



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
May 21, 2024**

Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque

Absent:

Late:

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Landon Lee
Clerk Treasurer, Angela Culligan

Staff Absent:

Staff Late:

Call to Order & Welcome

- Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"
- Reaffirm Oath of Office

Adopt Agenda

M 2024/05/21-44

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

Statements of Conflict of Interest

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations

Business

Council

Mayor, Arseneault

Councillor, Bourque

- Discussion on adjusting current mileage rate to provincial rate.

Councillor Bourque suggested that the mileage rate be reviewed bi-annually and changed to reflect the current provincial rate. CAO Lee informed council that a motion can be passed but ultimately the Council Remuneration By-Law needs to be updated, Administration will work on this.

- Update on Veteran banners to be installed on hydro polls.

Councillor Bourque wants to raise awareness of the availability of the Veteran Banners. There is a sample banner on display in front of the legion. The cost of a banner is \$275 and purchased banners will be displayed on poles in the village from the first week of October to the week following Remembrance Day. Banners can be purchased at anytime, but to be displayed for the 2024 season, orders must be placed by August 1, 2024.

Councillor Robinson commented that the Restigouche Regional Museum could help out with high resolution digital scans of the Legion photos. This would be good for families that would like banners but do not have photos to provide, and would also provide the Legion and the museum with digital copies.

- Discussion on council reports from outside meetings.

Councillor Bourque would like better communication from councillors who attend outside meetings, to keep the rest of council informed. Councillor Bourque is particularly concerned about meetings with the Chaleur Regional Service Commission as these meetings will result in commitments of large sums of money from the Village of Belledune. Councillor Bourque would like to see reports come back to council following these meetings to make sure that everyone is informed.

Councillor Robinson informed council that the Chaleur Regional Service Commission sends out a newsletter after each meeting to all councillors to provide an update.

Mayor Arseneault informed council that these are open meetings which anyone can attend. Mayor Arseneault also said that he agrees that more information should be coming back to council, however many of the issues are quite complex and could be difficult to capture in a report. Mayor Arseneault will approach the chairperson and see what can be done to get more information back to council.

- Discussion on communication with constituents, regarding Smearer Rd in particular.

Councillor Bourque acknowledges that the Smearer Road topic has created some controversy and that it's not fair to the people being affected that councillors will not discuss what is going on because of legal issues. Leanne Smearer is the most impacted and Councillor Bourque suggests that she reach out to CAO Lee to set up an appointment to discuss the issues with him. CAO Lee will inform her of what he can discuss at that time.

CAO Lee informed council that for Administration the direction from our legal council is that anything that has to do with legal has to go through legal. However, in this case, after discussions with legal CAO Lee has been given permission to provide some information regarding Smearer Road.

Councillor, Carmichael

- Discussion on attendance at upcoming conferences (AMANB & UMNB).

Councillor Carmichael is looking to see who is interested in attending these conferences so that they can be voted on in June. CAO Lee suggested that we have a motion to determine the per diem and whoever wants to go can do so. CAO Lee also mentioned that we are still looking for accommodations for the AMANB conference, as the facility where it is being held is fully booked.

- Update on UMNZB Zone 7 presentation

Councillor Carmichael informed council that the UMNZB Zone meetings are open to all councillors. A letter was sent from the Campbellton hospital to the Minister regarding the staffing shortage. They are also looking to bring a daycare into the hospital to attract more staff. In regards to ambulance service, we are short 14 full time staff from St. Quentin to Belledune. There was also a discussion regarding cell phone services and using DTI towers. Discussions also included housing shortages, the future of policing in New Brunswick, housing funding, tourism and extending the moose fence in Belledune.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell

- Discussion on proper garbage and recycle bins.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell would like administration to look into purchasing garbage and recycling containers for resale to residents. In working on trying to beautify our village, proper garbage and recycling containers would be appropriate.

Councillor, Robinson

Administration

CAO, Landon Lee

- Curry Drive engineering direction.

Administration is looking for direction to provide to Roy Consultants. Roy Consultants brought in a structural engineer who had some concerns and this highlighted a change to their previous recommendation. The amount of money earmarked for this project is significantly less than the estimated construction costs for the revision. Administration is looking for council to either instruct Roy Consultants to move forward with the survey and design on the revised alternate route, or have Roy Consultants come in and provide an update to council on the project. The funds for this project will be coming from the Capital Reserve budget and not the Operating budget.

Councillor Carmichael would like to have a better understanding of this and would like for Roy Consultants come in and explain the project.

Councillor Bourque would like for Roy Consultants to come in.

Councillor Robinson would like to know how much is in the Capital Reserve given that option B for this project is more than double the cost of option A. CAO Lee has assured her that there is enough in the Capital Reserve for this project.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell would like for Roy Consultants to come in.

Mayor Arseneault would like for the engineers to come in so that we can be sure of the numbers and variables that exist within the engineer's plan.

Clerk Treasurer, Angela Culligan

Closed Session

Adjournment

M 2024/05/21-45

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourned at 6:37pm., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer