



**Village of Belledune
Special Council Meeting
March 14, 2023**

Time: 7:15 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque
Staff Present: Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier
Administrative Assistant, Nicole Carrier

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor Arseneault called meeting to order and welcomed public.

- Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"

Mayor, Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship".

- Reaffirm Oath of Office

Council reaffirmed the Oath of Office

Adopt Agenda

M 2023/03/14-50

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

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Business

CAO - Letter of Offer

Councillor, Robison noted that Council had met last Thursday for over an hour to discuss the terms and details of the contract for CAO. After a bunch of calls and e-mail over the weekend that agreement is changed. She does not think this could in a legal manner be done without a meeting of Council. She wants people to know it is business as usual in Belledune.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell said she made no phone calls, but rethought everything and decided to bring forward those changes and were the proper ones in her mind to treat the CAO as an employee rather than a contract position. She researched and the probationary period is normally three months in New Brunswick and not six months and where this person held the position in the past the six months probation is not necessary.

Councillor, Carrier wanted to know why after the discussion was had and we agreed on and she recalled it was Councillor Guitard-McDonnell who mentioned the three months. Another thing is we paid for training we paid for someone to specifically come here to train us on this sort of thing. He trained us and told us specifically that each Council member should be open to hiring the CAO they felt is the best qualified and experienced in what their strategic plan is and which is why CAO's are often hired on a contract basis to give the next Council to come in and once they have their vision hired the CAO with the expertise to make that plan happen. It almost appears to her that the discussion Council has was brought back to Mr. Lee and he was unsatisfied to what Council agreed on and then Council members starting e-mail back and forth and boom, boom, boom. Even when there were questions answered I asked if Council considered taking Mr. Lee in and discussing the terms of the contract, no one even responded to that. Why would we be having a meeting about a letter when the letter has not even been finalized by legal or Council and there was no response to that. It just seems everything is just being pushed forward. The more things change the more they stay the same and it is unfortunate that those of us living here are hoping for a better place.

Councillor, Bourque noted that the democracy is a great thing, we get to express our views. It never going to be that everyone agrees with everyone on every single thing. When the time comes to vote it is based on majority vote and that is where we are. Personally, I have been part of many votes that have been voted down and I can assure you not one word did I ever say or argue with Council over it. Because we disagree does not mean that someone is right and someone is wrong, it means we had a difference of opinion and that difference of opinion needs to be respected by the majority of Council and once the voted is done that is it.

Councillor, Carmichael said it was s difficult process and we worked hard together to get it done. I just feel he will do an amazing job and not everyone is going to agree. Once the vote of Council is decided that is the vote it should move on; the past is the past and we have to move forward

Councillor, Carrier asked Councillor, Bourque if he had now changed his mind on the audit considering that Mr. Lee was the project coordinator and manager for that project. She is wondering if his opinion on that has changed being as you want to hire him back. You must think he did an awesome job.

Councillor, Bourque asked the Mayor if he was going to allow the question.

M 2023/03/14-51

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the following Resolution be adopted, seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED Against: Cynthia Robinson and Kristie Carrier

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Council directed the hiring of a CAO during a closed session of Council,

WHEREAS Council provided further instructions by email and legal provided a letter of offer based on the further instructions,

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the letter of offer with the agreed upon changes and authorizes municipal officers to sign and seal the letter,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to forward the letter of offer prepared by legal to Mr. Lee for review and approval,

| | For | Against | COI |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Lilliane Carmichael | x | | |
| Cynthia Robinson | | x | |
| Kristie Carrier | | x | |
| Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell | x | | |
| Ron Bourque | x | | |
| | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Adjournment

M 2023/03/14-52

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourn at 7:08 P.M., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer