



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
December 13, 2021**

Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Belledune Municipal Chambers
Present: Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Deputy Mayor, Ron Bourque
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Lillian Carmichael
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Staff Present: Interim CAO – Scott Ferguson
Assistant Clerk – Nicole Carrier
Staff Absent: Clerk/Treasurer – Brenda Cormier

Mayor, Arseneault called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of “Treaties of Peace Friendship”.

Council read the Oath of Office.

ADOPT AGENDA

M 2021/12/13-221

Councillor Carmichael moved to adopt the agenda with deletions, Deputy Mayor Bourque – Written Reports and CAO Ferguson, – Presentation by Englobe, seconded by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Nil

PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS: Nil

BUSINESS:

Deputy Mayor Bourque

Adding Items to Agenda

Deputy Mayor Bourque talked about motions are only made at public meetings, any item that is added to the Agenda should be clear and concise. Any items brought to council at the last minutes should not be added to the Agenda. Council should have all the information before adding something to the Agenda. Any last-minute items that a Councillor wants to add to Agenda should be a no. Unless it is a unanimous vote of council.

Mayor Arseneault said that should be put in the Procedural By-law.

Councillor Carrier said that it is only in the Procedural By-law.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said Council has to know what the item is and not be a mystery.

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that last Council would always put items on the Agenda last minute. Sometimes it was done so something would get passed if a particular Councillor wasn't in attendance and was against the particular item. Good idea to follow the Procedural By-law.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that if someone wants to add an item for a motion it should be sent before Monday, at 4:00pm with all the information. That way Council is clear and has an idea of the concept.

Mayor Arseneault said that the Procedural By-law must be followed better. If something is an emergency then it will take all of council to approve.

Councillor Carmichael said that if something on the Agenda last minute it should be no. They can put it on the Agenda for the next meeting. It is important for all of council to vote on motions. All council should not have a problem to be present either in person or on zoom.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that items added to the Agenda should not be self-motivated. There should be a level of respect for each other and not put an item on the Agenda for a motion to vote on.

Mayor Arseneault said that starting at the next meeting there will be no items added to the Agenda at the last minute.

Long-Term Strategy for Businesses in Belledune

Deputy Mayor Bourque would like to bring all businesses in Belledune together to start working on long-term planning. Input from all the businesses is needed and he is looking at putting forward a date in January to begin these meetings.

Medallion for Citizens in Belledune

Deputy Mayor Bourque talked about the Medallion for Citizens in Belledune and explained how it got started. There can only be 5 citizens at a time that have this Medallion. So far there have been 4 given out during his term as Mayor. Rayburn Doucet received one for his contributions to this Community and everything he did throughout his career. Raymond Shannon, Lloyd Doucet and Earl Hickey each received a medallion for their contributions, as Veterans of the Korean War, as they were not recognized by their own country. It was an honor for him to pin their medallions on their chest, and it will stick with him forever what a privilege it was to recognize these men. As of now one of the Veterans has passed away, therefore there are 2 places remaining. Deputy Mayor Bourque wanted Council to be aware of this Medallion for Citizens in Belledune.

Councillor Carmichael

George Cuff Webinar

Councillor Carmichael talked about the seminar she attended with George Cuff. It was a very good session. It would have been good to have something like this before running for council. There was a lot of items discussed in regards to roles of Council and staff, etc.

Super Village/ATV Trail

Councillor Carmichael mentioned that she would be attending a meeting with the Super Village Trail Blazers, on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00pm, anyone on council can attend with her. She will provide a report at the next meeting.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell

Monthly Reports –Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that it is important to keep the residents informed on what Council is doing and working on. There should be a monthly report put in the Messenger that goes to everyone in the community to keep the residents informed.

Deputy Mayor Bourque commented that he was always a firm believer that reports are important to keep the residents informed. The Messenger comes out at the beginning of each month. The minutes of the meetings are not approved until the next month, however reports can be written in regards to what has been happening and what is being worked on. Someone has to be willing to write the report. He made reference to Mayor Arseneault who has written several books and who is more than capable to write the report. He is also the spokesperson for the Village and is our representative for Council.

Mayor Arseneault appreciates the kind words, however last term he was asked to write reports but got caught up with meetings, etc. Mayor Arseneault said that Deputy Mayor Bourque or any councillor could write the report; he just does not have the time to meet the deadlines.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said he volunteers to write the report unless someone else would like to do it. He mentioned again how important it was for residents to know what is going on monthly.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell mentioned that council should make sure the information they want to get in there is given to Deputy Mayor Bourque. Also, the CAO should review it first before it goes out. He can send it to all of Council to review and make comments or changes, additions, etc. However, council will have to respond asap so it can be added to the Newsletter. The message will never state names, message to bring to the public is what council is doing and where they want to go. Its information only and not personal comments.

Review of the Newcomers Booklet

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell mentioned that she and the Health & Wellness Coordinator has been working on this Newcomers' Booklet. She handed everyone a copy, please review and make changes, etc. and bring them to Mr. Culligan.

Emergency Preparedness of Residents

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell wants to know how we can prepare our residents for emergencies. Mayor Arseneault said that he and Councillor Carmichael will be meeting with the representative from EMO, Scott Poupart. Council should be prepared and get together with citizens in regards as to what to do in case of certain types of emergencies and what steps should be followed, etc. For example, the train derailment this summer, it could have been really bad if there was a spill of gas or something flammable. Mayor Arseneault said that he is confident that Mr. Poupart can do something for Belledune.

Councillor Carmichael brought up about bad weather, with no power for a week or so. She worked on this when the power was out down the coast.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that from his personal experience during Hurricane Arthur, the EMO presentative at the time, Mr. Ken McKee provided us with a great deal of help. The Legion was set up to give out bottled water for people that were without power during that week. There was also bottled water given out at the municipal building. He said that the EMO personnel are highly trained and know what they are doing.

Both Councillor Carrier and Councillor Carmichael asked how they got the message out about the bottled water being given out because neither one of them knew there was bottled water. Deputy

Mayor Bourque said it was on the radio, word of mouth and the fire department was also distributing the water.

CAO Ferguson

Fire Truck RFP – CAO Ferguson told council that the RFP went out in October and the deadline is January or February.

AJN – Update 3

CAO Ferguson – never heard anything from them, he doesn't know if they are coming or not, there has been no communication for a bit. The two items that they requested have been dealt with, there was a letter sent, however, there has been no communication besides that.

Chairlift for “Circle of Friends”

CAO Ferguson informed council that the Circle of Friends sent a letter to Mr. Culligan for him to try and find funding to get a chairlift. The Circle of Friends is an excellent organization for people that are struggling in the area. They have a lot of people that go there that have issues climbing the stairs. A lot of the patrons are seniors. They are seeking funds from council as they cannot get any funding.

There was a lot of discussion as to moving the Circle of Friends to another location in some of our other buildings that do not have stairs, etc. Councillor Guitard-McDonnell mentioned that the woman in charge said that where they are located now is central for their patrons and would like to stay where they are. The cost of the chairlift is between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

CAO Ferguson also mentioned that the Belledune Seniors Villa is looking for the Village to cover the cost of a new tv for the TV Area. The Village does help them from time to time.

Councillor Carrier also suggested that funding should be looked into to provide both senior homes with internet. CAO Ferguson said he will have Mr. Culligan looked into this.

The 2 boosters that were installed are working great and it was a lot less than anticipated.

Update – CAO Recruitment

CAO Ferguson – a committee was struck to find a replacement for the CAO. The committee consists of Mayor Arseneault, Councillor Carmichael, Councillor Robinson, Denis Caron, Chairperson – BPA, Jack Novack and Mr. Gordon MacDougall. It is moving along, all the ground work has been done and the ad should be going out in the next few weeks.

Chaleur Drive Meeting – Update Council

As council knows there have been many issues with the water on Chaleur Drive for many years. When the water level at the Jacquet River goes down, then there is a problem with the color of the water and the turbidity. There needs to be a new filtration system. A request was put in to use the gas tax money, this will proceed when we hear back that the request was approved. CAO Ferguson will be speaking with Peter Duivenvoorden this week. There should be a meeting with NB Power, Shaw and Chaleur Sawmills in regards to the water. The Smelter owns the pipeline and the Village has first right to refusal to purchase it. To maintain this will be big cost to the Village.

Deputy Mayor Bourque and Councillor McDonnell-Guitard had discussion with the committee and there are a few things mentioned that was not known before. There needs to be an Asset Management

Plan by the end of 2023 in order to get any funding from the gas tax. The CAO is working on this and has been in discussions with the Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that this was a perfect example of tabling a motion, The \$11,000 was not taken out of the funds from the Chaleur Drive to do a study. After meeting with the committee, they learned that there was a risk management study done in 2019. Mr. Gallon did a lot of that when working with NB Power. What is required is where do we need to go for water. The report will be given to each member of council. There will a motion coming back on the table in December. Council can decide what they wish to do with this situation. This information was not on the table for this council.

CAO Ferguson said that the importance of this water situation is big time. The risk management plan helps to prepare for the future.

Speed Reduction – Main St.

CAO Ferguson said that in regards to the speed reduction on Main St., the DTI gave their blessing for 70km from the Superette down. Signs were installed. Councillor Robinson had some issues in regards to the signs. These issues will be rectified.

Signs for Municipal Building

This will be on next week’s meeting Agenda.

Closed Session: 6:30pm – CAO Hiring Committee Report

- Local Governance Act – Section 68 (j)

Presentation to Administrative Assistant/Assist Clerk Nicole Carrier for her 25 years of service to the Village of Belledune as of December 6, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

M 2021/12/13-222

Councillor Carmichael moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm, seconded by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk

Mayor

Assistant Clerk