



Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
February 1, 2021
Electronic Live Streamed on Belledune YouTube

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Joe Noel
Councillor, Paul Arseneault
Present: Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Deputy Mayor, Tracy Culligan
Councillor, Nick Duivenvoorden
Absent: Councillor, Sandenn Killoran
Staff Present: CAO, Landon Lee
Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor Noel called meeting to order.

Adopt Agenda

M 2021/02/01-12

Nick Duivenvoorden that the Agenda be Adopted as Presented, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael.
MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Business

Council

Mayor, Noel

- Policing Update

Mayor, Noel advised that the province has completed the policing study. The report is now being translated and he expects to have it next week. He and CAO, Lee had a conference call last Tuesday with Public Safety and there is another one scheduled for a week from tomorrow. As soon as he receives the report, he will get it out to Council. From the discussion on the conference call, it appears that Public Safety is looking at the CRSC policing proposal. He will get that report.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden inquired who had completed the RSC study.

Mayor, Noel advised it was Andrew Amos of Catalyst Consulting.

Councillor, Arseneault

- Procurement Policy

Councillor, Arseneault said that he had touched on in December, that as a Council and with the time remaining, there should be a review of some of the policies. If not, set the table for the new Council. Since the beginning he felt the procurement policy was important, if not the most important policy of the Council. Since 2017 he and CAO, Lee had numerous conversations on the policy and how it was setup. From a conversation they had in December, he went back, removed himself from his own bias and reread the policy. He now feels the wording of the procurement policy was very good. As CAO, Lee advised him, anything they wanted to do can do from inside this policy. He now feels there is no real need to change the policy, there is not anything we cannot do from within the framework of this policy.

CAO, Lee advised Council that the provincial Act has been changed last year and the threshold amounts allowed have been increased substantially. He does not have the exact information with him, but will gather it and get it out to Council.

He also would recommend that the policies be setup so as they are revisited each year regardless, we should go through the process.

Councillor, Arseneault also wanted to note that when you are not on Council at the time the policies are written, then you don't have the knowledge or information to see where they are coming from and the different perspectives.

Mayor, Noel said he is a firm believer in policies and as well they have to be followed. Every two years, at least, there should be a review. Every policy we have should have a two-year review period.

- Wharves

Councillor, Arseneault advised that on two occasions, on recently and one in the past, the safety of the Jacquet River wharf was brought to his attention. Fishing from the rock is dangerous and they were wondering if they could be removed. He will leave this issue for administration to look into. He knows there are a lot of factors with property issues, etc. He will leave it with CAO, Lee to get in touch with the gentlemen who recently called about this.

However, this is a smaller issue within a larger one. The larger issue being investment into the wharfs. In the past substantial investment was made at Roherty Point, a beautiful job and tourist go there. He would like to see Council (probably next one) to look at what investments can be made at these wharves. At the Jacquet River wharf there is a serious issue there; he would like to see a collaborative issue of some sort. He would like to see a committee happen with Council members and others who have an interest and expertise, including administration to see if there are any sensible, workable investments that could be made to both these areas.

Mayor, Noel advised the Jacquet River wharf belongs to Department of Fisheries & Oceans. The property around Roherty Point the municipality owns. There was a committee in the past for Jacquet River wharf, established by Department of Fisheries & Oceans; they placed the rocks and cement blocks there to stop erosion. Calling Department of Fisheries & Oceans would be a good place to start. It does have potential and should have a committee.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden referenced when Andy Flanagan was working on economic development, he had a significant project for Durham Harbour. Fisheries & Oceans is usually reluctant in partnering of anything positive. We talk about Belledune being a coastal community, but no permanent structure only temporary is questionable. A launch pad for pleasure craft would be good; he could not justify a wharf for fishermen. The temporary launch pad is unattractive and a bit of an embarrassment to our community. He thinks this presentation is extremely timely, but a little late for this Council. He is confident we are a growing community again and this would make us attractive; being able to launch in Belledune versus docking at Bathurst or Dalhousie.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan she has been an advocate for some time regarding wharf in Belledune. We are the only municipality along the Bay that does not have a permanent wharf. The proposal referenced by Councillor, Duivenvoorden for Jacquet River was more a pedestrian use, peddle boats, etc. Culligan or Roherty area would be better option, there is potential there. A committee launched to look at it would be good.

Councillor, Carmichael said she has always been supportive of the wharf and had brought the subject up several times over the past few years. She even went to Caraquet and took pictures. A floating wharf was discussed, but that is not for here. She is in agreement at looking for something at Culligan. A committee is a good idea, whether on Council or not, she would be interested in being a member of that committee.

- **Broadband**

Councillor, Arseneault said he added this to the agenda so we could add some content to the discussion from the December meeting. Whether this is or is not a good proposal for Belledune, he is not sure the content is there. It is hard to make an informed decision when not all the information is there. If you ask someone if they want better faster internet, of course they are going to say yes. Content is important, he does not think the cost of the project is in the public domain yet. The public does not know and he thinks it is important to know that figure. When Councillor, Duivenvoorden asked him in December by he voted no, he cannot explain. His first question; is the price tag on this in the public domain, if yes, where is it and if not, why not.

CAO, Lee advised that content is not there yet, they are building that now. ROCK is trying to accumulate data to build a business case. Council will get to review that prior to application being sent. As for overall project number, he is not sure if that is in public domain yet. When the data is accumulated that will be put back to Council. The project is in study phase and he is not sure if the number has been put out there yet.

Councillor, Arseneault said the talk was about Council voting on this final in February. He does not know how to vote without the information or numbers.

Councillor, Carmichael said she agrees with Councillor, Arseneault's statements. We don't know what government is going to give or what the Village is going to give to the project. Is all the information going to go to the public before? We have got to make sure we are going to come ahead and make money. Are people going to be interested when they see all the money. As well, money will only be brought into the project after construction is done.

CAO, Lee said that as a point of clarity, that this will not go to vote in February. The only decision will be to go for funding. The application will have cost numbers in there, he will try to get some documentation out to Council.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted there is a lot of uncertainty a lot of things to sort out, it is never too late to back out prior to getting to the final step.

CAO, Lee said administration is going through a process of vetting information and working with legal. There will be quite a bit of information coming out in the next weeks.

Councillor, Arseneault noted that administration has done real good job in vetting. The e-mail information shows the questions being asked, they know exactly what is at stake here. He did send out a request to Nova asking for excel or for some numerical data to help him understand better and show him the impact on some of the goals we want to achieve. The issue is not whether it is necessary but does the risk equal the reward. If he is satisfied it does, he will vote yes – if not it will be, no.

Administration

CAO, Lee

- Arena Lease Update

CAO, Lee advised Council he is working on the arena lease proposal. The lease agreement will be with individuals not the group. He has discussed with legal and insurance and they have no issues. He will be upping the Village insurance policy to allow for this lease, and the group of people involved will reimburse those costs. So, the dollars will increase a bit to cover this. There will be presentation from the group by next week.

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2021/02/01-13

**Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M., seconded by Tracy Culligan.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer