



Village of Belledune  
Committee of Whole Council Meeting  
September 7, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** Belledune Council Chambers  
Mayor, Paul Arseneault  
Deputy Mayor, Ron Bourque  
**Present:** Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael  
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson  
Councillor, Kristie Carrier  
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell  
**Staff Present:** Assistant Clerk, Nicole Carrier  
Interim, CAO, Scott Ferguson  
**Staff Absent:** Clerk/Treasurer, Brenda Cormier

Mayor, Arseneault called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of “Treaties of Peace Friendship”.

Council reaffirmed their Oath of Office.

**Adopt Agenda**

**M 2021/09/07-114**

**Deputy Mayor Bourque moved that the agenda be Adopted with the following changes, Councillor Carrier wants to move up the Item – Chambers open to Public, Mayor Arseneault wanted to add Make Work and Antiques Plus, which Councillor Robinson will address, seconded by Councillor Robinson. MOTION CARRIED.**

Statement of Conflict of Interest: Nil

**Presentations / Petitions / Delegations**

- Mr. Daniel Guitard, MLA Restigouche Chaleur

Mayor Arseneault welcomed Mr. Guitard; Mayor Arseneault had the pleasure of working with Mr. Guitard for many years and he is always willing to help and would like to thank him for all the help he gives to the community.

One of the reasons why Mr. Guitard wanted to meet tonight was he wanted to meet the new Council, and offer his services if anyone needs anything, he is always willing to help out if he can.

The other reason Mr. Guitard is here is to discuss the closure of the NBCC upgrading in Belledune. Unfortunately, the last 5 years the number of people going to the upgrading has declined severely and the cost is just too much to justify keeping the class going. There are only 2 or 3 students/session. So even Mr. Guitard said he cannot give a solid agreement to the government to keep

the upgrading open. There are only 2 places in Northern NB where there are classes in person, Bathurst offers French classes and Campbellton offers English classes. If there are people who want to take classes that are unemployment the government will pay travel and babysitting fees, etc.

Councillor Carrier wanted to know if the money that was used for the upgrading courses could be redirected at other courses that could be given in the area. As of now there are no English trade courses in the area. Industries look for people with trades, and she has been in contact with some of the industries that would be willing to hire apprentice.

Mr. Guitard suggested that council send a letter to NBCC asking for English courses. Maybe if space was provided and industries were on board there might be something that can be done.

Councillor Carmichael mentioned that it was stated before that there are tons of money for grants in regards to seniors, tourism, for example Roherty Road, ATV trails, etc. She asked if Mr. Guitard could help council move forward with some of these items.

Mr. Guitard said there is always some money somewhere. He had managed to get money for the Arena compressors last year. Recently he had approved \$5000 for a wheel chair bench for the beach for Belledune. He usually has about \$50,000 that he can share between communities at his discretion. He gave \$5000 for a project in Lorne, lights at the legion, money also given to Pointe Verte and Petit Rocher. There is at least \$5000 per year for each community. His \$50,000 is spent this year however let him know if there is something in the future that we would need for the area. There is RDC and other programs also. Mr. Guitard suggested that we get in contact with Mr. LaPlante, he can come and explain to Mr. Ferguson and staff the various programs available.

In regards to the ATV trail, Mr. Guitard mentioned that there was a road block, the money is there. It has been a few years that that they have been working on getting the bridge over Jacquet River completed. He spoke with Jacques Ouellette this morning and they were waiting on a document that was missing from the Department of Environment, apparently the file is all completed now and has been sent to the minister Ernie Legacy. Mr. Guitard suggest that a letter of support be sent from the village. Mr. Ferguson will contact Mr. Guitard in the morning and get the information needed and he will also contact Mr. Oullette.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that Mr. Guitard never shies away from any issues. Sometimes he takes a lot of heat, but he is always there to help. On behalf of the Legion, he would like to thank Mr. Guitard for his ongoing support.

Mr. Guitard said he is just a phone call away. Mr. Guitard mentioned that he has built great relationships with all parties of government, he has no enemies, so the ministers are always willing to return his calls and help if they can.

Mayor Arseneault thanked Mr. Guitard for his appearance at tonight's meeting and looks forward to working with him in the future.

**Business:**

**COUNCILLOR CARRIER**

**Protocols for Meetings**

Councillor Carrier mentioned that the meetings should now be open to the public. She does not feel that there should be anymore protocols in place. There has been an NB Power meeting at the Rec. Centre with no protocols so meetings here should not be any different.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that he agreed 100% that the meetings should be open to the public, there is limited room here, if there is social distancing there is not a lot of room for many people. Who will have control over who comes in and who does not? There has to be a system in place. The public should have to call in before 4:00pm the day of the meeting to reserve a spot.

Councillor Carrier asked why should there be any control over the meetings. Everything is wide open now.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said he has no problem with that but he feels that a mask should be worn coming into the building and until they are seated. If they get up to use the washroom; they should put their mask on.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked about the sitting capacity, what are other places doing.

Councillor Carrier said there should be no special requirements.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said she would like to see hand sanitizer and masks be worn until they are seated.

Councillor Carmichael said she would like to open the meetings to the public but with hand sanitizer and mask made available at the door.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that the municipality of Belledune deserves a lot of credit for protected themselves, they are very aware by taking the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe.

## **MAYOR ARSENEAULT**

### **Make Work Project**

Mayor Arseneault had brought up the make work projects to the last council however they were not interested. He said that some people cannot find any work. It is very tough, they have no money coming in, it is their responsibility but he feels that we have to show some compassion and help these people that are going through a hard time. They could help the municipality with such things as brush cutting, etc. Maybe if they get something in their life, they would feel better about themselves. He is looking for some feedback from Council.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that the idea has merit. There is a large group of Avers and snowmobilers in the area and they are looking to get the brush cut on Belledune Rd., Colony Rd., etc. If they could cut the brush, it would be plus for our community.

Mayor Arseneault also mentioned that they could cut the brush back on the ski trail around Chaleur Drive.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked who would oversee this project and isn't this what our public works employees do. It would be difficult to ask Public Works Manager MacLellan to supervise this make work project. Mayor Arseneault said that one of the workers on the project could be a supervisor.

Councillor Carrier asked how many people were they looking to hire.

Mayor Arseneault said that there are about 5 to 6 people that have no money coming in. They would have to pay minimum wage, 40 hours per week for enough weeks to get unemployment. Say about \$40,000.

Councillor Carrier said we had students here all summer that could of did some of this work. Also, they are hiring at the Sawmill, Clover Farm, etc. everyone is hiring. Are they lacking skills or training?

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that some was lack of training, others did not have a driver's license.

Councillor Robinson said that it would be a supplement to Public Works. The public works do not have a lot of time, there are issues with a lot of brooks, water ways, ditches, etc. They workers could do that, as it is something public works should be doing.

Councillor Carmichael said that Councillor Robinson does have a point, however there are lots of jobs in the community whether they drive or not.

Councillor Robinson said that it is not for us to decide why people can't work, it is hard for them to get jobs.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if this was a one-time project or is the Mayor looking at something seasonal? Mayor Arseneault said he would see how it goes this year

CAO Ferguson asked for clarification in regards to opening the meetings up to the public. Nothing was actually decided.

Mayor Arseneault asked for clarification:

- Sanitizer at door – yes
- Mask – 3 yes
- 6 feet apart – no, full capacity

Mayor Arseneault has some concerns in regards to the question period. Last term members of the public swore at council, called them name, etc. He is not a fan of letting people stand up and talk. They could send in their question before and have it answer at the meeting. It is unacceptable to allow people to speak to council in such a manner. This is only in Belledune that people are allowed to do this.

Councillor Carrier said that the public were never given permission to swear at council or treat them with disrespect. However, she feels that the public should not have to put their questions in writing.

Councillor Carmichael said that questions if ok however she feels that the swearing at council and calling them down is not acceptable. If that happens then it needs to be stopped right away.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that people should have to act in a respectful way or be asked to leave. We should have an RCMP member at our public meetings.

Mayor Arseneault said he would ask a member of the RCMP to be at every Committee of Whole and Regular Meeting.

### **Meeting Last Week:**

Mayor Arseneault talked about the meeting that was held last week. He said it was a fantastic meeting – thumbs up. It was very positive and those meetings will continue. He thanked the council members who were there and he was grateful for all the work Deputy Mayor Bourque and Councillor Robinson did to make the event such a success. He would like to thank them personally for all the work they did that day and the days after. Also, thanks to CAO Ferguson, Clerk/Treasurer Cormier, Admin. Assistant Carrier and Rec. and Wellness Coordinator Culligan for all pitching in and helping. Special thanks Antiques Plus, Kevin and Cynthia, unbelievable how they came through for us.

### **Councillor Robinson – Antiques Plus**

Councillor Robinson mentioned that both Kevin and Cynthia are great tourism people. They are heavily involved in tourism. The issue that happened was in regards to the number of people that was going to be at the meeting that day. They have a permit for a capacity for 8 people however there was going to be over 28 people. The building is only allowed to have 2 uses. With the Café being the 3. There is the Residence, Antique Plus and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Café – so they are not in compliance. As council we are trying to move this along quickly, a variance is needed in order to resolve the issue. Councillor Robinson said that the whole Rural Plan has to be fixed, it does not make any sense for our village. The Café needs support from council to get the variance approved.

CAO Ferguson mentioned that the CRSC – Planning Division make the variances not the village.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that it is our Rural Plan and it needs to be changed for this.

Deputy Mayor Bourque had a general comment about the meeting last week, it was very positive, comments from highly professional people, work together, thanked everyone for being there.

Councillor Carrier mentioned that when this meeting first came up council were told they could stop by and say hello, then they received an invitation for the meeting and meal. Councillor Carrier said in the future she would like to know that is going on and be more informed so she can be better prepared. She said herself and Councillor Guitard-McDonnell would have been more than happy to help out.

### **DEPUTY MAYOR BOURQUE**

Deputy Mayor Bourque sent a copy of his report for the Agenda Package, his report is on file.

-Port of Belledune

-RCMP

-NB Power

### **Snow Removal Program for Designated Streets**

Deputy Mayor Bourque talked about the snow removal program for designed streets – there are some notes from Clerk/Treasurer Cormier. The contractors will have to carry \$5 million liability insurance. This does not have to be in place for September however it will be on the Agenda for October's meeting for a motion.

Mayor Arseneault wanted council to know that council has the support of DTI, the contractors, etc. Everyone involved is on board except council. Do you give Deputy Mayor Bourque the support to move forward to hire the extra contractors?

Councillor Guitard- McDonnell said that she is in support but her concern is the private contractors that have driveways to do, that they are paid to do, how will this work? Are they doing that at the same time?

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that the contractors will be doing 1 pass in and 1 pass out, if they do any driveways then the council will get rid of them. This will be a pilot project if it is successful, we will do it again, people need to get to work, can't get out on streets and can't get to work they do not get paid.

Councillor Carmichael said the problem she has with it is that we need to force DTI to hire out local contractors, we are paying them to do the job. If the village hires contractors, then DTI will step back even more. If an Ambulance or fire trucks are called and the road is plugged there is a protocol to get the roads cleaned. There needs to be a meeting with DTI, roads are dangerous.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that he is not dealing with DTI anymore, he has put in a lot of work in this program and if Councillor Carmichael wants to take it over and so, she is more than welcome to do it because it seems she has a lot to say about it. Councillor Carmichael said she was allowed to voice her opinion and ask questions.

Councillor Carrier said she is not familiar with DTI. She asked why are the roads better in Point Verte and Charlo then in Belledune during a snow storm. Some of those areas have their own contractors and not DTI.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that the plows use to be parked in Nash Creek and now they are parked in Tide Head. DTI clears the streets but not in a timely manner. He explained that "A" streets are cleaned first, "B" streets are cleaned second and the last is the side streets. The Village of Belledune could not clean the streets on their own, that would be a major expense for Belledune which would cause financial difficulty that is why this program is a trial. He also said he was not going to start having meetings with DTI, he has spent a lot of time on this, it is important to the community, he said that not everyone can take vacation or works at NB Power, as Councillor Carmichael said she had to take a day's vacation last winter.

Councillor Carrier said what about the people who pay to have their driveways cleaned by the same contractors, what happens when the contractors are cleaning the streets and the people's driveways are not getting done.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said it is important to the community to have the streets cleaned, someone could die if they do not have accessibility to the ambulance.

Councillor Carrier asked why Mayor Bourque was getting so defensive. She thought that the Committee of Whole council meetings was for council to ask questions so they can make a decision. If the contractors only go out after 25cm of snow, when it drifts by the time, they finish some streets they will have to keep going back. If the contractors are being paid by the hour, it could get very costly.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said some streets drift in like Mons. Hickey, Legacy Rd., etc. He said he has a soft spot in his heart for people that need to get out or needs an ambulance. He has put a lot of time into this program. He will be meeting with the contractors to tie up loose ends and will have it on the agenda for the October meeting.

Mayor Arseneault said for the sake of time we will keep going. He feels that Deputy Mayor Bourque has answered everyone's questions in a professional manner and it's time to move on.

Councillor Robinson said she was fully in support of this program even if it is for people's sake for peace of mind. This program was no small task. She would like to thank Deputy Mayor Bourque for his hard work. DTI gave their blessing, so it is not fair to ask Deputy Mayor Bourque to continue working on this if council doesn't want to proceed.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell feels that she isn't allowed to ask questions, and feels bad for asking them. However, she just wanted more information.

Councillor Carrier said move forward, she just wanted her questions answered, she appreciates the work put into this. It is a good program and she looks forward to hearing more about it at the October meeting.

Councillor Carmichael said it was a good program and she wasn't looking to upset anyone, she said council should be able to ask questions and speak to each other at the council table without everyone getting upset, she feels that is very sad if they cannot work that way. She does want answers to her questions.

### **Have Engineer Firm Evaluate the Building**

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that there was approximately \$4.6 million dollars spend in this building. He has not issue with the way it was tendered, the issue he has is whether or not the village got fair value for the money that was spent. For example, Restigouche Road was estimated at \$750,000, however it came in at 35% over estimate. Since there was only one bidder; they were able to meet with them and make changes in the tender to bring the cost down to \$750,000, which was budgeted for. He does not want to see council to fall into this in the future, where tenders come in higher and accept them. He mentioned that before he got on council, he started a private group of concerned citizens that wanted to know why this building cost so much and was its money well spent. They want their questions answered, there are 165 residents on this private group, so it is not just him. Councillor Bourque said he wants to hire an engineer to come and evaluate this building so the citizens can get their answers. He will be bringing a motion forward at the next meeting.

### **Water Filtration System – Chaleur Drive**

Chaleur Drive has been on a boil order for over a month due to turbidity issues. There is only gravel coming out of some of the taps. A filtration system has to be purchased in order to rectify this problem. As per Clerk/Treasurer Cormier's notes we can either amend the gas tax application to purchase this system or it can be purchased from the Utility Capital Reserve.

CAO Ferguson said that the residents of Chaleur Drive have been on a boil order for over a month. Usually if there are issues with one system the smelter can switch it over to the NB Power system. Now that there are not many workers at the Smelter, the guy that could do it was away on vacation, he

is back now so he will switch it over. Peter Duivenvoorden brought in pictures, the causes of the turbidity is the water level, sand gets in the filters, and a green moss gets in the lines. This has been an issue for a few years now as Mr. Duivenvoorden brought in a proposal to Mr. Lee in 2019 however, he believes it was not brought to council so it was never done. The new chlorination system is between \$50,000 and \$55,000. In the last estimate in 2019 there were 6 filters and now there are 9, so Mr. Ferguson will find out why there are more. He will get more information and bring forward for council to make a decision.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said there is money in the gas tax fund that can be used for water and sewage, the funding is there.

Councillor Carrier asked why they can't put wells in for each home. Deputy Mayor Bourque said that lots are not big enough. She asked about the subdivision on Mack/Carr St., do they have wells? There is a water and sewage system in that subdivision however it is not owned by the village. Councillor Carrier asked what if the village puts this money into the system and it doesn't work, the pipeline is owned by the smelter, what if the pipes break and there is nobody to fix them. She would like to have more information in regards to getting wells put in on Chaleur Drive. CAO Ferguson will check it out.

#### **Proposed Amendment to Council Remuneration By-law Discussion**

Deputy Mayor Bourque talked about the remuneration of council. He said the past remuneration reflects on him as well. If council stays home, they still get paid. He would like to have the remuneration reduced by \$2400/month. He doesn't think that council should get paid for meetings they do not attend because a contradictory issue is on the agenda. If they stay home, they should not get paid. If council comes to meetings, that shows a clear commitment of council. If they show up then they get \$100/meeting. He will be bringing a motion to amend the by-law at the next meeting. Deputy Mayor Bourque also wants reports posted on the website so the public has access to them. He asked Assistant Clerk Carrier if there was a section on the website for reports. She said no however she will look into it.

Councillor Carmichael had a question on the remuneration, she is not sure what Deputy Mayor Bourque is trying to say. She does not miss meetings unless she is away and even then, she is in attendance virtually. Also, if there are extra meetings, does that mean that they will be getting paid \$100 for each meeting they attend.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that he was been on 3 different councils and the extra meetings may be about 6 to 8 meetings a term. If the remuneration is reduced by \$2400 and you get paid \$100 for each committee of whole meetings and regular meetings then that will equal the same at the end of the year. If you go to other meetings then you should get paid also. The impact will be if you are not at the meetings. You do not get paid.

Councillor Carmichael asked about virtual meetings.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that if he is in Florida on vacation and attends a meeting virtually then he should not get paid because he is on vacation however if he is in Fredericton on village business and he attends a meeting virtually then he should get paid.

Mayor Arseneault supports the idea of reports, reports should be done, it is a way of showing responsibility.



## **COUNCILLOR CARMICHAEL**

### **Reminder of First Budget Meeting**

Budget meetings will start next week, September 14. She met with Clerk/Treasurer on Friday. The Finance Committee By-law will have to be amended however she would like to stay on as the Chairperson.

### **Swing for Seniors**

The new swing at the Seniors complex is much more secure. She will put the motion in regards to the swing at the next meeting. She would like to purchase one for the Jacquet River Villa next year. The other swings can be put up at the campground next year.

CAO Ferguson said he cannot be at the September 14 meeting as he has prior commitments.

Mayor Arseneault said the budget process last year was great. Everyone should be included in the process. He felt that Councillor Carmichael and himself were ignored the years before. Last year was much better.

## **COUNCILLOR CARRIER**

### **NBCC Trades & Apprenticeship Program**

Councillor Carrier explained that she has been in contact with NBCC in regards to putting on various courses in the area. She envisioned that this program could take in any business from municipalities from Bathurst to Campbellton. She was also speaking with 2 people from the Chaleur Sawmill and Chief Richardson and they all seemed interested in such a program. NBCC said the next step would be finding out what trades are in demand. Then they would be able to offer those courses in the area. They would need a facility, Councillor Carrier mentioned that a facility would not be an issue, NBCC also has a mobile trailer that they can give courses out of. If for example it's a welding course that is needed then the equipment could be leased, etc. The sawmill is very interested in taking an apprentice in. We can also ask NB Power, the Port, Glencore, Shaw, etc. There may also be other businesses in the region that would come on board. We could also get some funding from them for the program. She is waiting on more information. Council told her to move forward with this initiative.

### **Subdivision Plan & Services**

Councillor Carrier had a meeting with Melissa Harvey who is with Rural Municipalities in regards to having a building where we can offer services out of. There is \$900,000 available for such a program. We could offer various services out of this building, such as helping the homeless, it doesn't have to be a shelter, as long as we are offering services. Spaces can be rented to various groups to offer their services, such as addiction services, health services, Aboriginal services, etc. She was going to have another meeting with Ms. Harvey however due to conflicting schedules one has not been set up as of yet. Councillor Carrier asked CAO Ferguson if he was in touch with Ms. Harvey yet. CAO Ferguson said he was waiting to hear from her and was also waiting for her to send the funding application. He will try to get in touch with her again. CAO Ferguson said that he thought the \$900,000 was for the whole province. Councillor Carrier said that they could apply to get up to \$900,000 depending on what they show in their application, and how they show that the services can be maintained for 5 years.

Mayor Arseneault asked if that meant we will be acquiring another building. He asked who will be maintaining this building, will it be the village. There is a lot of cost in maintaining another building.

Councillor Carrier said that is why they have to show that the facility can be maintained through rental space. As an example, they could put the food bank in there and charge rent, or a soup kitchen, there are many organizations that they can approach. She said they could have a non-profit organization that could run it, as long as they can show it can be maintained for at least 5 years.

### **Housing Program Funding**

Councillor Carrier would like to move forward with a subdivision plan in the Jacquet River area. Lots could be sold for \$1 each, they would work with developers to develop such a subdivision. There is a need for more places for people to live. They move to Bathurst or elsewhere because there is no land that can be purchased. She wanted to know if council had any questions.

Deputy Mayor Bourque asked about clarification in regards to the Don Bosco. Councillor Carrier said at first, she thought about purchasing the Don Bosco for housing however it is not for sale. Deputy Mayor Bourque mentioned that the village owns 2 parcels of land on Jacquet River Drive. That would be a good spot for new development. Councillor Carrier said she would have a look at the properties and see if a she can get a drawing made up to show council of how they want it.

CAO Ferguson said he could get someone to come in and have a look at the properties. Either a surveyor or engineer.

Mayor Arseneault said this would have to come to council for a vote because it will cost a lot of money. CAO Ferguson said that there is lots of planning and cost for such a project. Mayor Arseneault said there needs to be a lot more planning than what we have now because it will be a major cost to the village.

Councillor Carrier asked what would be the first step in the planning process. CAO Ferguson said he has some experience because he worked on the Waterfront Project in Bathurst. The first step would be to go to a developer and get a cost. Find out what all is needed to move forward. Deputy Mayor Bourque mentioned that it would be a good idea to get the Planning commission involved.

### **Signage on Building**

Councillor Carrier would like to see signage on the building showing McDougall Auctioneers and the RCMP. CAO Ferguson said he would look into the cost. Deputy Mayor Bourque said he will bring a motion in for the next meeting.

### **Directive for Staff on how to deal with Rental Spaces in the Building**

Councillor Carrier knew of a person who wanted the space that was vacant in the building, because she did not get any responses so she took her business elsewhere. So, we lost a potential client. There needs to be a clear directive for staff so that this does not happen in the future.

Mayor Arseneault said that he disagrees with just anyone wanting to come into the building that they be allowed. The business should have to fit in with the parameters of what council wants to see in the building. There should be a policy put in place regarding what needs to be done to rent space. People wanting to come into the building should have to make a presentation to council so council can ask questions. Council should have the last say as to who comes into the building.

Councillor Carrier said she doesn't see why people should have to make a presentation for a space here because there was none for the fire hall in Jacquet River. There was a presentation by the person

interested in renting, the only issue was what would be the cost to get the space set up. She just does not want this to happen again where we lose a business.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that there would be cost associated with the vacant room, therefore he feels that the cost of rental should be by square footage.

Councillor Carrier said that there already is a fee for rental space in place, which was passed by a motion. Rental for 1 room is \$600/month and rental for 2 rooms is \$1000/month.

### **Cafe**

Councillor Carrier also wants to see something done with the café. There was a lot of money spent on that space and something should be done with it. We should just ask someone to come set up a business, at this point with the money that was invested we cannot be picky about how comes in the building. We pay the CAO to make these decisions. Since the village is not legally allowed to operate a business then a decision has to be made as to what is done with the space.

CAO Ferguson said that he has been here for 4 weeks and nobody on council has approached him in regards to the Café. He also said that the city of Bathurst operates a restaurant on the waterfront. He does not know why the village cannot operate the café. He will check into it.

Maybe we should just put out a tender and ask people for a business plan for the café.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell suggested that maybe a non-profit organization could operate it, the village could hire employees to run it and any profit that is made could be given to programs in the village.

Mayor Arseneault said the café was a bad idea from the beginning. Former council was determined to have it there. He feels that it is not a good idea for the village to be competing with other businesses in the area.

Deputy Mayor Bourque suggested that we let McDougall Auctioneers Ltd. sell the equipment.

CAO Ferguson said either sell the equipment or put out another tender. A non-profit organization with the village paying the employees, etc. would cost a lot of money. There would not be enough sales to make a profit. However, the decision is up to council.

Mayor Arseneault said that we should just cut our losses and move forward. It could be a valuable room for a business.

CAO Ferguson will look into the options given.

### **COUNCILLOR GUITARD-MCDONNELL**

#### **Process for find a Permanent CAO**

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that CAO Ferguson's time will be up so we need to start the process of finding a permanent CAO.

CAO Ferguson left the meeting at this time.

Mayor Arseneault said he has some discussion with Denis Caron at the Port of Belledune. They hire people for all over the world and local also. He said they could help us out getting the word out on how to proceed.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell wanted to know how we should move forward.

Councillor Carmichael said that we should also get some help from Jack Novack. A decision needs to be made soon.

Mayor Arseneault said it would be great to use Denis Caron. They needed someone to head their IT department, they had resumes sent from all over the world, and they hired someone from Petit Rocher. Sometimes head hunters do not always give you what you need in his experience.

Councillor Carrier mentioned that the Port uses head hunters. She like the idea of using Jack Novack.

### **Status of Portfolios**

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell wanted to know what the status was on the Portfolios. When Mr. Novack was here, he said that the CAO should be the main contact person. She would like some guidance on the portfolios she was given. Since she was under the impression that there would be no portfolios. She has By-laws and Policies and doesn't even know where to start.

Mayor Arseneault said that Deputy Mayor Bourque and Councillor Robinson has taken their portfolios on and they are doing a great job and nobody is going to take their portfolios from them. If the rest of council does not want to accept their portfolios, then that is their problem. Again, he mentioned that Deputy Mayor Bourque and Councillor Robinson have accepted their portfolios and they are doing an excellent job. Bos Scott said he would not work with anyone except Deputy Mayor Bourque.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that she does not want either one of their portfolios. She said that everyone is working on their own and nobody is working together. Mayor Arseneault said he is not going to change his mind about the portfolios. He said all council gets the information as he sends out emails all the time.

Councillor Carmichael said that all she wants is to be more involved with all items. There seems to be a divide on council. She just wants to do what is best for the community. She feels that asking questions should not be an issue. Council is a team and should all work together.

Mayor Arseneault asked exactly what do you want.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said she would like to be kept up to date, she is not even sure exactly what she is supposed to be doing. She needs some guidance from the Mayor. It's wonderful that Deputy Mayor Bourque and Councillor Robinson is doing such a great job.

Mayor Arseneault said that he does not have the time to guide anyone, that is not his job.

Councillor Carrier said that she would not know what to do with some of the portfolios that was given to her. She thought she would be just a contact person. But it doesn't seem to be that way. What is expected of each Councillor? Maybe if each council would have had a chance to choose the portfolios that they had experience in that would have been different. They were just given them with no explanation of what they were supposed to do.

Mayor Arseneault said you either sink or swim. Spend time on doing what you are supposed to do. Councillor Robinson is in her first term and she isn't having any issue.

Councillor Carrier said isn't that the Mayor's job to help council become familiar with their roles.

Mayor Arseneault again repeated that the councilors that have accepted their portfolios are doing well. All people want is for council to do something. If the other councillors do not want to accept their portfolios but want to work on other stuff then so be it.

Councillor Carmichael is not sure why Mayor Arseneault is getting so defensive, she was not in favor of portfolios because she feels council should be working together as a team.

Mayor Arseneault said that if some councillors feel they are on the outside there is not much he can do.

### **Code of Conduct**

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell talked about the code of conduct. The major points are in place. She went over some from various municipalities and feels that this is something that has to be adopted sooner rather than later. There has to be some consequences for actions that are taken while on council.

CAO Ferguson said he would work with Councillor Guitard-McDonnell in regards to the by-laws and policies. However, CAO Ferguson said that he doesn't know of too many municipalities that does not have a code of conduct by-law. They are legally obligated by the province to have one.

Councillor Carmichael said she was supposed to meet with Clerk/Treasurer Cormier in July however she was on vacation. She is willing to help with the by-laws and policies.

Deputy Mayor Bourque told Councillor Guitard-McDonnell that the code of conduct was a very good document. They may not get it right the first time. It will be put in place sooner or later.

### **Vending Machines at Arena**

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that she had Rec and Wellness Coordinator look at putting venter machines in at the arena since there is no canteen. The vending machines for sandwiches cannot be put in, however a snack machine and coffee machines can be put in. How do we go about this, should a tender be put out?

CAO Ferguson said he would look into putting out a tender.

### **Update on Events Committee – Mini Belledune Days**

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell talked about the Mini Belledune Days. It was a smaller scale however still well attended. The fireworks were great again this year. Total cost for all events were \$13,290.41. The fireworks cost \$9200.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that was a great verbal report however if it was in written form, it would have been even better.

## **COUNCILLOR ROBINSON**

### **Every Child Matters Event**

Councillor Robinson mentioned that there will be representative from the 3 nations in the area, Eel River Bar, Papineau Falls and Listuguj. There will also be a guest speaker Mrs. Rose Wysote, residential school survivor and Ms. Becky Labillois who will be doing a special prayer. This event will take place Sunday at 2:00pm.

Councillor Robinson will bring a motion forward to the next meeting in regards to raising and flying the Mi'kmaq Flag.

### **Utility Brackets for Banners**

In Campbellton they have a wonderful display of veteran banners. She will be looking into purchase 24 in brackets, and have two photos back-to-back displayed on banner. They will be displayed on the poles along Main St. from the Jacquet River Church to the Superette. She will be bringing a motion to council for the next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said this was a great initiative, wanted to know if Councillor Robinson would be working with the Legion in regards to getting photos. Councillor Robinson said she would be displaying all the photos that are on the wall at the legion. Deputy Mayor Bourque said that this would be expensive to get all the pictures on banners. Councillor Robinson said she will be getting a price for the meeting.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if this would be the only area in the village to display the banners. Councillor Robinson said yes for now as she has to get permission from NB Power or Bell Aliant, and that is the commercial area of the village.

### **CAO Ferguson**

#### **New Cell Phone Package from Telus – Information**

There is a new cell phone package being offered through Telus and the Province, CAO Ferguson gave the list to council of what we have now and then adding 6 new cell flip phones that will be given to each of council. The savings for 3 years is \$10,347. There is really nothing to lose. There was a show of hands for CAO Ferguson to proceed with moving forward. Everyone was good. CAO Ferguson will be working on changing the contract and getting the cell phones for council.

#### **Funding for Flag Poles**

CAO Ferguson thanked Admin. Assistant for getting the quotes for the flag poles from the various companies. The cost for 3 poles for Station 1 is \$4536.00. CAO Ferguson will bring forward a motion for the next meeting.

#### **Possible New Tender for Fire Truck (Rescue Van)**

CAO Ferguson mentioned that this will have to be put off for a bit as a new tender will have to be developed, the tender has not been prepared and the cost will be much higher than the last council had motioned for. CAO Ferguson said he will email council in regards of what the next steps will be. A new motion for the tender will be brought forward to a meeting in the future.

### **Roherty Road**

In regards to Roherty Road there are a number of options. Council had approached CAO Ferguson to see what could be done to keep the dust down during the summer months. We could pay the workers to take the fire truck down and hose down the road. We could one the road which would be about \$80,000 plus tax and then the option to resurface. The paving of the road does fit in with the Gas Tax

fund. Council can prioritize the list for the Gas Tax fund. Clerk/Treasurer Cormier and CAO Ferguson will work on this and bring it to the next meeting or the meeting after that.

**Tender for Custodians**

The custodians have no contract since May. CAO Ferguson has reviewed their previous contract, studied their work, what type of work needs to be done, the hours that need to be put in, etc. He will be working on getting a tender out for this building and the recreation centre. The two fire halls can be done by the village public works department employees. Council has any questions.

Deputy Mayor Bourque asked if there was 1 tender for both buildings, he felt that was a big job.

CAO Ferguson said they could either for 1 tender for both buildings or 2 separate tenders.

Mayor Arseneault said that the gymnasium is not cleaned enough, it was in the contract, not their fault they are only doing month by month right now. CAO Ferguson said that the public bathrooms are to be more often also. These things will be looked at for the next contract.

**Public Works – 1-ton**

There was a tender put out for the 1-ton for public works. There one was bid that came in however it was never brought to council to be awarded (last council). The tender was from Hathaway’s; the price has gone up \$1200 since the tender came in. CAO Ferguson will be bringing a motion to the next meeting as this is a priority because the old truck is falling apart.

**Complaint – Flooding 715 and 726 Noel Rd.**

The directive to CAO Ferguson – Have a look at the problem. CAO Ferguson has looked into the flooding issue, as this is not the first time this came to council. It has been looked at by Roy’s Consultants a number of times. The issue is of no fault to the village and is on his own private property. The owner said he would be taking legal action against the village. CAO Ferguson informed Clerk/Treasurer Cormier and she contacted our lawyer so he is aware.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07pm by a motion of Councillor Guitard-McDonnell, seconded by Councillor Carrier, MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments & Questions: Nil

Closed Session: Nil

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M. on a motion by Councillor Carmichael, seconded by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED

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Assistant Clerk

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Meeting streaming on Village of Belledune You Tube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtyqqkD3kz2txKF0HYKAFw>