



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
August 5, 2025**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque
Councillor, Dawn Hickey
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 2025/08/05-75

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

Statements of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest was declared by Councillor, Bourque in regards to the Closed Session.

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations

Business

Council

Mayor, Arseneault

- Dangerous and Unsightly Premises By-Law

Mayor, Arseneault suggested that our current by-law may be too restrictive. If that is the case then he feels that what we might want to do is amend that by-law. Mayor, Arseneault would like for Council to bring forward some ideas to amend the by-law.

Councillor, Bourque has obtained the name of a person who contracts these situations. Councillor, Bourque believes that our biggest problem is that we do not have an enforcement officer. He would like to pass the name and phone number of this individual on to the CAO and the CAO can contact this individual and get some information and bring it to Council.

Councillor, Robinson mentioned that CAO, Lee has already sent out a draft by-law to Council looking for feedback. She also believes that the CAO was looking to have someone from our Public Works department take over the by-law enforcement, and she would prefer to have it done in-house.

CAO, Lee wanted to clarify that the current Dangerous and Unsightly premises by-law that we have refers back to the Local Governance Act. The by-law is very basic. He also mentioned that we do have a by-law enforcement officer for the Dangerous & Unsightly premises, and this individual is through the Service Commission, however he doesn't believe that they are supposed to be enforcing that on our behalf. There are companies out there that you can hire who will enforce by-laws for you. CAO, Lee went on to say that the by-law he had sent out was a lesser version of the Dangerous & Unsightly by-law, it was more of a Community Upkeep by-law. He said that we could reach out to other communities to see how they have their Dangerous & Unsightly by-law built.

Mayor, Arseneault concluded by saying that if we are going to have a by-law enforcement officer he feels it would be better to outsource it to someone outside the community as opposed to having someone from our Public Works department doing it.

- Council Committees

Mayor, Arseneault said that he has brought this up in the past and most municipalities have Council Committees. The Village of Belledune chose not to do this back in 2021 and he thinks this was a mistake. He would like for Council to rethink the idea of Council Committees. He said that this can work quickly and gave the example of Councillor, Bouque requesting to work on the file regarding the Jacquet River Health Centre and now there is a meeting set up regarding this. He would like for councillors to be working on something and to report back monthly. However, if some council members do not want to do this, they shouldn't stop other council members from moving forward. Mayor, Arseneault believes that the citizens would appreciate this.

Deputy Mayor, Guitard-McDonnell acknowledged that she remembered when that had come up in the beginning of her term on Council, but at that time she didn't feel that she was prepared to take anything on as a new Council member. Now that she has been on Council for a while, she feels that she could take some on and she agrees that it would be nice if Council could work as a team on some of these items.

Mayor, Arseneault feels that Belledune should look at the way that other municipalities are handling Council Committees, and he realizes that this current Council won't have all the answers as they are nearing the end of their term, but the next Council could have a template for how to make these things work.

CAO, Lee agreed with the Mayor that a lot of communities have these committees in place. CAO, Lee indicated that he has some good information on committees and portfolios and how they should be operating and he will move that over to Council.

Councillor, Bourque believes that there are many issues that can be addressed by Council and then brought forward to the CAO if needed. He believes that we would see more results and feel a lot more positive about the accomplishments of Council if this were followed through with.

- Income Tax Program for Seniors

Mayor, Arseneault is concerned that we are taking revenue away from local businesses with our income tax program for seniors. He recognizes that it's a good program because it gives the seniors the opportunity to have their income taxes done for free. Mayor, Arseneault suggested that instead of having their income taxes done by the Village, the seniors could go to local business to have them done and the Village would underwrite the cost of that. The seniors would still have their income taxes done for free but we wouldn't be taking money away from our local businesses. He would like for Council to take a look at this.

Deputy Mayor, Guitard-McDonnell commented that it's not just seniors using the program. She isn't sure how we could do this, and the program that we have has worked so far, and she believes this will add an extra cost to our budget.

Councillor, Bourque has talked with at least two business owners in the community that do income taxes and both of those businesses made the comment that the Village is taking money away from them. Having said that, both of those businesses made it clear that if someone were in a difficult financial situation, they would do the income taxes at no charge. Councillor, Bourque is not sure how it would work, but he believes that it's an idea worth looking at.

CAO, Lee will look into how the current program works and will get that information to Council. He clarified that it's not just for seniors, it's for a specific income bracket. He also advised Council that we don't collect money for this, it is a free program. He advised that anyone in the community can register for this program and put it on the same way that we do. He acknowledged that it is a burden on resources, so in that respect it does cost us money to offer this service, but we do not collect money for it.

- Appeals Committee Update

CAO, Lee announced that the first Appeals Committee hearing is scheduled for this week. We currently have four appeals in. Because this is new, CAO, Lee said that he isn't sure when Council will see progress on the file. He does know that after the hearing, the Appeals Committee has 14 days to render a decision and provide it to the property owner. The property owner then has 14 days to appeal that

decision, if they so choose, with the King's Bench. CAO, Lee said that he will keep Council updated on future hearings.

Mayor, Arseneault wanted to know once the Appeals Committee has gone through their process, what are our enforcement options. CAO, Lee answered by saying that from an enforcement point of view, there is no by-law enforcement that needs to be done, it's a time frame. Once the time frame has lapsed the municipality has the ability to go on site and execute whatever needs to be done.

- Lawlor Road & Mitchell Road Intersection

Mayor, Arseneault believes that during one budget session Council had agreed to have Mitchell/Lawlor Road worked on and then it was reversed and he would like to bring it back again for Council's consideration as to whether or not Council would agree to put some money into trying to correct this dangerous intersection. This has been off the radar for a while and Mayor, Arseneault would like to put it back on the radar.

Deputy Mayor, Guitard-McDonnell asked if we had had someone assess this before. CAO, Lee confirmed that we did. He also added that we are going to be approving the CCBF Plan at the next Regular Council Meeting. He indicated that in that plan there is a section of Lawlor Road to be upgraded, although this isn't the section that the Mayor is talking about. CAO, Lee does believe that we have engineered studies for that section that the Mayor is talking about and he will go back through the files and re-distribute that to Council so that they are aware of the different options.

Councillor, Carmichael commented that there are other roads and turns that are also dangerous in the community and she isn't sure about doing work on one road and prioritizing this one over others. Councillor, Robinson responded by saying that she thinks that if there are dangerous roads that they should be addresses one at a time, put them on a plan and start working on them. You can't justify ignoring one just because there are others, you need to start working through them all. We have a five year plan, they should be on that plan and we can work through them one at a time. The engineering is already done for Mitchell/Lawlor Road, so that's an easy place to start.

Councillor, Bourque agreed with Councillor, Robinson saying that there is no way we could take them all on at the same time, but they should be addressed one at a time.

Councillor, Bourque

- Update on doctor or nurse practitioner for Jacquet River

Councillor, Bourque said that in the month of June we discussed trying to get a doctor or nurse practitioner to our medical centre. Councillor, Bourque volunteered to take this on. He started by having a conversation with July Signot, she is one of the directors within Vitalite. He explained to her what we were trying to accomplish by having a video done of our community and by budgeting some funds to attract a doctor or nurse practitioner to our community, and she was glad that Belledune was taking this type of approach. She went on to explain the situation to Raphael Roy who is the Director of Recruitment for doctors and Isabelle Duguay who is the Director of Recruitment for nurse practitioners. Both of these individuals have agreed to meet with Council.

Councillor, Bourque said that he will be asking Council for a motion at the next public meeting that this Council is prepared in the next 2026 budget to put in a \$10,000 allotment for a nurse practitioner or a doctor as a bonus, for the next five years, for that individual based on a contract for our community. He would like to ask these directors if Belledune can do a presentation to the graduating class of both doctors and nurse practitioners.

Councillor, Carmichael

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell

- Belledune Days Recap

Deputy Mayor, Guitard-McDonnell wanted to recap Belledune Days and let everyone know that it was a huge success. Events were well attended by local residents and visitors. Citizen of the year for 2025 was Susan Furlotte and our senior citizen of the year was Antoinette Woodcox. She went on to thank everyone who was involved in making Belledune Days a success.

- Community Pride Discussion

Deputy Mayor, Guitard-McDonnell explained that during Belledune Days there was a community pride event where they wanted families to send in pictures of their community pride, anything that they were doing to make their homes look attractive and welcoming. With that being said, Deputy Mayor Guitard-McDonnell feels that our community pride needs a bump, and she would like for residents and businesses to try to take some pride in what they own, and she feels that our community can then build on that. She went on to say that she was disappointed to see that the new road going down to the beach, Roherty Road, had tire marks where people were spinning tires.

Councillor, Hickey

Councillor, Robinson

Administration

CAO, Landon Lee

- ATV Shelter Discussion

CAO, Lee wanted for Council to be aware that we had a request come in from the Chaleur ATV Group concerning a shelter that they currently have on one of the PIDs owned by the municipality. The shelter they currently have is about 700m off Mitchell Road and they have had some vandalism at the shelter so are looking to potentially move the shelter closer to Mitchell Road.. We have talked to legal on this and if they are looking to relocate the shelter, then there are not too many concerns around that. However, the ATV Group mentioned potentially putting in a holding tank for a washroom and if we did go that way it is likely that we would need some type of land lease agreement with them because there would be liability surrounding that. This is something that the Chaleur ATV Group is looking to move on in the next couple of months.

Clerk/Treasurer, Angela Culligan

Closed Session

- Closed Session - Employment Matter

M 2025/08/05-76

Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell moved BE IT RESOLVED to close the meeting to the public to discuss the following:

68(1)(j) labour and employment matters, including the negotiation of collective agreements, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment

M 2025/08/05-77

Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell moved that the meeting adjourned at 7:57pm, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk Treasurer