tax vs. a property tax, there was no onus on the law firm to ensure that it was paid as part of the sale. (\$575 owing). ***Council discussed and decided they would not pro-rate the outstanding poll tax from 2023. The Clerk will notify the property owner.***

- Change to budget – Due to a \$3,000 over-estimation of MOG, this amount had to be deducted from Revenue and Expenditures. ***The Clerk will forward the budget revisions to Council.***
- Brian Eason has submitted a drawing for his shed and has requested clarification from Council on responsibility for the roadway/lane leading to his property as he plans to carry out work there and will include a new roadway/lane if Council doesn't have responsibility for the existing one. Council advised he could go ahead with a roadway/lane on his own property. There was some discussion about whether the existing road in question is a town road or private road. This will need to be reviewed for next year's snow clearing contract.
- The Clerk has requested quotes for grants for:
 - Accessibility Grant which has been approved;
 - Shed and Town Hall – roofing, etc.

Brendan Doody and Kevin Butland visited the site to view required work; however, the Clerk hasn't received any quotes to date.

b) Infrastructure Committee Report

i) Flooding Remediation:

- The Clerk advised Council that Mr. Didham had visited the town office on a couple of occasions to express his concerns with the decision of Council not to remediate flooding which is affecting his property. The Clerk advised him to put his concerns in writing for presentation to Council.

ii) Price Quote for Road Repairs

- Council received a quote from Triple J Excavating in the amount of \$58,200.00 for roadwork on town roads. They will be seeking grants to fund the work.

c) Fire Department Report

- ##### i) Fire Chief Ralph Linehan was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the areas for fire coverage by the volunteer Fire Department. He gave a brief history of the volunteer fire department:
- The Fire Department began to form in 1983. Due to the small town size, the town was only granted a "trailer package" and uniforms. Colinet then met with Harricott and North Harbour to form a centrally-located fire department, which resulted in the granting of a

“Pick-up Package,” which included a vehicle and outfitted 10 firefighters. The Fire Department has been built on since then and now has a tanker truck in use as well. Chief Linehan acknowledged the new pump just purchased and expressed appreciation for this new addition. The Fire Dept. has a defibrillator, donated to and owned by the Loggers Society, and used on the truck when it is not required by the Loggers Society.

With reference to areas for fire services outside the town boundary, Chief Linehan acknowledged Council’s authority in determining those areas, and thanked them for the opportunity for the members to have input. There was extensive discussion and the following was motioned:

Motion #2024-21: Don Corrigan; Paula Linehan

Colinet-Harricott-North Harbour Volunteer Fire Department will provide fire protection services, for a \$50 annual fee, to the following areas: Nine Mile Road to include the area beginning at the Mount Carmel boundary extending to Colinet; Placentia Road to the boundary of Cataracts Park; from Colinet to Three Mile Bridge on Markland Road; from Colinet to Harricott as far as Ed Rohan’s residence; from Colinet to North Harbour to John Lake’s residence and all areas within the boundary of the Town of Colinet. The Volunteer Fire Department will not respond to the south side of North Harbour.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

d. Grants: Accessibility Grant

Council discussed several options here: should they proceed with the Accessibility Grant as is or look at other options as the Town Hall needs considerable work, is expensive to maintain and gets very little use? There were just two rentals last year bringing in \$100; electricity bills are high when the building is basically used for one office for the Town Clerk. One option discussed included selling the Town Hall property and using the funds to add an office and meeting room to the Fire Hall. However, Council has deferred this discussion to the May meeting and any recommendations will be brought to the residents of the Town before any final decisions are made.

Mayor Didham informed the public members attending that Council is also looking at grants to establish a launching area for kayaks and canoes. A committee outside of Council will need to be put in place to apply for grants for this. In addition, Council is looking at improvements to the playground, including a walking trail around the perimeter.

e. Rules of Procedure/Policies

Councillors will review the Rules of Procedure and defer discussion for the May meeting.

6. ROUND TABLE

a) Mr. Gambin (public) requested clarification on “Commercial/Non-Residential” classification in the budget. The Clerk explained this refers to the property tax charged to a business/commercial enterprise, in addition to their business tax. (ie Businesses must pay both a business tax and a property tax).

b) Mr. Gambin enquired why Provincial Gas Tax is identified under Revenue only, whereas Federal Gas Tax is identified under Expenses and Revenue. The Clerk explained that Provincial Gas Tax is an annual tax allotted to the Town by government, and is, therefore, considered revenue. However, federal gas tax has to be applied to specific projects; therefore, it is only granted upon application for a project and must be used specifically for that purpose. Basically, it is revenue to cover a particular expense so it is money in and money out.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May7, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion #2022-22: Joan Nolan; Paula Linehan

The meeting is adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried