



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
June 1, 2020**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: REMOTE – Electronic, Live streamed on Facebook.com/belledunevillage
Mayor, Joe Noel
Councillor, Paul Arseneault
Present: 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

Mayor Noel called the meeting to Order.

Adopt Agenda

M 2020/06/01-80

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes; delete under Councillor, Arseneault; AJN Investment and Development - Discussion and Village Vendor Contract Renewal... (Discussion) and add Covid-19 New Circumstance, Events last week and add under Councillor, Duivenvoorden: Roadside Cleanup Update, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict of Interest - Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations - Nil

Business

Council

Mayor, Noel

- Nova Communications, a Division of Rock Networks -Rural Broadband, Belledune
Mayor, Noel advise that the proposal for Study will be on the next meeting for a motion to go ahead. If there are any questions from Council for Nova Communications, they can be submitted to himself or COA, Lee before the next meeting.

- Masks for Humanity – Donation

Mayor, Noel advised the group provided cloth Masks to Village of Belledune twice and dropped of at Mayor's home - 50 first time and 60 second time. There will be a motion at the next meeting to make a contribution to them.

In response to Councillor, Duivenvoorden's inquire, Mayor, Noel explained the group is from Atlantic Canada and that they sew and donate masks. There are some local people that are involved and they had contacted him about providing the masks.

Councillor, Arseneault

- Conversion of one of our ball fields to a dog walking area - Discussion

Councillor, Arseneault noted that he had noticed the Dog Park in Dalhousie and would like to make the proposal to explore one for here at the Durham Centre ballfields, that have not been doing much for years. He had some discussion with a lady from the Committee to get more information. Initially the town operated it for a year and then the Committee took over, and he thinks it is something we could do here.

Questions raised by Council members were regarding:

- Insurance issues (Dog attacking another dog or person)
- Fencing costs
- Division of small dogs and large dogs
- Possible walking trail in one of the fields

These are querying that Councillor, Arseneault can follow up with the Committee person. As for fencing, both the fields are already fence.

- Covid-19 New Circumstance - Events of Last Week

Councillor, Arseneault noted this has been a very strange week for Belledune in light of what has happened with the outbreak in Campbellton, the confusion of what zone Belledune is in and is it exempt from Orange Phase. It went back and forth, depending on who the information was coming from. He requested COA, Lee to speak on this.

CAO, Lee provided the chronological events where the EMO group call and Mandatory Order were saying that Belledune was exempt from Zone 5. Whether it was communicated or miscommunicated in the province, the Premier, in his daily updates, stated Belledune was not exempt. There will be another EMO call this Thursday and more information or clarification should be discussed.

Mayor, Noel said the Mandatory Order states Belledune is exempt and he followed up with a call to the Premier's office, where he spoke with his Chief of Staff who advised him no one in Zone 5 was exempt. He called Premier's office again today at 5:00 p.m., where he explained we never had a case here in Belledune, yet we are being treated like we have the plague.

Councillor, Arseneault stated this was very good to know. People from Belledune are not able to go to some places. We are in the Orange Phase but being treated like we are below Phase 1.

Mayor, Noel said the it was posted on his Facebook what we are allowed to do in the Orange Phase.

Councillor, Arseneault said this is not the way people are perceiving it. No one from Zone 5 going anywhere, yet people from outside are coming into Zone 5, but they are wanting people from Zone 5 to stay in Zone 5. Something has to be done.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden reiterated what Councillor, Arseneault said, this is like leprosy. When everything was good here in the north and the outbreak was in the south, everything was o.k. Now that it is in the north we are treated as isolated, and he does not understand the logic. The mass confusion and frustration it justified. There is bad communication.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan said she basically echoes the statements by previous Council members and Mayor. People cannot even get appointments. Even at the height of the pandemic, we were still allowed to obtain essential services; medical, groceries, etc. Now if people in Belledune have appointments, specialist for example, they are not allowed to go. We need to check into this.

Mayor, Noel said he agrees and that is why his idea was about going to the Premier's office. Let's see what happens.

Councillor, Killoran wants to echo concerns as everyone else. He pointed out to explain to the Premier, who may not have even passed Miramichi more than once. All hail his Majesty. We need to keep in mind that this will be happening for two years or until a vaccine. The Premier even went against the Public Safety Minister. This is the new normal, we need to operate as if everyone is infected. We need to engage people to participate in the economy, not just essential services. He hopes we can work with Higgs to get this addressed.

Councillor, Carmichael noted this is frustrating, this Orange Phase is a lot harder than when we were in Orange Phase before. We don't feel welcome shopping in Bathurst.

Councillor, Arseneault's final thing is, we were ostracized in our Zone, but if our numbers go down and there is a spike in Fredericton, will they get the same treatment as we did this week. We need a strategy; as Councillor, Killoran noted this will be the new norm for a while.

Councillor, Carmichael

- Moose Fence Extension to the Archibald Bypass

Councillor, Carmichael would like to see the moose fence extended up to the west boundary of Belledune on Route 11.

- Start Budget Planning early- September to start working sessions

Councillor, Carmichael said she will start the Budget meeting process in September, as it needs to be finished by November. She is proposing to start at the Committee of Whole meeting in September.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden

- **Unsightly Premises**

Councillor, Duivenvoorden spoke about how the Village of McAdam addressed the issue of these type or premises in their municipality. They took the stance that the owners clean up or the municipality would take down. This is what they did, took ownership of the property and put a program in place to sell for minimal price. They have seen growth in their community because of this initiative. This is similar to the situation here in Belledune and we have been struggling for ever with getting them cleaned up. These dilapidated buildings affect neighbouring properties. He wants us to have a much more aggressive approach. He has discussed with CAO, Lee on how to best get this done.

- Consider sending an advisory to VIA Rail to identify local stop as Belledune, not Jacquet River
Councillor, Duivenvoorden suggested maybe sending a reminder to VIA to modify the name to identify it as Belledune.

- **Roadside Cleanup Update**

Councillor, Duivenvoorden advised that the roadside cleanup is this Saturday, in discussion with Mayor the Covid19 should not be an issue, because social distancing can be maintained. There are 11 groups, which he named and as well will post on his Facebook.

Councillor, Culligan inquired about the process in McAdam regarding building cleanup, did they go through Unsightly Premises Act to demolish or did they do on their own.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden was not sure on the process, but if need be, we can amend our process to meet theirs. His objective is to get this done and it does not matter much to him how to get there.

Councillor, Arsenault said having a By-law or Policy that works legally is important. The process is our problem, takes too long, causing a back-log. A municipality of our size should not have back-log; it should not take decades to resolve problems.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said he is only talking about unoccupied/vacant buildings. Homes that are abandoned and not a home to anyone.

CAO, Lee

- **CRSC - Tourism Chaleur Member Nomination**

CAO, Lee explained the request form CRSC Tourism for a member nomination and asked if there were any suggestion to let him know. They have a few specifications and would like the potential nomination in by June 9, 2020.

Mayor, Noel instructed to follow the Policy and deal with it and keep Council informed what is taking place.

Councillor, Culligan asked if they were looking for a Council or Community member.

CAO, Lee responded that in his communications it is a lot more community based, but he will ask for clarification on this.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier

- Belledune Annual Report – DRAFT

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier noted that Council had been provided with a copy of the Draft Report prior to this meeting and as well attached to the agenda for this evening. There were no responses or comments from Council with additions, amendments or recommendations. The content she has included is basically the briefing from the financial perspective of the municipality from 2019. As required by regulation, the Report is to be completed and adopted by Council by the end of June. Therefore, it will be added to the agenda for the June Regular meeting of Council for adoption by motion.

Mayor, Noel thanked Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier for the Report which is a lot of work. He noted that the Report was good last year and even better this year.

Closed Session - Nil

Adjournment

M 2020/06/01-81

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M., seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer