



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
April 3, 2023**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Deputy Mayor, Lilliane Carmichael (Attend Remotely)
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque
CAO, Landon Lee
Staff Present: Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier
Administrative Assistant, Nicole Carrier

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor Arseneault called meeting to order and welcomed public.

- Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"

Mayor, Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship".

- Reaffirm Oath of Office

Council reaffirmed the Oath of Office

Adopt Agenda

M 2023/04/03-78

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Presented OR as Amended with changes, seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations

- Northern NB Airport Authority - Bathurst
 - Jamie Degrace

Mr. Degrace presented information about the Northern NB Airport Authority, who they are, how they operate and the state of the operation since Covid. They are a small airport operator, non-for-profit and due to the pandemic, they are now facing financial and operational challenges. Prior to pandemic they

had an Operating Capital Reserve of \$1.2 million. They received a one-time federal assistance to help them sustain throughout the term of the pandemic. They are now only offering limited services, not meeting the needs of the clients and the area and it is not acceptable as is. Their only air carrier is Air Canada and Air Canada's focus is on the larger centers and this is hurting smaller regional airports. They are talking with other carrier, but there is also the issue of pilot shortages. The airport continued to maintain the air ambulance service during the pandemic. The cost of operations per day is \$5,500. In the past the average passenger volume was 42,000-43,000, now it is 16,000. The amounts of customers are the same, however due to the limited services the majority of Air Canada travellers are going to other airports.

Between 2013-2016 the airport was offering 3 flights per day. Between 2016-2019 they completed upgrades to the runway. Geographically, they cover 32% of the province and have limited access to services. The pandemic basically cut them off from the world.

The financial situation is as follows, there is \$26,000 in the bank, there is a \$60,000 line of credit and the capital reserves had transfers of \$350,000 reducing that fund. It is projected to take about 12-18 months to solve the pilot issue and they have enough funds to operate to end of May middle of June. They need funds from the other levels of government and in order to get federal funding they need to show some regional support, financially. There are looking at \$100,000 collectively, from the region including the Acadian Peninsula. He will be presenting to the Regional Service Commission, shortly and other municipalities this week and next.

He is asking Belledune if they would consider a \$10,000 contribution over a 2-year period. They are also asking for an additional loan from CBDC of \$200,000, but this is conditional on getting federal and provincial funds. This is to help them get past this unrepresented year.

Councillor, Carrier asked if they have the equipment to allow landing flights during snow and fog. She noted that Charlo has this equipment. She mentioned an incident in 2010 were a resident died because the plane could not land. She asked about potential for flights leaving Halifax and picking up passengers in Bathurst.

Mr. Degrace noted that the pilots make the decisions on landing if they determine unsafe. However, the airport authority is looking to add infrastructure, but currently the capital reserve funds are being used for operations. He said they are in discussion with Charlo as a secondary site. As well, the issue of pilot shortages is taking them away to larger carriers. The airport authority is in constant discussion all the time to find ways to better serve the area and clients. To link between Halifax and Toronto, via Bathurst would mean addition fees are added – that is why direct routes are the preference.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell clarified that there is only one air carrier – Air Canada. She also, clarified that the \$10,000 was over a 2-year period.

Mr. Degrace said yes and noted Atlantic Canada is lagging behind in air carriers. He confirmed the \$10,000 is over 2-years and he understands the municipal budgets are already in place. This for the airport authority is a difficult time and this would not be an ongoing request. It is to help them leverage funds from the other levels of government.

This completed Mr. Degrace's presentation.

Mayor, Arseneault noted that perhaps CAO, Lee will get in touch and have some further discussion.

Business

Council

Councillor, Bourque

- NB Power -Community Liaison Committee Report

Councillor, Bourque presented his written report and a copy is on file. He noted that any time he will be making a report to Council in the future, it will be a written report.

- Clarification on Expense - Discussion

Fire Dept Training, Level 1– Motivation

Councillor, Bourque discussed the Fire Department and when firefighters are taking their Level 1 training, it takes a tremendous number of hours to achieve Level 1. He noted that Belledune Dept. offered a course a couple of weeks ago – 5 signed up and 3 showed up. This was on a weekend and required 16 hours of the firefighter’s time. There are many more hours required to complete the training. He feels that the firefighters need to be motivated and he is proposing they get \$100 for a full day and \$50 for ½ day, and he will be bringing this forward as a motion at the Regular Meeting. He noted that it will have to be determined where the money for this is to come from and he does not want it to come from the Fire Dept. budget it needs to come out of Council budget. He is proposing that for example there is \$265,000 for Roherty Road and Council could take \$5,000 from that to pay for this training motivation. He discussed the liabilities associated with the Fire Dept. and we are fortunate to have no issues at this moment in time. He referenced where there was a liability suit in the past and Belledune paid that. He said it could be as simple as a form the CAO could sign, he does not want the firefighters bogged down in paper work

Councillor, Carrier stated that “do they not already get paid for training.

Administrative Assistant, Nicole Carrier confirmed it is in their policies.

Councillor, Carrier asked if Councillor, Bourque is suggesting an additional \$100 on top of the \$30.

Councillor, Bourque said this is different from there regular Wednesday trainings/meetings. He is suggesting the \$100 a day for the firefighters Level 1 training. It will take many, many sessions to complete and this would motivate them to take it. Why would anyone want to take it?

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell inquired if the Level 1 training has nothing to do with their Wednesday training and this one would be done over several weekends.

Councillor, Bourque said it could take months or years and they need to be motivated. The training may be every couple of months and may not even be in Belledune.

Councillor, Carrier noted to Councillor, Bourque that congratulations should be extended to Ryan for jointing the Fire Dept.

Council Per Diem

Councillor, Bourque said his second item is in regards to the discussion he had regarding per diem payment for attending meetings – Most Beautiful Bays in the World. This was held on a Saturday evening and he submitted his expense for this and Council turned down. He noted that Council attend meeting they are not paid for, examples NB Power during the day in Belledune. He noted that a couple of Council members are being paid for meetings they attend. He feels, that when Council submits a legitimate expense they should be paid. He is not suggesting that Council get a raise. He noted that he is pretty sure Belledune is one of the lowest paid Councils in New Brunswick.

He advised he will be bringing this back to the table, and noted that 1-2 Council Members are paid for attending meeting and other Councillors are not. He will be making a recommendation that an expense sheet be submitted to the CAO and if he signs off on the expense then it should be paid.

Deputy Mayor, Carmichael said that Council needs to sit down and decide on what committees should be paid and which one not.

Councillor, Carrier inquired who is getting paid for going to meetings.

Councillor, Bourque noted that when she attended the CRSC training she was paid.

Councillor, Carrier clarified the CRSC paid, not Belledune. So, the Chaleur Most Beautiful Bay should pay for him attending that meeting.

Mayor, Arseneault stated that the By-law & Policies need to be looked at down the road, as Councillor, Carmichael suggested. It is not uncommon to review this By-law to see what needs to be worked on. It should be done sooner rather than later. Take a look one more time and make changes to make it better.

Councillor, Carrier stated we wasted enough money. And she clarified she was only paid by CRSC for training and by Belledune for attending the UMN Conference and mileage for attending the DRHS Grad as Belledune representative.

Deputy Mayor, Carmichael

- Community Garden - Discussion

Deputy Mayor, Carmichael said she reached out to citizen but was unable to reach them, regarding Community Garden. She would like to have discussion with CAO and Darrell on this, and if not for this year, then next. She would like to see what interest is out there.

Councillor, Carrier referenced the Community in Bloom program and that they should look into partnering with the school and students.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell said she thinks it is a great idea. Other communities have and we should reach out to them to see how they run theirs. Youth working with others in the community; she is all for it.

Administration

CAO, Landon Lee

- ATAPAQQ Discussion

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for renewable energy infrastructure project

CAO, Lee noted that Atapaqq made a presentation to Council, with the exception of Councillor, Carrier. He is arranging for another session for Councillor, Carrier and if others want to join, let him know. The time-line is aggressive for the MOU and would require it to be on the April Regular Meeting agenda for motion. If there are any additional directive for staff, please let us know.

- Turgeon Rd Traffic By-law Amendment

CAO, Lee said that the previous Council approved and the duration of the By-law amendment was for 36 months. The AV Group is requesting once again for the amendment to be put in place. He is recommending that they make a presentation to Council either virtually or in person and he will keep Council updated. The Council need to hold the AT Group to meet the DTI standards for the road maintenance and repairs. We can leave the amendment as is but add conditions to the Motion. This will be on the April Meeting agenda.

Councillor, Bourque asked how much had AV Group contributed to the road.

CAO, Lee said it was AV Group responsibility to maintain the road, not DTI.

- Off-Road Vehicle By-law

CAO, Lee said the By-law had some changes made to it after it was noted a few more businesses could benefit from extending the use of the roads by ATVers. Jacques Ouellette revised the By-law and included those areas and revised the Schedule A. After the 1st and 2nd reading and vetting by Dept. of Justice and Public Safety, it will come back to Council.

Councillor, Bourque asked if Councillor, Robinson and Councillor, Carrier would like to share their private discussion.

Councillor, Carrier was wondering with the overlap of snow mobile trail, and the winter ski-doo club has trail, could the By-law be changed to have ATVers access Quinn Road via the Main Rd.

CAO, Lee noted the revised By-law covers that.

Councillor, Carrier said maybe contact the ski-doo club and the ATVers and Ski-doo Club can share Lawlor Rd.

CAO, Lee said this does not impact Jacques Ouellette's time line, it will be on the April Regular Meeting agenda. He will contact Councillor, Carrier and talk about that.

- Administrative Updates

Joint Health & Safety Committee

CAO, Lee said the Joint Health & Safety Committee should be in place in the next couple of weeks. He will rebuild it and sent it off, with target date for next week.

EMO Plan development

CAO, Lee discussed the EMO Plan development. Scott Poupart is now on leave for 1 month. Ken McGee has agreed to step in and he has a meeting set up with him for Wednesday. He is also taking with him the Regional Co-ordinator from the Peninsula. In discussion with Scott Poupart, it was noted because of the industry, it will be a rigorous process. We can look at bringing in a 3rd party to help through the process.

Public Works Labourer Position

CAO, Lee advised he will be setting up interviews, half this week and the end of next week. He was not aware how short of staff public works is and may potentially look to fill more than one position. It would be cost effective to bring in 2 labourers. The time line is to have evaluations done by end of next week.

Strategic Plan

CAO, Lee noted he is not currently on the AMANB Network, but should be by next week. He would like to reach out to get a list of candidates he would like to engage. Time line, it would be June or July of this year. He said he has information for the Port of Belledune Strategic Plan and Belledune should be cognitive of theirs. He suggests going through that, share with Council and sink up with NB Power as well to align with theirs. There is a lot on the go now.

Mayor, Arseneault noted that Councillor, Bourque can through his Liaison Report update on the generation station and the alternatives they are looking at.

Councillor, Bourque noted he would prefer the information come from NB Power, what they want public at this point. The approach he will take with his reports; he will present to NB Power before going public. This is not to keep secrets, but for the purpose of not jeopardizing conversations, etc. they may be having.

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2023/04/03-79

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Assistant Clerk/Treasurer