



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
September 8, 2020
Council Chambers**

Public Access - Streamed on Village of Belledune YouTube

Time: 7:01 PM
Place: Municipal Council Chambers
Present: Mayor, Joe Noel
Councillor, Paul Arseneault
Deputy Mayor, Tracy Culligan
Councillor, Nick Duivenvoorden
Councillor, Sandenn Killoran
Absent: Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael

Staff Present: CAO, Landon Lee
Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor, Noel called the meeting to order.

Adopt Agenda

M 2020/09/08-118

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes: Add under Councillor, Arseneault – Moose Registration Site and remove providing contracted snow plow services within the community and add under Mayor, Noel – Jacquet River School Breakfast Program, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict of Interest - Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations - Nil

Business

Council

Mayor, Noel

- Jacquet River School Breakfast Program

Mayor, Noel said he received requests as to whether the Village was going to participate. The school was closed since March and the funds paid for the months February to June have not been used. This will be picked up from where they left off.

- By-laws, Policies & Codes of Practice

Below is a list of the regulations that need to be put in place by Council.

- Electronic Meeting - Procedural By-law Amendment Required (Local Governance Act)
- Code of Conduct By-law (Local Governance Act Section 10(2) & Regulation 2018-64)

- There was discussion on this, a draft was presented and no recommendations was sent in regarding changes.
- Animal Control By-law Amendment -Vaccines against rabies (Local Governance Act Section 10(2))
- Police Services By-law (Local Governance Act Section 10(3))
- Violence & Harassment in the Workplace Code of Practice (Occupational Health & Safety Act & Regulation 2018-82)

CAO, Lee will work on getting drafts for Council to review.

Councillor, Arseneault expressed his concerns about having a Code of Ethics. He was not comfortable with the one presented. He questions the legality of it and the possibility of being challenged. He would like to see something that would stand up to a challenge – something that legal would say there is nothing here that could be of concern for a Judge or Ombudsman. He would like to go back to page 1 – say get the one that Bathurst has.

Councillor, Arseneault

- Jacquet River School request for Council to cover the cost of individual masks for students. Councillor, Arseneault said Principal Trevor Glazier is requesting if Council would consider covering the costs of mask for the students at Jacquet River School – imprinted with JR School emblem.

Mayor, Noel advise there is an organization that give out masks for free. He and Brenda have the contact information.

Councillor, Arseneault suggested CAO, Lee reach out tomorrow to Mr. Glazier with contact information to make sure children get masks.

Council members made inquires about:

- More expensive with logo
- School already started and masks were required from beginning – who provided those
- Moose Registration Site

Councillor, Arseneault said he spoke with Fire Chief, Legacy and there will be no moose registrations site this year at the Fire Hall due to Covid.

Mayor, Noel said that DNR would not have remote sites this year because of Covid and the precautionary measures they would need to take.

- An independent general audit/ forensic audit trigger for projects partially or wholly funded by the Village of Belledune.

Councillor, Arseneault would like to see something in place for major projects that would trigger an Audit. Something that would put checks and balances within the municipal system – it could be a dollar value that triggers that. We need to make sure the best interest of the community and tax dollars are being considered. He would like an independent audit – a company that has no current relationship with the Village. A forensic audit – a nuance into how money is being spent. This should be a priority to Council and to everyone involved. He referenced the renovation project and the discrepancy between Phase 1 & Phase 2. With Phase 2, it was handled very well and perhaps we were going in the right direction. His questions whether we do this going forward on projects or do we apply it retroactive.

CAO, Lee noted that he will be working on changes to the Village procurement policy to bring it in line with the changes to the Procurement Act. This change could be incorporated into the policy. He will be evaluating it in the next couple of weeks.

Mayor, Noel said this is a good idea, if he is already looking at the policy. He also mentioned Audits are expensive and we are already audited twice – one by our audit and then by the province.

Councillor, Killoran noted we have been talking about this for over a year. He did point out that Councillor, Arseneault in using the term forensic audit, does not know what that means. That term is used when preparing for court. It would indicate that something fraudulent has happened. He said the Mayor hit it on the head, a third-party audit would be costly, could spend up to 50% of project on Audit. Suggestion was to look at an internal review being triggered if a project goes a certain amount over Budget.

- The state of Belledune Power Plant going forward

Councillor, Arseneault discussed the future of NB Power in Belledune. The pending closing date was originally 2030 then 2040. He fears over what we have seen the last couple of months. What are we going to do, do we have any recourse? During the session of Council in Tracadie in 2016 this was an item discussed and we have not done anything in the last four years on this. In northern NB there does not seem to be any sense of urgency. It is talked about but we don't really attack it. We need to go to the source, there is an election next week. Municipal leaders and Council members have to go to Fredericton with a stand that they can't shut NB Power down, that is not acceptable. There has got to be a way to meet their agenda environment standards, etc. We have to say no – our community- region is hanging on by a thread.

Councillor, Killoran assumes Mayor, Noel has more inside track with NB Power Operational Plan

Councillor, Duivenvoorden sent letter to Telegraph Journal, which they did not publish. It was specifically about Maritime Iron and NB Power. There are too many in our community that do not work; some by choice, some by retirement and some because there is no work. We seem to be further away from Fredericton than we have ever been. There are people in positions to make their decision but just don't care.

Mayor Noel said CAO, Lee in communication with NB Power, when the shut down happen, requested their intentions. They advised that it is key to keep NB Power running beyond 2030 – with another fuel source. Belledune is a vital part of NB Power to keep rates stable. The main reason for shut down this summer was related to Covid – there was an abundance of power. They are doing everything they can to keep it open beyond 2030. He was promised that if there were any changes, he would let Council know. Mayor, Noel is relatively satisfied at their word.

We need to lobby the provincial and federal government, not only for NB Power but for the northern region employment.

Councillor, Killoran noted that while getting gas at the Belledune station, the chat was around the shut down. Premier Higgs made a deal with Quebec for cheaper power so they did not have to keep the plant up. The Belledune plan could run at ½ capacity for the next 20 year – keep open until 2040. He noted this could lead to lay offs at the plant. This change is dramatic for servicing – no big shut down. The shut down was a big money maker for a lot of companies in the area. Does lower operational mean

lower value. Might not be this year, but can't foresee this not being re-evaluated. Maybe not this year but maybe in the future.

Councillor, Arseneault said the CAO conversation with NB Power on their intent, is a private conversation. He is wanting the government to give that commitment -say it. If they really believe it, they would not have any issue saying it publicly. So many people effected, a private conversation does not do it. They need to say Belledune Power is not going anywhere.

CAO, Lee

- ATV Club Shelter

Jacques Ouellette from the ATV Federation has sent the email (attached), requesting that Council allow them to place a shelter on PID 50078583, which is owned by the municipality. Jacques has provided the image in the attached email, showing where the shelter will be located.

Councillor, Killoran asked when trail will be done.

CAO, Lee reached out on progress update and 2020 was deemed not a large progression.

Councillor, Culligan would like to get an answer if there will ever be a meeting again with Council.

CAO, Lee said he could not see them opposing that.

- Restigouche Road Update

We will require direction from Council on where the funds for the road extension should come from. It is late in the season, could potentially go into next calendar year and Council could budget for.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden requested explanation from Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier regarding borrowing.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier provided more detail on this; Council can either borrow money or use reserve funds. To borrow, we would need to applying for authorization, which has some timelines and perimeters associated to it. To use reserve funds, this will come from the Capital Reserve Funds, and could have an impact on borrowing in the future. Overall, the municipality is in good shape for borrowing.

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2020/09/08-119

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M., seconded by Sandenn Killoran. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer