



**Village of Belledune  
Committee of Whole Council Meeting  
January 10, 2022**

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Belledune Municipal Chambers  
**Present:** Mayor, Paul Arseneault  
Deputy Mayor, Ron Bourque  
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson  
Councillor, Kristie Carrier  
Councillor, Lillian Carmichael  
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell  
**Staff Present:** Interim CAO – Scott Ferguson  
Clerk/Treasurer – Brenda Cormier  
Assistant Clerk – Nicole Carrier

Mayor, Arseneault called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of “Treaties of Peace Friendship”.

Council read the Oath of Office.

**2. ADOPT AGENDA**

**M 2022/01/10-1**

**Councillor Carmichael moved to adopt the agenda with additions, Deputy Mayor Bourque – Street Light – Noel Rd., seconded by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Nil**

**4. PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS:**

Presentation by Mr. Bruce Baird, Englobe Engineering -Via Zoom (presentation is on file)

Mr. Baird went over how the company started, how long they have been in business, what services they can offer, the number of employees they have, projects they have done, etc.

Questions:

Deputy Mayor Bourque – Asset Management Plan, how is that done, hourly rate, etc. Mr. Baird said the price depends on the volume of assets, the size of the community, etc. Deputy Mayor Bourque mentioned that the village has to have an asset management plan by the end of 2022 in order to be eligible for any gas tax funding in the future. Mr. Baird said that a plan could be done in weeks not months. They would also evaluate the plan and implement it in the budget. There are funding programs available for doing a plan, they can help secure funding.

Mayor Arseneault thanked Mr. Baird for the presentation.

## **5. BUSINESS:**

MAYOR ARSENEAULT

- **Meeting with Premier Higgs**

Mayor Arseneault explained that there will be a meeting in the next few weeks with Premier Higgs, he isn't sure exactly when, however he wanted to request approval to attend, which will be added to the next regular meeting agenda for a motion.

DEPUTY MAYOR BOURQUE

- **Snow Removal Contracts & Insurance Issues for Contractors**

Deputy Mayor Bourque asked CAO Ferguson who was in to sign? CAO Ferguson said Clerk/Treasurer Cormier could comment on that. Clerk/Treasurer Cormier said that one contractor was in to sign, however he has to come back in with his corporate seal, there is one that the company name has to be on the contract and not the person's name. The contractor also pointed out that the kms on the map was not accurate with the actual kms. She will need to get the original map because on the copy some of the streets are cut off.

Deputy Mayor Bourque mentioned that some of the contractors mentioned that they had to pay extra money for insurance because they had to add the Village of Belledune on the insurance certificate. If that is the case then maybe the Villag can offset some of the cost.

The cost of insurance was discussed, insurance cost has gone up, so this will have to be looked into further to determine if the cost was increased because of adding the Village to the insurance or has it just increased because all the insurance has gone up.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that regarding the mileage in the Jacquet River area, it should be divided pretty close, he is not interested in battling with the contractors as to who gets how many kms, if they are not happy with getting extra business then we will move on. This is the first year and it's a trial, and we will just cut out the ones that are complaining. Not getting involved in fighting with contractors. He will speak with contractors again to get this finalized sooner than later.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if there was just one contractor who has issues with insurance. Deputy Mayor Bourque said that there were two, one said the cost increased by \$1,100, however he will confirm this and bring it before Council, a bonus could be given to cover the offset of the cost.

- **Speed Limit from Superette to Chaleur Forest Products**

Deputy Mayor Bourque wishes to look at a different angle that could help keep the trucks using that stretch of road. He mentioned that the two bridges one near the campground and the other Belledune River. There is a weight limit, and if the trucks are over that limit there could be issues if something happened to the bridges, then this will create a major problem. He will ask Council to vote on a motion to have the bridges checked to see if they are structurally sound. They could get an Engineering Firm or the Province to do this and then Council can put the weight restrictions on.

- **Flag Pole**

This was already taken care of.

- **Lighting Issue – Noel Rd.**

Deputy Mayor Bourque has been asked by some residents on Noel Rd. to add a street light at their mail box. The mail box is between 2 street lights and it is very dark, and dangerous for those residents to pick up their mail. There will be a motion to install a street light at the regular meeting.

Councillor Carmichael said that there is more than 1 area where there is mail boxes and no lights.

Councillor Carrier also mentioned that there should be more street lights installed between NB Power to the Port, there is not enough light and there are lots of moose and deer in that area. This would be an asset in our community. CAO Ferguson will look into this.

#### COUNCILLOR CARRIER

- **Committee Structure**

Councillor Carrier mentioned that she would like to go over the structure of the committees that was presented by CAO Ferguson and Mayor Arseneault. She said that nothing seems to have changed. She wanted to know what happened to what was discussed with Mr. Novack and Mr. Smeltzer. There should be a 4-year plan and go from there. There was nothing added to the list that was discussed in regards to the priorities that was discussed in regards to Tourism, Population growth, supporting aging community. Etc. She said the committees are the same as the portfolios given out. She said what happened to the list that was developed at the session with Mr. Novack, Tourism, Population Growth, Economic Growth, helping aging community, etc.

She looked into other communities, standing committee is one type of committee, select committee is another type of committee. The committees are not formed right because there was no motion of Council. Why have a bunch of committees when some should be grouped together?

Councillor Carrier mentioned that one committee is Tourism, the campground, ATV, etc. should all be under one committee, it is hard to form a map when you don't know where you are going and what is the top priority.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell also has that on the agenda, there should be certain items put under the same umbrella. She suggested that Council actually sit and have a working session in regards to what Council wants done in the next few years.

CAO Ferguson said it is hard to do a strategic plan in just a few hours. It usually takes a full day or a weekend.

It takes time to form committees, but it is hard to do with no strategic plan in place.

Mayor Arseneault said that certain people have different strengths, what has to be determined is who has the correct strengths for each committee.

Need to take some time to do a strategic plan. Councillors should have something to work on, that is the job of Council. A weekend should be spent working on a strategic plan with someone like Mr. Novack.

Mayor Arseneault said for example everything under Economic Development overlay, if there are 7 things that is a lot for 1 person to take on but there will be other people on the committee to help. A meeting should be set up to decide what committee structure that we follow and stick to it.

There is no way to plan or budget for the future when Council does not know where they are going.

CAO Ferguson said that if Council wants the committee structure to last, they should choose a date to get together. Mayor Arseneault said to send dates that they are available to CAO Ferguson. Some work is already done from the last strategic plan.

Councillor Carrier asked about the notes that were taken when they had the session with Mr. Novack. CAO Ferguson said he had Admin. Assistant Carrier type them up and he emailed them to Council.

- **Café RFP – Discussion**

Councillor Carrier wanted to know why CAO Ferguson put out an RFP for a café. It should have been a rental with space for food services available. She said it was not Council's business what people do with it, it could be a smoothie bar, not a café. The RFP should be changed to reflect that.

Councillor Robinson said that all conversations regarding the RFP was for a Café – food service.

Councillor Carrier said that it was not our business what goes in there or what they do. There was someone interested before.

Councillor Robinson said that no one is interested if they have to pay for it.

CAO Ferguson said that he was told to get a separate meter put in and he did that. He also followed what Council had asked of him, he said he doesn't care what they are cooking expect if it was illegal. He only did what was asked of him. The RFP can be changed to whatever Council wants.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if the RFP was just sent out local, should we send it outside the area.

Councillor Carrier said just send it out as space to rent. How it is any different than AJN renting office space.

Mayor Arseneault said that he agrees with CAO Ferguson that it was to be advertised as a Café, there was no interest. We can rent it out as office space, what about the equipment, it loses its value just sitting there. A decision has to be made about what to do with the space and the assets that are in it.

Councillor Carrier said what do we do open a Café and compete with the person up the street. The Recreation Centre could use some of the equipment. Advertise it as rental space.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said he has been listening to the debate going back and forth, this is something that this Council inherited, they did not create it. They are 7 months in their mandate and they still can't agree what to do with it. He is not in favor of opening a Café and competing with someone up the road. He is highly opposed to competing with other businesses. This is going nowhere fast.

Mayor Arseneault said that a motion is needed.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that if it is a food service then they should have their own insurance coverage. The village should not be subsidizing any business. Something needs to be done with the space. She also mentioned that in the summer time there is 3 food businesses in the area. They all seem to do ok.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said to put it as rental space.

Councillor Carrier said that there is a price for rent, the heat is separate, she does not feel the space is being subsidized. How does Deputy Mayor Bourque think? Deputy Mayor Bourque said that any business coming in here is being somewhat subsidized. It is like comparing and renting an apartment to owning your own home; he is tired of hearing this debate.

Mayor Arseneault said to email CAO Ferguson as to what Council wants to do.

CAO Ferguson said that he wants a clear directive from Council and not by email.

Councillor Carrier said she will add it under her items for the regular meeting.

## COUNCILLOR GUITARD-MCDONNELL

- **Newcomers Booklet**

She wanted to know if there was any feedback from Council, she would appreciate it as they want to finalize it and get it printed. Email Mr. Culligan of any feedback.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said it was a job well done by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell and Mr. Culligan.

## COUNCILLOR ROBINSON

- **Municipal Owned Buildings – Double Vaccinations**

Councillor Robinson said that the CAO worked with the lawyer to create the by-law, it will be brought to the next meeting for its 1<sup>st</sup> reading. There may be some changes. She mentioned that Belledune was a little behind on getting a by-law passed.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that we should debate this now. He said he had read the by-law; it was well done and clear. The only thing that might be changed is the date that it should be finished, April 2022 is a little premature.

Councillor Carrier said that the Village employees have a choice to be vaccinated or be tested twice per week, why does the employees have a choice and the others don't. This will cause limited services for

those that are not vaccinated. They won't be able to come in and get services or get their taxes done or speak to someone in the building that their tax dollars paid for. There are guidelines set by the province. There is already limited access to Municipal buildings, what about the salmon barrier and the campground? She does not see the point of this.

CAO Ferguson said that he only brought this forward because he was asked to do so by some of Council. It was not his decision.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if our lawyer had a look at this; CAO Ferguson said he wrote it. She asked what about the "Circle of Friends"?

Mayor Arseneault said the issue was having it straight across the board, have to take a look at the majority, it is their choice to be vaccinated, but it is part of the mandate to keep everyone safe. The power club members have to be vaccinated, those that chose not to be then they can't go to the club. Most government buildings are doing the same.

Councillor Carrier said that it is proven that the vaccinated people are getting sick too, so getting the unvaccinated people out doesn't make any difference.

Mayor Arseneault said the Federal government is not allowing people to go in their buildings. There is a massive increase in cases and this shows the seriousness of trying to keep people safe.

Councillor Carrier said that nothing is 100%, making people go out and get a vaccine that makes them sick isn't right. There is an outbreak of gonorrhoea, so do we ask people if they have gonorrhoea when they come in the building. Where do we draw the line?

## CAO FERGUSON

- **CAO Job Posting**

The Committee has been working diligently, the ad for the CAO Position has been set out as of Thursday, January 6 to a great number of places. The deadline for applications is February 4. Maybe if we get a head hunter to make a short list. CAO Ferguson will speak with the HR in Bathurst to see who they got and will bring a cost to Council. The goal for CAO Ferguson is to stay one a week or so with the new person.

- Update of the "Circle of Friends" – Location and Funding for Electronic Stair Lift.

They like the location and are proud of the place they have and people are happy with it. They do not want to be in a basement somewhere. The application that was given to Mr. Cormier and Mr. Guitard, was not successful, however they can apply again in April. Maybe a 50/50 split can be done. Mr. Culligan seems to think that will be fine.

- **New Entrance Doors for Arena**

The old doors are hard to lock, they are done, however CAO Ferguson feels that the quote from City Glass is too much. He will search out other places to see if he can get another quote.

Mayor Arseneault said before the renovations the door was facing the opposite side and there were no issues. If there is a reoccurring problem maybe the doors should be moved to the corner of the building.

- Acadie-Bathurst Titan Request

CAO Ferguson said that the Titans hockey team are an important part of the region, they are a big thing and they bring tourist to the area. They want to offer us a Municipal package. Kids look up to them, they would visit our school, read to the kids, offer free tickets, etc. He will have to tweet some of the options, since we are half way through the season. They will put a sign up – Sponsored by the Village of Belledune, do 2 school visits, 2 to 4 hours sessions at the library to read to tots not in school yet.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if this was done in the past. No there was never a request to us in the past. She suggested that we purchase some tickets to the games to give out.

CAO Ferguson said they could work with Mr. Surette for the bus to bring people to the games. We could have a draw for tickets, and a certificate for the boutique. He will bring this forward to the Council for the next regular meeting.

- Update Asset Management and State of Infrastructure

Mr. Baird touched on the asset management during his presentation. This is where we can now, RV Anderson out of Fredericton did an asset management inventory in 2018. Nothing was done with the inventory after that. CAO Ferguson contacted RV Anderson and had a conversation with them in regards to continuing working with the Village. He is having a zoom meeting this week in regards to this. Once the document is complete, Council has to take the document and create a plan after that. There will be a cost this however, it has to be done in order for the village to receive gas tax funding in the future. Also, an asset management plan will help Council in the future to budget for what has to be upgraded, changed, help to prepare the budgets for the coming years. When you know what has to be done, they you can plan for it.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**M 2022/01/10-2**

**Councillor Carrier moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm, seconded by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.**

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor

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Assistant Clerk

Meeting streaming on Village of Belledune You Tube Channel at <https://youtu.be/Q-8Z450HXcw>

