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Town Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024
Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Didham, Mayor
Paula Linehan, Councillor
Loretta Nash, Councillor
Joan Nolan, Councillor
Brenda Pike, Town Clerk

Absent: Don Corrigan, Councillor

Two members of the public were present.

MEETING CHAIR:

Ben Didham, Mayor

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting is called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

- **Motion #2024-45: Joan Nolan; Loretta Nash**
Adopt the Agenda of September 10, 2024.
All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

RESIGNATION OF MAYOR

Mayor Didham took this opportunity to submit his resignation from Town Council and his seat as Mayor effective October 1, 2024. He explained that legislation stipulates that Councillors must be resident in the Town. As he is moving out of Colinet at the end of this month, he regretfully must vacate his seat.

DEPUTY MAYOR POSITION

Councillor Joan Nolan was asked by Council if she would accept the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Nolan accepted the position of Deputy Mayor until the next municipal election in September of 2025. All members of Council approved Ms. Nolan's move to the Deputy Mayor position.

Motion #2024-46: Loretta Nash; Paula Linehan

Bernard Didham will be removed as a signing authority to the Town's RBC accounts effective October 1, 2024; Joan Nolan will be added as a signing authority to the Town's RBC accounts, effective October 1, 2024.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- **Motion #2024-47: Loretta Nash; Paula Linehan**

Adopt the Minutes of August 13, 2024.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

ATTENDANCE BY OFFICER RYAN SALENT WITH HOLYROOD RCMP DETACHMENT

Officer Salent with the Holyrood Detachment of the RCMP entered the Council meeting room at 7:20, as per a request from Council to attend the meeting.

Mayor Didham thanked Officer Salent for his attendance and explained that Council wished to inform the RCMP of a major issue with speeding in the Town and request assistance in dealing with the problem. He advised that Council was advised by the Provincial Government that speed bumps aren't an option on provincial highways; Council has erected their own signs but would like assistance from the RCMP as well. Council was very clear in stating that they are fearful of an accident occurring, especially as there are small children in some areas.

Officer Salent advised that speeding is not unique to the area; the RCMP receives complaints from other towns as well. He stated that he would encourage residents to report speeding to the RCMP, as the number of complaints often determines the need for action. Multiple complaints and occurrence reports will indicate that there is a problem and the RCMP will identify the Town as an area where more resources are needed. For best results, when an occurrence is

reported, it is best to have the licence plate number, time and date, a description of the vehicle and the driver, if possible; however, a report without this information is still accepted. The most important thing is to encourage people to make the call the Holyrood detachment so that there is an occurrence report on file.

Office Salent agreed he would arrange for a presence in the Town in the near future and he would also contact Sean Lewis with the Auxilliary Division regarding the supply of signs indicating the area is being patrolled regularly by the RCMP. He will also contact Traffic Services, which is independent of the Holyrood Detachment, and request they carry out patrols as well. Officer Salent will try to identify other small towns in the area which use digital speed signs as an information source for the Town.

Council also enquired as to the regulations around ATV use on roadways. Officer Salent advised ATVs must be insured and registered and are permitted to travel from trailhead to trailhead on roads in a safe manner.

Council advised Officer Salent of newly erected signs on Playground Road which identify a Rod and Gun club in the area and a sign stating the road is closed, as well as No Entry signs. Officer Salent will visit the area to view the signs.

4. FINANCE:

- **Monthly Financial Report**

Motion #2024-46: Joan Nolan; Paula Linehan

Adopt the financial report for the month ending August 30, 2024

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Reports

i) Town Clerk Report

- a. Permit Refund – Shawn Hearn: **Council approved a refund of \$100 to Mr. Hearn as all work on the property has been completed satisfactorily.**
- b. The Clerk received an inquiry regarding any recreational activities in the Town, eg. darts, card games, fitness. She suggested a post to

the FB page inviting people to come forward if they are interested in heading up or participating in activities.

- c. The Clerk requested an increase in working hours – most days will be working full days on Wednesday. Council agreed the Clerk may work up to 30 hours a week while things are so busy.
- d. The Clerk was contacted by Municipal Affairs again advising that Council is in danger of losing their MOG if the 2022 audit is not submitted by October. Brian Scammell is away until the 15th of Sept. The Clerk has sent all the documents for the 2022 audit to Mr. Scammell and advised him of both emails from Municipal Affairs. She will contact him again upon his return next week.
- e. The Clerk suggested planning a special meeting before budget preparations to discuss possible projects. This will help with financial planning and preparation for grant submissions. **Council will meet on October 1 @ 6:30 p.m. for this purpose.**
- f. With the Mayor's resignation, a bi-election is at Council's discretion as it is less than a year from general municipal election. If Council wishes to proceed with a bi-election, they will need to discuss dates and a motion at the October meeting. Council will go ahead with a bi-election.
- g. Sharon Foley contacted the office re the culvert at the end of their driveway - 11 Route 81. It may be blocked off or grown over. **Council directed the Clerk to contact the Dept. of Transportation and advise them of the culvert problem.**
- h. Brian Bulger advised that he is available for another three weeks if Council needs him. **Council will extend Brian for another 3 weeks @ 12 hours per week If he is willing to carry out brush cutting during that time. The Clerk will let him know tomorrow.**

ii) Infrastructure Committee Report

1. Town Property

- a. Accessibility Grant: There was some discussion around the grant, which will probably have to be returned to Government, as the contractor did not show up to provide a quote for the ramp.

2. Road Work

Councillor Nash expressed frustration with the condition of roads with regards to overgrown brush and feels that funding may be better utilized towards this than the maintenance agreed upon at last meeting. The Clerk advised that the application for gas tax for the maintenance has been submitted with the quote from Josh English. Council will extend Brian Bulger to carry out some of the brush clearing. Council also requested the Clerk contact Marjorie Gibbons to see if there may be any projects available to assist with the brush cutting.

3. Snow Clearing

Council reviewed the Snow Clearing Tender and directed the Clerk to post it publicly.

b) Fire Department

N/A

c) Human Resources

i) Rules of Procedure: Another meeting to specifically address the Rules of Procedure will be planned.

e) Grants

i) Accessibility Grant: See Infrastructure Committee report re Town Property.

ii) Gas Tax: See Infrastructure Committee Report re Road Work

iii) Anniversary Celebration: See Town Clerk Report re Cultural Events and Active NL Grants.

f) Anniversary Celebrations

Council approved the two banners for the Anniversary Celebrations. Mayor Didham advised that he would be donating both banners to the Town. Council thanked Mayor Didham for his donation of banners, as well as his donation of wine for the wine and cheese event.

g) Wellness Week/Community Advisory Council

Council was not available to attend the Community Advisory Council meeting. The Clerk didn't attend due to confusion over the dates.

6. ROUND TABLE

Councillor Nolan updated Council on the Stewardship Association, stating that salmon numbers in Rocky River have fallen dramatically. The two SAEN workers had limited access to carry out their research this summer, mainly due to access limitations because of private property. They did identify many blockages in the rivers and tributaries (eg. fallen trees) which would impede the movement of salmon. There have been discussions around the committee partnering with either the Town of Colinet or Whitbourne to access grant money to get it cleared out, as they are not incorporated and wouldn't have access to grants.

Council agreed to allow the Stewardship Association to hold their meetings at the Town Hall free of charge, as it is for the community's benefit.

7. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

There will also be a special meeting of Council on October 1, 2024, to discuss the budget, projects and grants.

Councillor Nash left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion #2024-47: Paula Linehan, Joan Nolan

The meeting is adjourned at 9:00 pm.

All in favor; none opposed

Motion Carried