



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
June 14, 2021**

Electronic Live streamed on Belledune YouTube

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers via Electronic Live streamed on Belledune YouTube
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Absent: Councillor, Ron Bourque
Staff Present: Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier
Staff Absent: CAO, Landon Lee

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor, Arseneault called the meeting to Order.

Adopt Agenda

M 2021/06/14-1

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes: Add under Business - Council, Councillor, Guitard- McDonnell - Council Mailboxes, under Councillor, Carmichael - Nature Group Tour June 5, 2021 and Mayor, Arseneault will speak to Councillor, Bourque's items, seconded by Kristie Carrier. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Business

Council

Mayor, Arseneault

- Council Members Discussion Protocols at Public Meetings - Procedural By-law

This discussion would center around the best way to have meaningful, and respectful, and productive discussions of agenda items at our public meetings.

Mayor, Arseneault commenced by discussing Council meeting proceeding and how he will be conducting the meeting. Each Council should review the Procedural By-law, but as well he noted this By-law will need to be reviewed soon as it needs to be updated.

- Summer Student Program

Mayor, Arseneault noted that the program is coming along very well and from the progress report we are almost where we want to be with having post secondary and high school graduated employed.

Council request some general clarification on how the Student Subsidy Program works.

- Jacquet River School Crosswalk - Update

Mayor, Arseneault advised that the previous Council had approved to have a study conducted for Route #134 to address issues and the crosswalk was to be part of that study. He will check with CAO, Lee to share with Council where we are on the study.

Council members asked questions on the type of crosswalk it would be, would there be caution lights, line on the pave, require a crossing guard, etc. The reduction in speed in the school zone has been very helpful and the presence of the RCMP will provide additional safety. Council would like to know the time-line on this issue. Their inquiry will go to CAO, Lee.

- Events Committee Update - Graduation Ceremonies

Councillor, Carmichael reported on the Events Committee plans for the graduate banners again this year. The Committee Chair-person is having a difficult time getting responses from the graduates for the banner photos, etc.

Council had various questions regarding this event – the wooden frames for banners – maybe look at more permanent structures. Would also like the banner to stay up longer than last year – could be there until September.

Mayor, Arseneault said he will have CAO, Lee to request the Chair-person to send out invite to Council for this event. He also inquired how the Committee prefers to receive communication.

Clerk/Treasurer, advise the Committee has a spot for an elected representative, this will have to be reappointed by this Council, and they also have a staff member who is currently their Recreation / Wellness Coordinator. Questions could be submitted through him to the Committee.

Councillor, Carmichael also reported that the Committee is in the planning stages for Canada Day Parade (cars and floats) and no gathering at Campground, there is also plans for BBQ, Music, Beer Gardens and possibly Fireworks in August and in September an Amusement Park with Games. It is all in the planning stages with a lot of discussion with a lot depending on Covid.

- Individual Portfolios for Council Members

Mayor, Arseneault provided Council members with a general idea in relation to the e-mail he sent regarding portfolios. There are two-way Council can operate; they can deal with all things as a whole Council or they could work with individual portfolios as he identified in his e-mail.

In a discussion he had with CAO, Lee, he expressed concerns that Council members would be going directly to staff. This was clarified that Council go to CAO, Lee and CAO, Lee will go through staff.

Mayor, Arseneault see this as a way of working smarter not harder. There will be no arbitrary decisions, information will get out quicker and we will work together to get things done. He assigned portfolios that

he though each Council member would be comfortable with and has schedule June 15, 2021 as the starting date.

Council members expressed various opinions including feeling it is a great idea to concerns that the role of Council and Staff are being mixed.

Mayor, Arseneault feels this will provide better communication between Council as well as with the public. He has put the concept out this evening to give Council members some time to think about, but he will be bringing it forward to the next Council meeting for some sort of consensus.

- Attainment of Files Information by Council Members

Mayor, Arseneault has discussion with CAO, Lee on how this will be done.

CAO, Lee said he will be organizing this through the Orientation session

Council members acknowledged that there are Orientation sessions being hosted by the province but they are anxious to have the in-house Orientation so they have information relevant of Belledune. There was agreement, that this needs to be organized soon.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier said her role normally for Orientation would be more in relation to logistics, such as remunerations, agenda preparation, etc. and briefing for on-going files will fall under CAO, Lee to update Council.

Councillor, Bourque

Mayor, Arseneault noted that in the absence of Councillor, Bourque he will briefly present his items

- Building Renovations - Financial Information

Mayor, Arseneault noted the topic of the cost for renovation of the building has been discussed many times. The question is where we are in terms of the costs of the building now and where we thought we would be. He will not assume to know the type of questions Councillor; Bourque would want to ask.

Council members are in agreement that more information is wanted, as well a previous Council member noted that all the information is here and the fact that sometimes when renovating an existing building problem arise that could not be foreseen.

- Belledune Purchases Local Businesses

Council members discussed the importance of buying local and as a Council we should do what we can do to improve that. Looking into the types of things we need to purchase, have communication with local business to see if they can supply and can it be supplies at comparable prices.

- Broadband Project

Mayor, Arseneault advised that he knows the internet services are not where they should be here as well at other places. This project was one started by the previous Council and carried over to this one. His question is, does this project work for the Village when can the figures be brought to the public. Is this the project proposal that works.

Council members are interested in getting the information on this file, the feasibility of this project, other alternatives such as Starlink or other providers and as well as seeking out other funding sources such as the provincial government.

- **AJN Project**

Mayor, Arseneault advised Council they should wait until they get the information on this file. CAO, Lee will provide this information to Council

Council members noted they are anxious to get more information on the file, find out what it is about and what the status is at this time.

- **ATV Trail & Meeting with Jacques Ouellette**

Mayor, Arseneault noted this is a long running file and a meeting is needed with Jacques Ouellette to bring Council up to date where the project is and what has been done to date. There is a lot of support for this in the community and it could be good for tourism as well as for local businesses.

Council members agree this would be important to the community and would like to know what is holding it up and is there anything Council needs to do to help move this along.

Councillor, Carmichael said she had the opportunity recently to talk with Mr. Ouellette and the trail is established as far as the Salmon Barrier; what is definitely needed now is the bridge across the Jacquet river to get to the snow mobile club and beyond.

Councillor, Carrier

- **Housing**

Councillor, Carrier advised that Melissa Harvey works with Government on housing and in talking with her, she advised that there is housing subsidy program available. She would like to see a meeting arranged for Melissa to come meet Council and discuss these programs.

Council members acknowledges that housing is an issue in the community, particularly affordable housing.

- **Work Operating System (Work OS)**

Councillor, Carrier said she would like to see the Monday.com program implemented for the municipality. She uses it at her place of work and it is a great program to keep everyone informed and accountable. Everyone can have access to it, council members, staff, employees.

Council members feel it is interesting, but would like more information, and a review with CAO, Lee to get his comments on the system.

Councillor, Carrier said once Council sees a presentation, it should appease their apprehension.

- **General Discussion**

Councillor, Carrier inquired why the building on the municipal side is locked up and cannot be accessed by other users in the building, etc. She does not understand why that is. As well, why are the shower not able to be used.

Councillor, Carrier also inquired why there are no cleaning services since May 31 – the washrooms used by her employees and the Power Club members have not been cleaned since then. According to Covid-19 rules, they are supposed to be cleaned twice a day. She knows the contract has run out for the cleaners, but they should have been kept until the job went out.

Councillor, Robinson said that this has to be addressed right away. It was not like it was a surprise the end of contract date was known.

Council member noted the municipal side is most likely not accessible for security reasons and as for the showers that is due to Covid-19 regulation requiring not having them open for general use at this time.

Mayor, Arseneault advised Council that their inquires about the building, including the cleaning will be brought forward to CAO, Lee.

Councillor, Carmichael

- Committee & Boards & Appointed Members

Councillor, Carmichael noted that there are several positions vacant and need to be filled. As well, the remuneration procedure is not consistent and needs to be addressed.

Council members noted the list is large, but it needs to be reviewed soon and decisions made for appointment as well and remuneration procedures addressed.

- VIA Rail - Update from CAO, Lee

Councillor, Carmichael noted the importance of the rail service to our area as well as there being no shelter for those people using the service. Currently, due to Covid-19 there has been no train service, but hopefully that will start up soon. CAO, Lee has some information on this. VIA should be contacted again to see if a shelter can be put there.

Council members agree that this is an important transportation service.

Mayor, Arseneault noted that other municipalities could be contacted for guidance on how they were able to do this.

Councillor, Carmichael advised that she attended a tour with the Nature Group back to Antinouri Lake. It was a very interesting excursion.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell

- Filling the co-chair position on the Belledune Events Committee

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell said that she is resigning as Co-Chair so we should put a call out to see who is interested.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier advised a Council member will have to be appointed to the Committee and in addition a citizen too.

Council members noted the members are appointed for four (4) years in the By-law, that should be changed to have staggered years so not all members are leaving at the same time.

Mayor, Arseneault noted there are two (2) issues - filling the position of Co-chair and the process for doing that and the second issue is in relation to Councillor, Robinson's recommendation; to improve the By-law.

- How to communicate to all residents in the Village of Belledune

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell noted we have to have a better way of communicating to residents. We need to have communication systems that get to all the citizens. Facebook is not enough, there needs to be a variety of way to get communication to all.

Council members concur and suggested that using the Newsletter as well to communicate by having a Report each month in there would be one way, a Mayor's monthly report, or each member of Council have a Council member Facebook page and maybe some sort of mailbox system at the municipal office so each Council member can be messaged and they are able to retrieve.

Mayor, Arseneault noted that there are a lot of good ideas, the important thing is to come up with a way of communicating to the citizens that works. He hopes that once the meetings are open to the public again, Council will continue to records the meeting and live stream, as they do now.

Councillor, Adams Robinson

- Student Subsidy Program

Councillor, Robinson noted that the Student Subsidy Program was addressed earlier in the meeting.

- Summer Activity Program

Councillor, Robinson was wondering how the program works. There appears to only be 12 spots available, on a first come first serve registration basis. So, the first 12 who register they are there for the full program, unless they will be missing a day, then someone can have that spot while they are away. As well, the program seems to run for ½ days only and she is wondering why there is not a morning program of one age group and an afternoon program for a different age group. She finds the age gap from 5-12 a big age difference for the program.

Council members agree that the program could be expanded to accommodate as many kids as possible. They also may be some funding programs that could help with the program.

Mayor, Arseneault said, if there is no objection from Council members, he will speak with the Recreation /Wellness Coordinator, Darrell Culligan tomorrow.

- Jacquet River Campground – beach access for the general public

Councillor, Robinson is wonder why the beach is not accessible to the public as it is one of the few places, if not the only one, that the public can get to the beach.

Council members discussed in general the limited public beach access in the community –the Campground, Roherty Point and the Wharf Road are a few available.

Mayor, Arseneault said this is a complaint he hears often and maybe it was not given enough attention previously. This should be looked into further to see what can be done. Perhaps someone could work this into their portfolio. It is an issue to be kept alive.

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2021/06/14-2

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourned at 9:17 P.M., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer

Meeting streaming on Village of Belledune You Tube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtyqqkD3kz2txKF0HYKAFw>