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**Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2025
Town Hall**

IN ATTENDANCE:

V. Joan Nolan, Mayor
Gerard Linehan, Deputy Mayor
Don Corrigan, Councillor
Loretta Nash, Councillor
Brenda Pike, Town Clerk

Absent: Paula Linehan, Councillor

Three members of the public were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting is called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Motion #2025-14: Gerard Linehan; Loretta Nash

Adopt the Agenda of March 11, 2025.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Motion #2025-15: Don Corrigan; Loretta Nash

Adopt the Minutes of February 11, 2025.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

4. FINANCE

a. Monthly Financial Report

Motion #2025-16: Don Corrigan; Gerard Linehan

Adopt the financial report for the month ending February 28, 2025.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

Council expressed concern over the high cost of telephone service from Bell Aliant. The Clerk will contact Bell and request a lower rate, taking into consideration that the office is only open on a part-time basis.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Reports

i) Town Clerk Report

- In accordance with Council's request, Robert Grace has erected a structure around the well on his property for safety. The Clerk hasn't heard from Susan Davis or Bernadette Mahoney regarding possible abandoned wells on their property.
- The Active NL Grant for \$1,000 for the Fitness Group has been submitted.
- Five accounts have been sent to collections:
 - 1 business: \$580.78 (\$350 also for 2024)
 - Outstanding Poll Taxes:
 - \$882.37; \$480; \$1,300; \$575
 - Total Accounts for Collection: \$3,818
- NL Power Letter – Council approved NL Power's request to clear brush along the pole line.
- The first draft of the 911 mapping is complete. The Clerk will go through the town next week to identify single civic numbers for each property.
- Website – The Clerk has chosen a theme from Word Press and provided an outline of what is to be included on the website to the MUN student who is helping out. The cost will be between \$30 and \$40 monthly.
- Jean Short documents – The Clerk enquired if Council knew if the late Rev. Jean Short had property in the town, as she had received a request from the law office of Byron Button who is handling the estate. Council advised she had owned land but they were not sure of the exact location.
- The Clerk issued a permit to Non-Stop Construction for the replacement of the shed on the Rural Development Property. The contractor is requesting a letter from Council stating there are no objections to the building. Council directed the Clerk to find out exactly what the letter is needed for as they haven't had a request like this before.

ii) Infrastructure Committee

- a. Town of Colinet sign – Deput Mayor Linehan and Councillor Corrigan will remove the existing sign so it can be repaired.
- b. Mayor Nolan enquired as to whether the town signs were positioned on the town’s actual boundary. Going forward, she would like the town boundaries identified so the signs can be positioned to reflect the actual boundaries.
- c. There are several areas in the town where the road under the pavement has washed out. Dept. of Highways staff have removed several of the cones that were placed to identify the washed-out areas and they also took pictures of the areas with damage.
- d. Councillor Nash contacted Sherry Gambin-Walsh and copied Minister Hutton regarding the deplorable condition of Markland Road, and advised that the road needs stone and grading. Ms. Gambin-Walsh contacted the St. Joseph’s Depot and was advised that the road was too wet to grade.

iii) Administration/Human Resources

1. *Property Tax Collection and Arrears*

Council has laid on the table the Property Tax Collection and Arrears policy until Municipal Affairs (Dawn Chaplin and Jennifer Brown) have an opportunity to review it and provide their comments.

2. *Property Tax*

- a. *Cap on Property Tax:* After discussing information provided by Municipal Affairs and upon due consideration in relation to the impact a property tax cap would have on all taxpayers, Council decided not to put a cap on property taxes in for 2025. (Municipal Affairs is not aware of any Town that puts a maximum property tax in place. Property owners have the right to contact MAA and have their property re-assessed if they do not agree with their tax assessment).
- b. *Discount of 15% for those receiving Guaranteed Income Supplement:*

Motion #2025-17: Loretta Nash; Don Corrigan

Council will provide a 15% discount to property owners in the Town of Colinet who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

b) Fire Department

- i. *Retirement of Gordon Hearn:* Gordon Hearn is retiring from the Fire Department on April 3. Council would like to have a social and presentation to acknowledge his volunteer time

with the Fire Dept. The Clerk will contact Mr. Hearn to see if he is available on April 13 at 2:00 for a celebration.

c) Grants

i) Active NL – Community Garden

Brian Eason was hoping to be at the meeting tonight to discuss plans for a Community Garden. The deadline for an application to Active NL is March 31. Mr. Eason is interested in sitting on a Community Garden committee. Mayor Nolan would also sit on the committee (ex-officio). Councillor Nash will sit on the committee if a Councillor is required. Once the committee is finalized, they will need to develop their Rules of Procedure.

ii) Special Assistance Grant

The Clerk hasn't received any information on the Special Assistance Grant application. Sherry Gambin-Walsh will contact government and offer her support for its approval.

d) Correspondence

i) Request from St. Catherine's Academy

The Clerk received a request from St. Catherine's Academy School Council requesting support for the school lunch program, which is provided by volunteers.

Motion #2025-18: Gerard Linehan; Don Corrigan

Council will donate \$500 to the St. Catherine's Academy School Lunch Program.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

6. ROUND TABLE

a. Cell Service: Mayor Nolan provided an update on the cell service issue. The meeting with Minister Hutchings went ahead today. Mayor Nolan and the other attendees had a list of speaking notes they wished to have addressed, including: plans for accountability for cell service, the lack of regulations and the fact that it is not an essential service; the role of CRTC in regulating cell service, if there is anything that can be done to expand CRTC's role in regulation and if there are any funding programs earmarked for NL. Mayor Nolan advised they hadn't received much feedback on their concerns and were advised the best action is to write letters to Government and the service providers addressing their concerns. In the past, Government's focus has been on bandwidth; they are now looking at cell service. However, cell service is not essential and 911 is not mandatory. The attendees left the meeting still not knowing who the best contact is in regard to who actually reports to the decision makers

b. Fire Stick: Council approved the purchase of a fire stick for the tv's at the hall.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #2025-19: Gerard Linehan; Loretta Nash

The meeting is adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

All in Favor; None opposed

Motion Carried