



**Village of Belledune
Regular Council Meeting
June 21, 2021**

Electronic Live streamed on Belledune YouTube

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers via Electronic Live streamed on Belledune YouTube
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque
Staff Present: CAO, Landon Lee
Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor, Arseneault call the meeting to order.

- Moment of Reflection

Mayor, Arseneault call for a moment of silence in memory of those to passed away: Rene Cormier, Kathy Duprey and Kevin Doyle, Arnold Carrier of Belledune, Lorraine Carrier and Keith Mallaley of Lorne and Monica (Firlotte) Lasota born in Archibald and Cora Audet born in Doyleville.

Adopt Agenda

M 2021/06/21-69

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes: remove from CAO, Lee Report - Restigouche St. Extension Project and add under Mayor, Arseneault Statement - Acknowledgements, Meeting Attending this Week and in Closed Session - Student Employment, seconded by Cynthia Robinson. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Adoption of Minutes

M 2021/06/21-70

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 17, 2021 be adopted as presented, seconded by Kristie Carrier. MOTION CARRIED.

Business Arising from Minutes Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

- Mayor, Arseneault noted that something was brought to him - he would say a petition - CN and he will bring in at a later date.

Statements by Member of Council

Mayor, Arseneault

- Local Governance Meeting - Discussion

Mayor, Arseneault acknowledged the meeting, regarding local governance reform. A white paper will be creating with possible sweeping changes on how municipalities are governed. The process is in the early stages, and we are not aware of what they are thinking; the word amalgamation is popping up, property taxes and services. Last Thursday government hosted a session and he feels that there are two (2) points specific to us: geographically where we will end up and the formula used to calculate what we will pay. He feels Council should have a discussion on this and formulate a letter of our concerns and our suggestions and expectations.

Council member concurs, as there are concerns such as losing our local voice, etc. There are a lot of questions yet to be answered and this is happening fast. Belledune needs to be proactive, not just about voicing our concerns but about offering up solutions.

CAO, Lee noted being proactive is a good point and he feels Belledune is in a position to be a leader as they are already providing services to the surrounding LSD's.

Mayor, Arseneault noted there are more sessions coming up; at the very least we should address Minister Allain with our written concerns.

- Council Members Portfolio: Discussion

Mayor, Arseneault provides Council members with his proposal with established portfolio items assigned to each Council member and staff. He has been examining other municipal meetings and some work in this manner and he is proposing this Council consider working this way as well. The structure is about allowing Council members to take initiatives, it is not about taking things away from Administration, they have to be at the forefront. He spoke to other members of Council in other municipalities and was advised this does not require a Motion of Council - a consensus by a showing of hands from Council will be sufficient to move this forward. He will leave it to each member of Council to determine if they wish to accept the portfolio assigned or not, Council will need to be 100% for this.

CAO, Lee stated he did not have too much to add to the conversation. Conceptually an idea, but not sure how this will unfold and he is interested to see how it will roll out. He would like a better understanding of the role of staff in the proposal of Council portfolios, and how it will be implemented.

Each member of Council voiced their thoughts on working with portfolios noted it would be a whole new way of doing things. Some Council members expressed 100% in favour, while others expressed concern not knowing on how this is supposed to work. By show of hand Councillors, Bourque, Carrier

and Robinson accepted the concept and portfolios proposal, Councillor's, Carmichael and Guitard-McDonnell did not accept the concept and portfolios proposal.

Council members continued discussion regarding the proposal concept, some feeling, it would be a way for Council members to be highly involved in the community, it would allow individual Council members to focus on certain areas and prevents everyone from doing everything and it would give the community someone to contact directly on Council about a specific portfolio. Some concerns expressed were regarding stepping into the administration role and still not sure how this works and would like more information. It was noted that in watching some other municipal meetings, other communities seem to work from the committee structure.

CAO, Lee said he did not have too much to add. Conceptually it is an idea, but he is not sure how it would unfold. He is interested to see how it will roll out and what role staff play. He would like a better understanding of the role of staff and how this will be implemented.

Mayor, Arseneault stated he would like to move forward this evening and there will still be opportunities to ask questions. He asked Council member, by show of hands who accepts the concept and their individual portfolios.

Concept accepted by Councillor's Bourque, Carrier and Robinson.

Concept not accepted by Councillor's Carmichael and Guitard-McDonnell.

Councillor, Bourque accepted his portfolios as assigned and noted that this is a completely new way of doing things. Staff will play a critical roll in the success of this. It is about reorganizing and having a plan where we want to go and to move the community forward in a business way. Portfolios are way for us to discuss on a daily where we are. Do not loose focus, you are the people making the decisions and accountable to the people.

Councillor, Robinson accepted her portfolios as assigned and is looking forward to working with Council and Staff.

Councillor, Carrier accepted her portfolios and noted this is asking each one of us to be the contact person and people will know who to contact to get an issue brough forward and keep track of who is working on what and the status of that issue.

Councillor, Carmichael said she had no problem with the portfolios but her concerns is she would like a better understanding on how it will roll out completely. She feels we need more discussion as a group and where we are going with this.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell, stated it is interesting and there is a lot to learn on these portfolios and as she understands from Councillor, Carrier we are each the go to person for our portfolios.

Mayor, Arseneault noted that now that there is a general agreement we can get started.

- AJN Development - Discussion with possible motion

Council discussion was in regards to getting more information on this file and to hold on any decision until such time as Mr. Dube sets up a meeting with this Council to provide more information, and provides the timeline on the project. Concerns around investing a million dollars in a road and then the project does not go through, has to be considered. Council has been in these positions in the past with projects promising to come and then it not happening.

CAO, Lee noted there are a lot of files that need the data transferred to Council. He proposes to do this in an orientation session and legal counsel, Andre Daigle will be able to speak to many of the files and answer questions. After that he will reach out to Mr. Dube to meet with new Council. The AJN file has not had a lot done on it except the transfer of property purchased. The road extension (Restigouche St.) was always linked to the development happening. The question is what is it for Council that will show a 100% commitment. For CAO, Lee it is the start of the development. Municipal involvement at this time is very minimal, it is all with the company at this point.

Council members are in agreement more information is needed but they also have to be mindful to not jeopardise the project or create repercussions because of a decision of Council. Mr. Dube needs to meet with Council, sooner than later.

Mayor, Arseneault said the question is what is the definition of development for this project. That will have to be a discussion for another day.

M 2021/06/21-71

Ron Bourque moved that Council halt all proceedings on the AJN file until a meeting can be arranged with Mr. Dube and the newly elected Council, seconded by Cynthia Robinson. MOTION CARRIED.

Against: Lilliane Carmichael

	For	Against	COI
Lilliane Carmichael		x	
Cynthia Robinson	x		
Kristie Carrier	x		
Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell	x		
Ron Bourque	x		
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- Broadband - Discussion

Mayor, Arseneault noted this is another file carried over from the previous Council. The concerns he had on previous Council remain the same today; why can't the public be given the information on the dollar numbers. Personally, he finds it very hard for people in the community to make a decision without having the information. Is there a legal reason information cannot be made public?

Directive to CAO, Lee was to reach out to legal counsel and see if there is a legal reason the information on costs cannot be disclosed to public.

CAO, Lee clarified for Council members how the project came about for the previous Council regarding a community owned Broadband to cover the whole municipality and the study the company was retained to do on what it would cost, which was Phase 1 of the project. The project at this point is still not approved to go, Council would have to make that decision. Currently there is an application submitted to the Federal Government for funding grant; whatever would not be funded through a grant would be the municipalities responsibility to fund. Other issues are public procurement regulations would not allow the municipality to award a project of this size without going out to a public tender through an RFP. The details on the financial are proprietary information of the company and that could not be disclosed because it would be available to competitors.

Council members question why an application in the name of the Village of Belledune would not be a public document, so why they can't disclose information.

CAO, Lee explained that the Village signed a legal document with the company regarding the information they would agree to keep confidential.

Mayor, Arseneault stated the company, ROCK, should be asked to meet with Council.

- Belledune Generation Station

Mayor, Arseneault stated that he will not speak to this issue this evening but advised he will be attending a meeting tomorrow, along with Councillor, Bourque (his portfolio). Gordon McDougall is the community representative and will Chair the meeting.

- Acknowledgements

Mayor, Arseneault wish to acknowledge National Indigenous Day in light of the recent events. As well, acknowledgement to all the local graduates.

Mayor, Arseneault advised Council of some meetings he has coming up and he will report to Council at the Committee of Whole Council meeting.

Councillor, Bourque

- Building Renovations - Financial Information

M 2021/06/21-73

Ron Bourque moved that CAO, Lee find a firm to be able to conduct a forensic audit of all the expense / cost for the municipal building renovation at #2471 Main St., seconded by Kristie Carrier.

Council members expressed concerns over the work forensic, which is defined in relation to criminal actions, why an audit when the municipality has a financial audit annually, what is the audit for, what is this hoping to uncover, how much will it cost, etc.

The determination was to wait and see what type of information that Council is wanting from an audit of this nature before proceeding in that direction. An audit of some sort may provide Council with information that they may be able to apply to future projects to avoid overspending, etc.

M 2021/06/21-73B

Cynthia Robinson moved that Motion #M 2021/06/21-73 be tabled until Council can determine the type of audit they wish to have performed, its scope of the work and type of information being sought, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

- Belledune Purchases Local Businesses

Councillor, Bourque said that the reports received show that there is very strong support for local merchants. But with a bit better planning local business could maybe bring in the material we need. The Council member with this portfolio should discuss with CAO.

Council discussed the need for creating a better relationship with local businesses, getting them on our website, utilizing local businesses, getting comparative costs, establish a predetermined percentage, etc.

- ATV Trail & Meeting with Jacques Ouellette

CAO, Lee to schedule a meeting with Mr. Ouellette to bring Council up to date on ATV Trails in Belledune and the bridge project.

- Village Snow Removal Program - Discussion

Councillor, Bourque discussed the issue of some streets in the Village not getting plowed and citizen concerns of not being able to get out. He is proposing that Council look at this and maybe thought a tender have some locals with snow blowers at least open the road so people are not stuck for 2-3 days. He is proposing maybe having a committee put something together and evaluate this.

Councillor, Carmichael recommended to meet with DTI to see how they choose streets for snow removal.

Mayor, Arseneault requested that Councillor, Bourque bring this discussion forward to Committee of Whole Council Meeting.

Councillor, Robinson

- Committees Review

M 2021/06/21-74

Cynthia Robinson moved that Council review the list of committees to determine which are obsolete or inactive, evaluate remuneration, eligibility, accountability/reporting to Council etc. and to update the by-laws as necessary, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Council members agreed they have to work on this soon and make some determination regarding the various committees/boards and appointments.

Administration Reports

CAO, Lee

- Social and Environmental Grant Report and Recommendation

M 2021/06/21-75

Ron Bourque moved that the Social and Environmental CAO Grant Report of June be accepted as presented and the following recommendations approved; \$250 to St. Joseph Heritage Site and the use of the Recreation & Cultural Centre free of charge to the St. John Evangelist Parish CWL Council for a funeral reception and the mailing of a flyer if requested, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

- Economic Development -Residential Grant

M 2021/06/21-76

Lilliane Carmichael moved that in accordance with the Village of Belledune Economic Development By-law # ED-01-2019 and the Residential Grant Policy, Council accepts CAO, Lee recommendation and approve the following grants: \$5,370.00 to Robert Norris and \$1,830.00 to Raymond & Margaret Patterson, seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Bourque inquired if these are people who moved into Belledune or are they from here and bought a house. He does not agree with this applying to Belledune residents, particularly when the sell their house in Belledune and then buy another one in Belledune.

CAO, Lee said he recognizes this issue as well and agrees, as it was intended to draw people into Belledune. As well the policy should have provisions for people moving in and building a new home. Council can look at this during their policy review.

- Tender Award - Replacement of Rooftop Units Belledune Recreation & Cultural Centre

CAO, Lee briefed Council on the Gas Tax Fund and the Capital Investment Plan that requires Council approval and provincial approval before the municipality receive the Gas Tax Fund money. The above project was approved in the plan and the money will come from that fund for this project.

M 2021/06/21-77

Lilliane Carmichael moved that as per the recommendation of Engineering firm Roy Consultants, Belledune Council award the tender for the Replacement of Rooftop Units at the Belledune Recreation & Cultural Centre to the lowest bidder, Carmichael Engineering Ltd. for the sum of \$64,788.70 (H.S.T. included), seconded by Ron Bourque. MOTION CARRIED.

- Cleaning Contract vs Cleaning Employee

CAO, Lee explained the current situation with the cleaning service contract for the municipality. There are two separate contracts – one for #2471 which is finished and one for the other buildings which included a caretake component. He has reviewed this and feels that maybe it is best to hire an employee to do all the buildings rather than tender for contract services.

Council discussion include the cost (comparison employee to contract), employee requires benefits, vacation time, etc., hiring employee and the impacts on those small companies that do the work now and loss of their employees and the benefits to contracts in relation to termination clauses.

Discussion on this building (#2471) not having cleaner since the end of May is a problem and even more so with Covid-19 cleaning protocols which are not being followed.

With no clear consensus from Council, the conversation will be carried forward.

- NB Power Line Extension, Smearer Rd E

CAO, Lee advised we received a request to have power extended along Smearer Rd E, road. Currently, the power lines do begin down Smearer Rd E, but they terminate approximately 125 meters from Main St. A quote was received from NB Power and Council has a copy of that. CAO, Lee said he investigated and the municipality is not obligated to run the power beyond where it is.

Council noted that the cost is very expensive and as they are not obligated, they will not approve this request. The person can have it done at their cost, for the municipality to take this on would set a precedent for all other similar request.

- Office Space Request

CAO, Lee advised Council we received in the attached proposal from Melissa Bernard, an interested in rental of the last available room at 2471 Main St. He detailed the process that this type of request has taken in the past, and he is requesting a directive on how to proceed with this request.

Council members discussed the process and why this come to Council and why is it not in the hands of the CAO to handle these types of requests. The process should be determined and the CAO look after. The CAO is accountable to Council for who is coming and going and will have to do some due diligence.

Other questions were raised regarding the rates, how they were determined, why the municipality is paying for the hydro, etc. Rental units should have their own meter and the tenant pay those costs.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier

- Financial Reports

M 2021/06/21-78

Ron Bourque moved that the Financial Report be accepted as presented and the Accounts Payable be paid, seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

By-laws and Policies

- Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor, Arseneault requested nomination from the Council for Deputy Mayor.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell nominated Councillor, Carmichael

Councillor, Carmichael accepted nomination

Councillor, Robinson nominated Councillor, Bourque

Councillor, Bourque accepted nomination

Mayor, Arseneault requested if there were any more nominations, with no more nominations, nominations ceased.

Mayor, Arseneault requested vote.

Councillor, Carmichael - 2 votes (Councillor, Carmichael and Councillor, Guitard McDonnell)

Councillor, Bourque - 3 votes (Councillor, Bourque, Councillor, Carrier and Councillor, Robinson)

M 2021/06/21-79

Cynthia Robinson moved that in accordance with section C. 2, subsection 2 of the Village of Belledune By-law Regulating the Proceeding of Council, Councillor, Ron Bourque be appointed as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Kristie Carrier. MOTION CARRIED.

Motions and Resolutions Nil

General Correspondence

- Correspondence In:

CRSC, Planning - Tentative Subdivision Plan - Restigouche St. (Municipal Property - Industrial Park)

DTI, - Five-Year Municipal Designated Highway Program

- CAO, Lee explained how the program works. There were no funds approved last year for Belledune, so the plan is resubmitted rolling the plan over to the next five years.

Restigouche SPCA - Report May 2021

Atlantic Railway Maintenance Inc. - Track Inspection - April 2021

CRSC, Planning - Subdivision Plan 4117 Main St.

ACOA - RE: Application for Assistance- Assigned Project #

DELG, Hon Allain - Thank you for Service Former Council

Healthy Forest Partnership - Prevention of Spruce Budworm

Closed Session

- Student Employment

Mayor, Arseneault said in the interest of time he will stick this item from the agenda tonight.

Adjournment

M 2021/06/21-80

Ron Bourque moved that the meeting adjourn at 9:59 P.M., seconded by Cynthia Robinson. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer