



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
December 5, 2022**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Deputy Mayor, Ron Bourque
Present: Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
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 2022/12/05-1

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes: Add under Councillor, Robinson - Audit of Building, seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Business

Council

Councillor, Carrier

- Discussion on having our legal advisor Mr. Andre Daigle come to Belledune to have a discussion with council regarding many of the issues we have been having in order to get clarification.

Councillor, Carrier made a statement regarding what she has learned since being elected to Council. (A copy of the Statement is on file)

- Requirement to be a candidate
- What Governs a Council – Local Governance Act & Municipal By-laws
- Her experience -By-laws are not being followed correctly
- Staff information and professional information
- Definition of Democracy – vs. Dictatorship
- Job and Responsibility of the Mayor & Councillors

Councillor, Carmichael agreed and noted we are here to serve the people. We cannot please everybody, but we need to learn and move forward.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell agrees we need some legal to sit and just air everything and feel comfortable after.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque noted that the comments are well taken. We need guidance and need to work together to achieve where we are going.

Councillor, Carrier we need to have legal to discuss procedures what the Council's role are and are not. We have to listen at what he has to say.

Councillor, Adams Robinson

- Rezoning Request - Blair Guitard

Councillor, Robinson advised that Mr. Guitard (Laviolette Road) had started a mobile auto mechanic shop and now he wants to do this out of his garage. This is in a residential zone and requires a rezoning. He has his application in and this will be coming before Council for the process to proceed.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell asked if this is located before or after the rail line.

It was confirmed it was before the rail crossing.

- Audit on Building

Councillor, Robinson address the posting by Mayor on Facebook was false. This was discussed back 1 ½ years ago and has not been brought back to the table since Deputy Mayor, Bourque asked to have this audit. The Mayor has made some very serious allegations saying people will be going to jail over this project. This is very offensive to contractors, staff and previous Council, the concept of having a forensic audit. When Council met with Jack Novack, it was noted that there is an external independent audit and the cheques and invoices have all added up. The Mayor also claims the project went over by \$3 Million dollars and that just don't add up when you review the project from the beginning to see what the proposed cost were from the onset and then follow through as each step was done. She noted that

“Does she think the project was smart?” No. Where did the project go wrong? She offered Deputy Mayor,

Bourque when he wanted an audit to help with looking at the operation or project audit. It is interesting if you review the minutes of the meeting on this project you can see. It is very interesting that at one point the current Mayor, then Deputy Mayor was asking how they could get around the procurement policies so that the projects could move forward. It is really shameful for the Mayor to say people will go to jail and there was corruption, when he made decisions on this project from beginning to end.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque noted that perhaps the term forensic audit was stronger than needed. Perhaps something along the line of procurement audit. Personally, he believes is still should be done. Council will make the decision and he will respect that decision.

Councillor, Carmichael said that the Mayor’s Facebook post asked for people to call Council members on this. Some people did call her and noted what is going to change, if the audit was done. She does not support the audit or spending money for this. There is an audit each year. Other people that called her asked why spend more money, the building is here. We can learn from this and do things smarter.

Councillor, Carrier referenced the motion back in September and when asked about it, did not even know what it was. What is the end game; if the project was overspent, overpaid, what then? She noted that on the Facebook signed the post “Mayor Paul” and she wanted to state that he was not speaking on behalf of Council and was not the voice of Council. She also noted that everyone is not on his Facebook space. She stated that Mayor, Arseneault was on Council during this project and it was his place to say something back then if he suspected something he should have reported then. We don’t need to be told we over-spent, we all know it.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell said she was approached by resident saying moving on this would not be beneficial. As well, this was not put in the budget. We need to move on.

Administration Nil

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2022/12/05-2

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer