



**Village of Belledune
Regular Council Meeting
July 20, 2020**

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: REMOTE – Electronic Live streamed on Village of Belledune YouTube Channel at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQj2S_LWcw4

Present: Mayor, Joe Noel
Councillor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Deputy Mayor, Tracy Culligan
Councillor, Nick Duivenvoorden
Councillor, Sandenn Killoran

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

Call to Order & Welcome

- Moment of Reflection

Mayor, Noel called the meeting to Order.

- Moment of Reflection

Mayor, Noel asked for a moment of silence in memory of: Velma Driscoll & Andrew Roy of Belledune, Antionette Godin of Lorne and Blanch Degrichie of Gravelhill.

Adopt Agenda

M 2020/07/20-96

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the Agenda be Adopted Amended with changes; Delete Councillor Arseneault's item - Contracts - Snow/Plow Service, Private Property, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Adoption of Minutes

M 2020/07/20-97

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Minutes of the Committee of Whole Council Meeting of June 1, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2020 be adopted as presented, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Business Arising from Minutes Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Statements by Member of Council

Councillor, Duivenvoorden

- Statement: Re - Maritime Iron, N.B. Power, Transition Committee

Councillor, Duivenvoorden spoke on his disappointment regarding the cancellation of the Maritime Iron project by NB Power. He felt they had a good sound proposal, did good public relations work and would have done much for the economic of the north. Had it happened it would have extended Belledune NB Power beyond 2030. They have filed their EIA, and while it would have increased carbon emissions, it would have reduced them globally. Their offer to then buy NB Power plant in Belledune, was outright denied. There has been nothing said from the public regarding this. Where is the Transition Committee on this one, this should have been something they got involved in. It makes him wonder if this was in the south of the province, would it have been different. We need to do better.

Mayor, Noel advised that the Transition Committee Report will be out soon and they are working on getting things moving as well.

Councillor, Culligan inquired about where is Donald Arseneault, he was hired by Belledune – is there anything from him.

CAO, Lee said he will circle back with him – things went by the wayside during Covid.

Councillor, Killoran said he been in communication with Donald Arseneault in reference to the \$400,000 backstop on Belledune property tax loss, to see what he can do. Likely not anything given the financial situation of the province.

In reference to Economic Development and Maritime Iron, they have the license to the Korean technology, but not the money to proceed. They need to raise \$1.5 billion to build the plant.

Councillor, Killoran also said he has seen the Transition Final Report already and he will let it speak for itself when it comes out.

Councillor, Killoran

- Budget Proceedings
 - Commence the first week of August and a Zero-Based Budgeting approach is undertaken

Councillor, Killoran said he will be making a recommendation to Council regarding the Budget Proceedings. Seen as the municipality will be losing the money from the Glencore closure discussion with a contact he has in Fredericton, he was advised that NB Power will be applying for a reduction in assessment due to the operations. We could be looking at a short fall of \$1 Million to make up in the 2021 Budget.

He is recommending to start the budget from scratch (zero-based), do line by line and every expenditure has to be justified, department by department. This would be a long hard process, so we would need to start in August and most likely have numerous meetings. It will be a lot of hard work. He noted that the

budget is usually spoon fed and he is hoping this is not the case this year. The Budget has never been prepared using Zero-Based Budgeting process.

Mayor, Noel said that the information from the province shows the property tax revenue lost for 2021 from the Glencore closure will be more like \$308,000 and there is nothing other than that to reduce our taxes in place. The system in place that works and there are expenditures that are non-discretionary and have to be in the Budget. He noted that the Budget is audited twice, once by the province and again by Auditors. There are checks and balances in place. There are places that could be looked at, but not the full Budget.

Councillor, Carmichael agrees with Mayor, Noel. It is late in the game to start a Zero-based Budget. She as Financial Committee Chair intends to start the Budget in September, there are people on vacation leave in August, so September would be best. The \$1 Million amount noted, is far from the \$300,000. She has never heard anything about NB Power on reduced assessment.

Councillor, Arseneault said he has been hearing over the last couple of months the figure of \$300,000 and \$1 Million. These numbers are needed sooner than later. Trying to make up \$300,000 would be much easier than \$1 Million.

CAO, Lee said he has never gone through the process of a Zero-Based Budget and inquired how it would work if we go through and then need to go back. For example, if the Rec/Wellness submitted a plan of what they are going to do, are we able to go back?

Councillor, Killoran said we would end up with some amount. We are not a business and we need to end up with a balanced budget. The process will allow to go through entire process, and identify the purchases and purchasing processes and we may find there is a lot of things we don't need. As well do we want to hold on to all employees. If the Village does not want to go through a Zero-Based Budget process, and it seems that is the case, then good luck with that.

Councillor, Arseneault noted that last year very much more detailed. Assuming the amount is \$1 Million, that would mean start chopping things, we are not there if the amount is \$300,000.

Councillor, Killoran said the process of justifying can be done through different scenarios - \$300,000 - \$400,000. He noted that as Glencore decommissions there will be more reductions in the future, could be potentially ¾ of a million dollars. Zero-Based budget allows us to work with that, it is just the matter of drawing a line on a grid.

Councillor, Carmichael said that it is late to start this type of Budget process, and noted that the Budget has to be in even earlier this year.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier verified that with the pending amendment to the legislation, if passed, the Budget is due in by November 15th.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted this is a lot to think about, and personally may be a good idea; evaluating everything we do, relating expenditure to everything we do. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves in the same situation as Dalhousie – everything dependent on the mill. We have already lost Glencore and we are going to lose NB Power at some point. We have always delivered all kind of services and charge nothing or very little. Not sure, we as a Council can do this, we

may need an outside person. The approach has to be very much different that we have been doing it. This would be a detailed exercise and not for him as he is not a detailed orientated person. Wonder how the non-discretionary items are to be addressed on a Zero-Based Budget approach.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan said there is nothing wrong with looking at all numbers from scratch, but time is an issue. Maybe, we could get the Budget done and start working on immediately afterwards. Time is not the only issue, but there is the learning how to do the budget this way, as well. She trusts in our Budget and Clerk/Treasurer's numbers she gives us. Always received the information requested.

Councillor, Killoran thank all for participating in the discussion and there is about 3.5 months to do the Budget if we start in August and meet each week. Moncton does this, they set terms and review everything. There is due diligence in doing a Zero-Based Budget. For example, we could have someone like Kents deliver, save mileage, maybe save a few thousand dollars, could mean keeping someone employed for the summer.

Councillor, Arseneault for \$1 Million loss and only have \$300,000, could this be a problem. Going to be very difficult and tough.

Mayor, Noel noted it is important that all Council set around the table and determining where do we want to go with this and how do we want to do. All Council need to be setting around the table and having their input. He thinks we can make this work as a unified group.

- Councillor Conflict of Interest During Budget Process

Councillor, Killoran recognized that Councillor, Carmichael has been on the Budget Committee for a long time and the Finance Committee for 2-3 years and had did a good job and provides valuable input. Unfortunately, with potentially a large amount to be cut from Budget, that could mean cuts to staff. Councillor, Carmichael will have a Conflict of Interest because her husband works at the Salmon Barrier. Stepping out only works if we cut the Salmon Barrier, however if we cut the Arena workers, then they could sue for wrongful dismissal because Councillor, Carmichael participated in the Budget Process. A perceived conflict is as bad as a real conflict. Do not like the situation of the Village in this case.

Mayor, Noel noted that no other Councillor can declare another Councillor in Conflict. Section 48 of the Act, says that all Council has to be involved in this.

Councillor, Killoran said if she participates in the Budget process, he will be contacting the Ombudsman.

Councillor, Carmichael said she will not be stepping down as the Finance Committee Chair. She will excuse herself from the Salmon Barrier discussion as has always did that before and he knows that. She always checks with the Mayor if she is in doubt. Doing the Budget and participating this year is no different that any other year. She realizes the Salmon Barrier is a Conflict and does not over step her boundary.

Councillor, Killoran said he does not mean to cause animosity, but if we need to cut \$300,000, it will not be a little bit here or there. There is going to be a pretty good legal case.

- **Airport Closure Statement of Support**

Councillor, Killoran discussed Air Canada decision to close the Bathurst flights to Montreal, not just suspended, but completely removed. He does not understand why there is not more outrage. He is doubly angry not only about Air Port shutting down, but no one saying a thing about it. Not everyone understands the importance of the Airport to the economy of the region. People are having to drive three (3) hours to Moncton, pretty soon they will just decide to move out of the region.

He would like the Mayor and he, or the Mayor alone to draft a letter to be sent out to the NB Air Authority letting them know that Belledune supports them in their efforts to get flights from Bathurst again.

Mayor, Noel agrees 100% and he will get a letter prepared and sent off.

Councillor, Culligan noted that she had been missed for comments on the Budget and Conflict of Interest discussion. Yes, potentially there could be \$300,000 less in taxes. She is hearing that that may mean either cuts in staff or services, and the Salmon Barrier has been thrown out there as potential cut, she wants to note that is not on her agenda. There is a lot that can be done to cut. That will mean a lot of work and having all members. She would like to find out what kind of perceived-position we would be in. She would like to have our legal be contacted on this.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted there are good points on the Airport issue. Leaders in the region have to get together on start a whole economic approach. We cannot assume the province is going to fix, it is just not going to happen.

Councillor, Arsenault noted that Councillor, Culligan had made two (2) good points. It is difficult doing the Budget without having everyone there, everyone can add something and should. Second it is a good idea to contact Andre (legal counsel) and see what he has to say about legal jeopardy.

Councillor, Killoran noted he read through the Audit Report and it was conducted with a shallow breath into our books. Maybe have an accountant to bring us through the process. He does not have expertise to do, he is just learning now. He is not attacking Councillor, Carmichael. He does not want this to be a case of getting served with legal action because she was aligned with all budget process. A perceived conflict is as bad as a conflict.

Mayor, Noel said six (6) will be sitting in room and going over everything. Everyone has to be involved right from the start. If we have to hire, so be it.

Administration Reports

CAO, Lee

- Social and Environmental Grant Report and Recommendation

M 2020/07/20-98

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the Social and Environmental CAO Grant Report of July 2020 be accepted as presented and the following recommendations approved; \$250 to Canadian Cancer Society - Super Woman Walk and \$250 ALS Society NB, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

- Chaleur Bay Watershed - Support
 - Initially Claude Doucet, Chaleur Bay Watershed representative approached me about the municipality potentially providing a summer student for one day a week to the group. Student are no longer required. However, Claude is hoping to have a monetary donation made by Belledune in lieu of a student. He is hoping to collect \$1,000 to go towards the equipment detailed in the attached letter.

Councillor, Killoran stepped out at 7:59 P.M.

Mayor, Noel noted we will wait for his return before the vote on motion.

Councillor, Killoran returned at 8:00 P.M.

M 2020/07/20-99

Tracy Culligan moved that Council provide a \$1,000 Grant to Chaleur Bay Watershed, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED. Against: Paul Arseneault and Sandenn Killoran

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault		x	
Lilliane Carmichael	x		
Tracy Culligan	x		
Nick Duivenvoorden	x		
Sandenn Killoran		x	
	3	2	0

- Residential Grant Application
 - One grant application received this month.

M 2020/07/20-100

Lilliane Carmichael moved that in accordance with the Village of Belledune Economic Development By-law # ED-01-2019 and the Residential Grant Policy, Council accepts CAO, Lee recommendation and approve the following grant: Stephen & Tracey Huffman in the amount of \$1,332.50, seconded by Nick Duivenvoorden. MOTION CARRIED.

- Roy Consultants Proposal - Restigouche Street Extension
 - Roy Consultants have completed their mandate for Phase 1 of the Restigouche Street extension, and now need to be engaged for Phase 2. Costs for Phase 2 are \$10,500 + HST.
 - Roy Consultants require direction from Council on which option they would like to pursue, specific to the preliminary design that has been provided to Council.

M 2020/07/20-101

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that Belledune have Roy Consultants proceed with Phase 2 of the Restigouche Street Extension as per the proposal received. Ref No 242-19. dated June 11, 2020, for the amount of \$10,500 (plus HST), seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Against: Paul Arseneault

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault		x	
Lilliane Carmichael	x		
Tracy Culligan	x		

Nick Duivenvoorden	x		
Sandenn Killoran	x		
	4	1	0

Councillor, Duivenvoorden inquired about final design of type of road.

CAO, Lee that is one of the directives he needs to get from Council based on the two (2) options provided by Roy Consultants.

Councillor, Arseneault to follow up on his comments the last couple of months, he feels that those who are going to get the most benefit out of the upgrades, we should try to get them to contribute.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said he still supports. As more demand comes for property in the Industrial Park, he agrees it requires more participation. If we do not do the upgrades it would put kibosh on this project.

CAO, Lee noted that awarding of Phase 2 still needs to put design of the road, it is more of a directive from Council which design – cul de sac or hammer head. DTI is ok with hammer head, this will reduce the costs, this motion does not impact on what Council want to do, the decision on how far you want to go, it still up to you. He noted he has applied for some funding, but does not expect to hear anything early. He has asked for substantial amounts.

Mayor, Noel said there is already someone interested in second property, but it is still very early, but they are going to need access to the second property. The hammer head is a bit cheaper and that is what he is recommending.

- Change Order Payment - Building Renovations Phase 1
 - Motion required to pay out CCO68, associated to Phase 1 construction work. Details have been provided previously.
 - This final CCO is a catch-all of sorts, the final tally on this CCO is **\$35,142.85**.

M 2020/07/20-102

Lilliane Carmichael moved that Belledune Council approve the release of payment to Genibuild for Phase 1 Building Renovation outlined in Change Order #CCO68 for the amount of \$35,142.85 (plus HST), seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Against: Paul Arseneault and Sandenn Killoran

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault		x	
Lilliane Carmichael	x		
Tracy Culligan	x		
Nick Duivenvoorden	x		
Sandenn Killoran		x	
	3	2	0

Councillor, Killoran said he is voting no; he is still angry about being late on last job.

Councillor, Arseneault said his no vote is more symbolic than anything, project of this size need to have an audit.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden shares sentiments, but it would be like not paying someone's wages after they already worked. He likes how CAO has handled the job and picked up and held Genibuild's feet to the fire.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan defeating the motion would be leaving Landon up the creek without a paddle.

Councillor, Carmichael notes that she was not happy with the project, but Landon did an amazing job picking it up.

- Mitchell and Lawlor Rd. Intersection Upgrade
 - The letter of recommendation from GEMTEC received and they are recommending the project be awarded to St-Isidore Asphalte Ltd. for the price of \$95,858.25 taxes included.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan asked what was the engineers estimate.

Estimate was \$68,785 plus HST, leaving the bid \$15,000 to \$20,000 over estimate.

Is this a permanent solution or a band aid?

CAO, Lee noted that the other option for scope of work provided by GEMTEC was estimated at around \$400,000. The current scope will widen the road a bit and have a better line of sight.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan wondered why only one bid.

Councillor, Killoran noted because of summer. WE will not get a better bid next week, but maybe next fall.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden questioned spending \$100,000 on all treacherous curves in the Village would eat up \$1 Million easily. He could see a problem if a bus were to meet a tractor trailer on a snowy day. Speed is the issue, maybe reduce the speed from the current 40 km to 30 km. Wonders if spending \$95,000 – is that money well spent. He has not been able to be convinced it would be a good job. This is part of life in rural N.B – Belledune.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan said she would like to see it go back out to tender in the fall.

M 2020/07/20-103

Tracy Culligan moved that Belledune Council accept the recommendation of Gemtec (File # 10002.04 dated July 14, 2020) to award the Mitchell / Lawlor Road Intersection Upgrade to the only bidder, St-Isidore Asphalte Ltd. for the amount of \$95,858.25 (HST included), seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. DEFEATED. Against: Tracy Culligan, Nick Duivenvoorden, and Sandenn Killoran

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault	x		
Lilliane Carmichael	x		

Tracy Culligan		x	
Nick Duivenvoorden		x	
Sandenn Killoran		x	
	2	3	0

- NOVA Communications

Council members had a second presentation from Nova Communication regarding the Rural Broadband study. From the information provided the second time and with information provide, Council members are convinced of the importance of rural broadband for Belledune and the benefits it would have for the future. They now have a better understanding of the project and the study. As well the fact that there is potential for a number of federal programs for funding of the project.

Council, Arseneault while supportive of the concept, is not convinced that Nova Communications is the company to do this for Belledune. They have no tract record. The only body of work they referenced was Pictou NS, but there is not data available – no track record on attaining funding. There is a very good possibility of having to fund the majority of the project. He will be voting no to doing without a body of work and evidence. Cost of project too much.

Comments by other members of Council included:

- Survey necessary to get the information needed
- Funding out there for this.
- Internet reliance – new way of operating and learning and communicating
- Way of the future for health care services

M 2020/07/20-104

Tracy Culligan moved that Belledune Council retain the services of Nova Communications (A Division of Rock Networks) to proceed with Phase 1 - Rural Broadband Site Survey Village of Belledune for the amount of \$26,900 (Plus HST), as per terms and conditions specified in quotation #00009395 dated June 9, 2020, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED. Against: Paul Arseneault

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault		x	
Lilliane Carmichael	x		
Tracy Culligan	x		
Nick Duivenvoorden	x		
Sandenn Killoran	x		
	4	1	0

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier

- Financial Reports

M 2020/07/20-105

Tracy Culligan moved that the Financial Report be accepted as presented and the Accounts Payable be paid, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED. Against: Sandenn Killoran

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault	x		
Lilliane Carmichael	x		
Tracy Culligan	x		
Nick Duivenvoorden	x		
Sandenn Killoran		x	
	4	1	0

By-laws and Policies

- Dangerous and/or Unsightly Premises - PID 50073931 - Notice to Comply

M 2020/07/20-106

Tracy Culligan moved that the following resolution regarding PID 50073931 be adopted as presented, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Enforcement Officer has submitted a report dated July 16 2020 concerning the property located on Main Street and bearing PID 50073931,

Whereas the Enforcement Officer is in the opinion that the building on this property constitutes a hazard to the safety of the public by reason of dilapidation or unsoundness of structural strength under the meaning of By-law DUP 09-2011

Whereas Council concurs with the recommended actions outlined in section D of the report.

That the Notice to Comply drafted by the Enforcement Officer be sent to the property owner.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden inquired if the property could be identified to the public.

Mayor, Noel confirmed it could.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden, this is the old Winton place and he hopes that other properties do not have to get to this lever of dilatation before letters are issued.

Motions and Resolutions Nil

General Correspondence

Restigouche SPCA - June Report

Atlantic Railway Track Inspection - July Report

Tourism, Heritage & Culture - Tickets Acadian Village (6)

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2020/07/20-107

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:43 P.M., seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

July 20, 2020

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer

Live streamed on Village of Belledune YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQj2S_LWcw4