



**Village of Belledune
Regular Council Meeting
December 21, 2020**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Council Chambers - Remote Access on Village of Belledune YouTube
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 meeting to order and welcome everyone.

- Moment of Reflection

Mayor, Noel called for a moment of silence in memory of; Alvin Guitard and Ross Lavigne of Belledune and Donald Lapointe of Doyleville.

Adopt Agenda

M 202012/21-168

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes; remove under CAO, Lee - MOU and Lease Agreement with RCMP, remove under Councillor, Duivenvoorden his items as CAO, Lee has them on his agenda and add under Councillor, Arseneault - Glencore Decommissioning, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict of Interest Nil

Adoption of Minutes

M 202012/21-169

Tracy Culligan moved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 2, 2020 the Committee of Whole Council Meeting November 2, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2020 be adopted as presented, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Business Arising from Minutes Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Statements by Member of Council

Councillor, Arseneault

- Jacquet River School Topics
 - Crosswalk & Recognize and Acknowledge the Virtual Christmas Program and the Lady Tigers Basketball Team

Councillor, Arseneault noted that this is not the first efforts to bring the crosswalk back in front of the school; others have failed. He received calls asking if Council could help. He contacted CAO, Lee to see if he could assist with getting this done. He also initiated in getting in touch with some major stakeholders to move this along. Council has been provided with a letter supporting this, from Superintendent Donovan. He asked the Superintendent to also send his letter to government departments and DTI. Principle, Trevor Glazier also supports. CAO, Lee was asked to speak on the issue.

CAO, Lee said his understanding from meeting with DTI representatives, is that government has given municipalities more leeway in doing some of these things on provincial roads. At the DTI meeting it was made clear that the process to have any changes will require the municipality to have a study conducted by qualified engineering, to support what the municipality wants to do on the provincial road. If there are significant changes or intentions, DTI needs to be notified ahead of time. Roy Consultants are qualified to do, but if there are others that consultant agents Council wants, they will need to provide that to him.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted crosswalks come in all shapes and sizes, some just line on road, others with signs, others with flashing signals; is there a preference here?

Councillor, Killoran said he will speak more to this during his section, but was wondering if it is possible to get a list of the changes being requested for road system. Do all in one swoop, one report to DTI and do the changes at our leisure.

Mayor Noel said the list for study/ report would include; crosswalk, speed limits, truck traffic on Route #134 & Jacquet River Drive; include everything.

Mayor, Noel said the study should indicate what would be the best. It will give options to choose from – we can choose one to go to DTI with.

Councillor, Arseneault spoke on the Jacquet River School doing a virtual Christmas concert and posted to their Facebook and YouTube. It was very well done. He also spoke about the success of the girl's basketball teams (Lady Tigers), their devotion to training and the acknowledgment of their trainers. He also, noted the boy's volleyball is starting to come back.

Councillor, Carmichael noted she see a lot of changes in the school, a lot of posts on Facebook. The concert was great and it is nice to see the kids being active and having fun.

- NB News article published last week concerning possible fate of Belledune Generating Plant and related discussions concerning " Baby Nuclear Power Plants "...and what it might mean for Belledune.

Councillor, Arseneault referenced an article he read last week and is wondering what this means for the Belledune plant, which seems to imply this may be an option for Belledune. He is not sure. What do we actually know about the future of NB Power plant here, with coal being phased out by the year 2030?

CAO, Lee said that from administrative view he does not have any information. He could ask NB Power to connect with Council; he could ask Mr. Cronkhite for one or two hours of his time for a meeting. If NB Power is not here that would be detrimental.

Mayor, Noel said he has had some conversations about NB Power and they are looking to extend the life of the plant, Belledune plant is very important to them for stabilization and costs. There are some projects being looked at, but they cannot be released at this time. If Council is interested in having someone come in and meet (or do virtual) in the new year, CAO, Lee can set this up.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said extending to 2040 would keep them in line with the Federal Carbon Program. He is bewildered what the future plans are for here. He believes NB Power missed opportunity with Maritime Iron proposal; he would have like to see that come to fruition. It may not have been environmentally sound, but economically it made sense.

Councillor, Arseneault referenced the small nuclear plant potential, and already he received contact from someone saying no nuclear plant should be built in Belledune. We need to know what are the plans of the province; they should be released as they go; 2030 is just around the corner.

Councillor, Carmichael said it is good to keep the public aware. She knows that NB Power plans are not released until they make a decision. She also noted that because of closing in the summer, it will extend the plant to 2040.

Councillor, Killoran spoke to the fact that the nuclear plants being looked at are not the traditional nuclear plant. He has concerns that the ½ year operation in Belledune will extend the time. The federal government said 2030 is the shutdown date for coal fired plants. A lot of coal fired plants are converting to Natural Gas, this is what he would pursue. It should be on this Council or the next to follow up every two (2) months.

Councillor, Arseneault noted converting to natural gas would be costly. He was concerned in the way the article ended; we will have to wait and see. He thanked Council for a very good discussion on this issue.

- Conversion of Jacquet River Tennis Court into an outdoor Pickleball Court

Councillor, Arseneault noted that some other municipalities are converting to pickleball courts. The tennis court here. This sport is attractive to seniors and we have an aging population, conversion would not be costly; he would see this as a great investment. he would support perhaps looking at that.

- Glencore -Decommissioning of Plant

Councillor, Arseneault noted that the first he heard of this message was last evening at hockey. Today he heard it another three (3) or four (4) times. Can any one of Council tell him what this entails. What responsibility does Glencore have, what exactly does this mean? It is important for the people listening tonight.

Mayor, Noel advised Councillor, Arseneault that there was a mail out from Glencore regarding the decommissioning. Because of Covid-19, meeting could not be held so they had to do virtual ones. The mail out shows where you can connect on line, see what they will be doing and there is opportunity to make comments. This process was done in conjunction with NB Department of Environment.

Councillor, Arseneault inquired if they were talking about tearing buildings down.

Mayor, Noel said everything is on the site.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said he believes the opportunity to offer comments regarding decommissioning and the EIA, is December 31, 2020.

Councillor, Arseneault said he thought about it today, when they left Dalhousie in 2008 it took years for that to be resolved, Bathurst the same. He hopes this is a lot better.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said we have to keep in mind that Glencore does not sell the property before decommissioning, we have to make sure this does not happen.

- Christmas Season Acknowledgements

Councillor, Arseneault wish to extend to everyone in Belledune a happy Christmas and a great 2021. He extends the same to Council, Administration staff, regular and seasonal workers. He also noted that he never had so many complements as he did this year on the decorations. He suggested that perhaps this goes back to Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier noted this was not the case. This was an initiative started by former Councillor, Emma Flanagan as Christmas in the Park. It has evolved from there by Council allocating money in the budget each year.

Councillor, Carmichael extend seasons greeting and a hope for a better 2021. She noted that maybe the decorations were noticed more this year because of Covid-19. She noted the that those guys have patience and it is a job well done. She is happy to see people enjoying.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said he will reiterate what Councillor, Arseneault said, with the exception of those evil elves. It is a wonderful job and noted the lights on the tree at the Veteran's park.

Councillor, Carmichael

- 2021 Budget Information Session

M 2020/12/21-170

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the 2021 Budget Information Session be held on January 18, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., prior to the Regular Meeting, seconded by Nick Duivenvoorden. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Killoran

- Speed Limit on Hwy 134

Councillor, Killoran said now that we know the steps that have to be taken a directive can be given.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted that the reduction to 60 km/hr will be a hard habit to get use to and a little bit inconvenient, but the pros will far outweigh the cons.

Mayor, Noel stated that beyond the speeds the other scopes of works identified early will be included as well.

Deputy Mayor, Culligan said that she hopes the speed limit reduction will help or Curry turn but she would like the have the passing lanes addressed as well coming up to the townsite (by sawmill).

Mayor, Noel said this was discussed with DTI and will be part of the study.

Councillor, Killoran said he would also like to see included economic impacts.

Mayor, Noel said the study will be more about safety issues that economic impacts. The changes will potentially reduce truck traffic not other traffic.

Councillor, Killoran said to be clear this is the first time we have been hearing about study. If the distance is shorter on Route #134 that Highway #11, he has no problem if the trucks drive 60 km/hr. At the 80 km/hr, they are driving 90-95-110 km/hr. We will see a lot fewer close call situations. He has heard the arguments about economic impacts before. They are either inflated or upright BS. As for concerns about loosing business, he is shocked some have not been lost already.

M 2020/12/21-171

Sandenn Killoran moved that the Village of Belledune authorize the administrative staff to take all necessary steps along with the Department of Transport and Infrastructure to reduce the speed limit on Highway 134 between Jacquet River Drive to the Belledune light industrial part to 60km/hr, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

- End of the Year Statement

Councillor, Killoran prepares a written year end statement. (A copy is on file)

Topics covered by his statement include:

- Challenges and successes of 2020
- Glencore -Smelter closure
- Covid-19 virus
- Virtual Meetings and Operations
- Remote meeting & no public presence
- Orange Zone and Belledune issues
- Ambulance Services Report
- Business attraction, local employment, and NB Power life span
- Future vs. Past
- Hopes for 2021

- Thoughts on the Rural Broadband Numbers

Councillor, Killoran discussed the presentation and how they were unwilling to give him the excel spreadsheet, that raises a red flag for him; there are plenty of questions on this initiative. There are other providers coming on board with the federal funding being available. We need to do due diligence. He advised Council not to be shocked by sticker price – think 5 -10 years down the road.

Administration Reports

CAO, Lee

- Residential Grant Report

M 2020/12/21-172

Tracy Culligan 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 grant: Tammy Barton in the amount \$1,085, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

- Grant Report and Recommendation

CAO, Lee noted on the item for Paul Devereaux (Jacquet River gorge) funnelled through the Super Village Trail Blazer Club; they are not sure what Mr. Devereaux is using the money for. They want to have a conversation with him to get this information. He hopes Council is o.k. with that and aware that there may be conditions applied to that grant.

M 2020/12/21-173

Tracy Culligan moved that the Social and Environmental CAO Grant Report of December 2020 be accepted as presented and the following recommendations approved; \$288 to Belledune Volunteer Fire Dept. for Dusty Sneakers Journals, \$750 to Super Village Trail Blazer Snowmobile Club for Paul Devereaux for Jacquet River Gorge upkeep, \$250 Northern Moose AAA U15 for Kade McCurdy, \$250 for Les Cadets Royaux, \$100 for NB Environmental Network for the Great Minds Think Outside Program, \$100 for the Kidney Foundation of Canada, \$100 for Multiple Sclerosis of Canada, \$100 for IWK Foundation & Kids Help Phone \$100, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Arseneault inquired if we could increase the amount to the MS, IWK and Kid's Help One if there is money available

CAO, Lee noted there is money in the Budget, but the policy directs on what he can recommend.

Mayor, Noel said the policy read \$100 and we need to stick with policy, so amount stays as is.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted he is content with that amount.

- Tender Award, Garbage Truck
 - Chris Kingston has received in the bids for the Garbage Truck tender. There was only one bid received. Recommendation is made to award.

M 2020/12/21-174

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that Council, as per recommendation of Chris Kingston, award the Tender for Latest Model Rear Load Refuse Packer to the only bidder, Saunder's Equipment Ltd., for the amount of \$282,200 (plus HST) and purchase of extended warranty for an additional 2 years at additional cost of \$3,025.00 (plus HST), seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

- Tender for Public Works One-ton

The Capital Asset Management plan is a whole process, really involved and will take some time to complete entirely. He sees the merit in such a plan; it will make the budgeting process more comprehensive and will reinforce the decisions. A plan will help himself and staff. He has taken the vehicles for public works and worked with that for a plan (Council has copy) and he will continue on from there.

M 2020/12/21-175

Lilliane Carmichael moved that in accordance with NB Procurement Act and Regulations, Belledune Council authorize the commencement of tender process and publicly advertise the Tender on NB Opportunity Network (NBON) for Belledune One Ton Truck, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Killoran said looking on list, did we look at other vehicles or are we going to continue paying out mileage.

CAO, Lee said as of now no. Bu he can put some report together to financially evaluate owning vehicles vs paying out mileage.

Councillor, Killoran said he feels a fleet of vehicles would be what serves the village best. It is not a big deal and he would like to see the idea fleshed out. He sees other communities around have their own pickup.

Mayor, Noel said early in the new year, we could schedule a working session. CAO, Lee would have that information for public works and well as others. That could take a half day, so it should be planned for early in the new year.

Councillor, Arseneault noted that Councillor, Killoran some time ago was quite clear that we need a comprehensive Capital Asset Plan. He thought about this the other day regarding review of our policies/by-laws; we only have three (3) months left in our term. We may not be able to work on the plan but the by-law we need to do so as to leave the next Council with a really good structure – at least we should start putting it together so that the Council coming in has something to start with.

- Purchase and Installation of Hub Controllers
Details were provided during the COW meeting.

M 2020/12/21-176

Lilliane Carmichael moved that Council approves the purchase and installation of Hub Controllers from Levesque & McIntyre Electric Co. Ltd. for the amount of \$4,610 (plus HST), seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

- ROCK Networks Resolution

CAO, Lee said he received the legal review late and the resolution proposed was revised by legal counsel, so the village is more secure. He sent to Sylvie Melanson (Rock Network) and she was o.k. with the revised resolution.

M 2020/12/21-177

Sandenn Killoran moved that the following Resolution be Adopted seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED. Against: Paul Arseneault

Resolution

WHEREAS council has received an unsolicited proposal to provide broadband to its citizens,
AND WHEREAS council wishes to encourage the provision of much needed services and utilities to its citizens,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Council will review the funding application to the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) Program;

AND THAT, depending on said review, Belledune may allow ROCK Networks to submit an application on its behalf to the UBF Program, but only after agreeing to in writing by way of a MOU;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT, if the application is successful, and after conducting a further due diligence exercise with regards to the Design, Build and Operation of the network, so that it conforms to its authority under the Local Governance Act and any other applicable legislative or procurement requirements, ROCK Networks will be appointed Design, Build and Operator of the network with payment contingent on funding availability.

	For	Against	COI
Paul Arseneault		x	
Lilliane Carmichael	x		
Tracy Culligan	x		
Nick Duivenvoorden	x		
Sandenn Killoran	x		
	4	1	0

Councillor, Carmichael questioned making such a big decision at end of year. She wants to make sure that the Village can back out later if they choose. We are just giving them permission for application for funding. She would like to see the provincial government share some costs; we are north and need better internet. Before we go out with the survey, she would like to see a public presentation so the people can see what it is. AS Councillor, Killoran pointed out to her a few months ago, she does not know what broadband is. He was correct, so most people in the community would not know what it is either.

Mayor, Noel said there will be another voted after this one if Council want to proceed.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden requested who is the application drawn up by. It is noted that the application is to be reviewed.

Mayor, Noel said Nova Communications does the application and Council review and see if this is a viable operation; do we have a case from the survey results? If we submit application and do not get all the money, or if we cannot get authority to borrow, etc. (Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier is checking into this), this will all need to be known for this project.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden noted with the application deadline being February 5, 2021 will the survey be compiled in advance of that date

Mayor, Noel advised the survey is ready to go.

Deputy Mayor Culligan agreed with Councillor, Killoran we need to look deep into the future. Rock Network gave a very comprehensive and detailed presentation. During this pandemic, she is very thankful for technology for keeping connected with family & friends, for mental health and for work. So many people and businesses are relying on this service now. We are seeing Covid-19 driving people

out of the cities and moving to rural areas. Internet services will provide people with the ability to run businesses from home. She is really looking forward to the survey to go out; this is a fantastic project.

Councillor, Killoran said while he could not get a copy of the excel sheets, he sees the prices are competitive. He explained what the download capacity means for businesses and what other providers like Rogers are able to provide. This project would provide better than fiber op, much faster. He sees this opening up a lot of opportunities for Belledune. The survey is important, we need to work on a communication for this survey to roll out. He would hate to see the project crash because people would not understand what we want to do.

- CRSC - Planning Department - Update on Unsightly/Unsafe Properties

CAO, Lee said he has asked for a report on these files and they responded with seeing no issue with providing. A report will be submitted in January and CAO, Lee sees this as a monthly update on each file.

- Housing Subsidy Program - Amendment Update

CAO, Lee advised he connected with Councillor, Duivenvoorden on this to set a deadline. He has communicated with Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier regarding getting examples from other communities. January 2021 is the established deadline to have amendment. Intend to broaden more for enticing families with young kids. He will do a bit of leg work and have something for January meeting.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden said for the first time more people are moving to New Brunswick from Ontario, versus the opposite. Not necessarily to northern NB, specifically. Covid-19 is driving them here. Perhaps with the adjusted policy it will entice some here.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier

- Financial Reports

M 2020/12/21-178

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Financial Report be accepted as presented and the Accounts Payable be paid, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

- 2020 Financial Year-End Projections

M 2020/12/21-179

Sandenn Killoran moved

that Belledune open a General Operating Reserve Fund and transfer \$200,000 from the 2020 General Operating Fund, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

M 2020/12/21-180

Sandenn Killoran moved

that \$700,000 be transferred from 2020 General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Killoran asked about does some prepayment for some things and doing the work later, say 50% now 50% when work done.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier advised that financials are done on an accrual basis, so this would not make any difference to the 2020 statements nor surplus.

M 2020/12/21-181

Lilliane Carmichael moved that \$13,000 be transferred from the 2020 Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

- January 4, 2021 Committee of Whole Council Meeting - Cancellation

M 2020/12/21-182

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Committee of Whole Council Meeting of January 4, 2021 be cancelled, seconded by Tracy Culligan. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Arseneault inquired about the Fire Dept. meeting that week.
Mayor, Noel advised he thinks it is only on the 14th of January.

By-laws and Policies Nil

Motions and Resolutions

- Industrial/E.P.G. Engine Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement

M 2020/12/21-183

Sandenn Killoran moved that Belledune Council accepts the Industrial/E.P.G. Engine Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement (1 Year) with Tormont Cat for the Generator, at #2330 Main St., for the amount of \$2,290 (plus HST), and the Mayor and Clerk sign, seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor, Killoran inquired if both generators could be on the one contract.
CAO, Lee said he will check into for the next time.

General Correspondence

Correspondence In:

- Belledune Library Reports - October & November 2020
- Restigouche SPCA Monthly Report - November 2020
- Restigouche Crime Prevention - Ron Bourque
- Min. DELG - Federal Gas Tax 2019-2023
- Minster Flemming - DJPS - Police Delivery Service Review
- Minister Holland - NRED - New Website
- Belledune Port Authority to Mr. Losier, Ambulance NB

Closed Session Nil

Mayor, Noel wish to thank everyone for this past year, it has been very trying because of things that happen and Covid-19. He appreciates efforts put in by Council and we got things done that we needed to get done. We don't always agree, but we compromise. He sends thanks to the citizens and commented on how people checked in on their neighbours. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and keep up the good work and stay safe.

Councillor, Duivenvoorden requested permission of Mayor, Noel to make a request to Councillor, Arseneault why he voted against the Broadband motion.

Councillor, Arseneault referenced back to the previous meeting in June where he also voted nay and gave his explanation at that time his reasons for doing so. He will not elaborate any further at this time. He hopes he is wrong; he agrees with the concept that it is needed but he has some reservations. He will let it play out and there will be a final vote at another time in future and he will then give a full and detailed explanation that evening.

M 2020/12/21-184

Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:54 P.M., seconded by Lilliane Carmichael. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer