



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
November 1, 2021**

Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Belledune Municipal Chambers
Present: Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Deputy Mayor, Ron Bourque
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Lillian Carmichael
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Staff Present: Interim CAO – Scott Ferguson
Clerk/Treasurer, Brenda Cormier
Assistant Clerk – Nicole Carrier

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

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

Council read the Oath of Office.

ADOPT AGENDA

M 2021/11-01-179

**Councillor Guitard-McDonnell moved to adopt the agenda with additions, Councillor Carmichael – schedule of next budget meeting and the January 4, 2022, Deputy Mayor Bourque – Discussion and Information Flooding, 4027 Main St, seconded by Councillor Carmichael.
MOTION CARRIED.**

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Nil

PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS: Nil

BUSINESS:

Deputy Mayor Bourque

Restigouche SPCA

Deputy Mayor Bourque is questioning what kind of service we are receiving from the SPCA. The SPCA is an organization near and dear to our hearts because they protect animals and it is a very important service. He received a phone call from a resident in regards to small cats – he said the SPCA was called and their response was that it was not their responsibility however if they wanted, they could contact the RCMP. He won't mention any names however he will be putting a motion forward at the next regular meeting to send a letter to the SPCA requesting if Belledune is an important client or not. They have an obligation to supply a service that they are being paid for. Pam Harris is the Chairman of the board. Deputy Mayor Bourque would like an explanation of how they service Belledune and what will be the service in the future. He is dissatisfied with this latest complaint.

There are not a lot of calls in a year in this area and he is very concerned and very interested in what their response will be.

Snow Removal Contract

Deputy Mayor Bourque said everything is moving forward however not as fast as he would like. He just received the copies of the contracts from the lawyer today at 3:54pm. He apologized to council for not having the copies for tonight's meeting however he will forward the contracts to them in the morning. He mentioned that each contractor has a separate contract, as each is a little different. He said that the documents are very good.

Deputy Mayor Bourque wanted to answer the 5 questions that Councillor Carmichael had asked at a previous meeting.

- 1 – If the contractor is in an accident who is held liable – in each contract it is outlined that the Village of Belledune is covered.
- 2 – Are each contractor ok with one contractor having more roads than another – the contractors are all ok with the fact that some of them have less streets than the others and they are ok with that. Since this is a trial basis for now it was hard to make sure that each contractor had the same amount of kms.
- 3 – contractors having different size of equipment, will this be an issue – one contractor has a smaller blower then the rest, may take longer for him to get the streets done however they are paid by the hour and each call in is no longer than 5 hours.
- 4 – Is the budget of \$10,000 enough – it probably won't be enough so there will be a request for the budget to be put at \$20,000.
- 5 – will this be done each year – right now it is a pilot project for this year only, depending on how it works out it could be done each year.

Councillor Carmichael thanked Deputy Mayor Bourque for all the information, she hoped it was ok to ask those questions. At the time when this was brought to the table there was no answers to the questions.

Councillor Carrier asked if the contracts could be similar to people that have private contracts where you pay a set price for the season, was this option considered. Deputy Mayor Bourque said that he did not consider this option, he was trying to find the simplest way to control the major problem of the roads not be open in a timely manner. Council is trying to deal with that situation, wasn't sure what way would be easier. It certainly is not the only way however Deputy Mayor Bourque chose to pay by the hour. Maybe next year it will be a different approach. He will be putting a motion forward at the regular meeting to approve the Snow Removal Contracts.

Councillor Carmichael mentioned the cost for the snow removal on Ocean Ave., she is just hoping that \$20,000 will be enough. Deputy Mayor Bourque did speak to a contractor, depending on how fast the blower is moving, etc. However, on the other streets it is just one cut down and one cut up when there is more than 25 cms of snow whereas with Ocean Ave. the contractor has to go more often and also has to salt and sand.

Mayor Arseneault said that all the questions were good. Once we are in the committee structure, they will have a lot more information on everything at the same time which will be much more positive.

Verbal Reports – Deputy Mayor Bourque

- Glencore – commissioning starting in the Spring
- Port of Belledune – discussed various items one being the RCMP services at the Port. Talked about signage, they are open to put their signage on our sign. Council had a presentation from Denis Carron which was well done. There was an article in the Telegraph Journal where the Port of Belledune is actually doing underwater testing to see how the noise affects the marine animals. They must be commended for such a study.
- Fire Committee – well done
- Training with Jack Novack, who is an expert in his field, council received a tremendous amount of information, which was very positive.

James Dempsey – Flooding

Received a call from James Dempsey at 4027 Main St. regarding flooding outside of his door. The problem is that there is a manhole in front of his property, one above his property and one below. The manhole takes in water that flows from the church down, once the manholes get full, it backs up in front of his house because there is a pipe right there. The water goes into his driveway from the overflow and the ground is sinking. Roy Consultants have been there a few times and said that this is not the issue. Deputy Mayor Bourque is advising council that he is asking for an independent engineer to go and evaluate this problem.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked when Roy's Consultants do their evaluations. CAO Ferguson said they went there on 3 different occasions and the determination was that this is not a Village problem.

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that this issue was talked about last term, and maybe they need a fresh pair of eyes and a fresh perspective. Getting an independent engineer to come and have a look is great, maybe the issue will get settled.

Councillor Carmichael

Municipal Master Class Webinar

Councillor Carmichael discussed a webinar that she is interested in. It is called Municipal Master Class and it is on November 29, 2021. There is a cost to it and she would like to know if anyone else would be interested in attending.

Mayor Arseneault said that if someone wants to take training there is no problem. Put this for a motion at the next regular meeting.

Budget Meeting

Councillor Carmichael wanted to schedule the next Budget meeting. The clerk/treasurer is still waiting on some information.

Clerk/Treasurer Cormier said that they may need 1 or 2 more sessions then a special meeting will be needed to adopt the budget.

Mayor Arseneault suggested the next budget meeting be Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:30pm and then schedule a special meeting from there.

January 4, 2022 Meeting

Councillor Carmichael wanted to discuss changing the date for the Committee of Whole Council meeting as the staff will be off the week prior to this date and will not be able to prepare the package. She would like to see the meeting moved to January 10, 2022.

Add this for a motion at the next regular meeting.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell

Calendar – there have been over 100 photos submitted so far for the calendar. The deadline to submit photos is November 5. Selection of the photos will be on November 8 and then the calendar will go into production which will take 2 to 3 weeks.

Councillor Carmichael wanted to know how the photos will be chosen for the calendar. Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that the 3 people on the Events Committee will be choosing the photos, if anyone on council would like to come and be part of choosing, they are more than welcome.

Food Course

The Recreation & Wellness Coordinator and Clerk/Treasure Cormier set up the training for the Food Course and now there are 3 individuals on the Events Committee that have the course.

Rental Units in Building

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell asked if the approval of the rental units be up to council or the administration.

Councillor Carrier said that she does not think that this is something the council needs to have a say in, there is a Policy in place for the cost of rental.

Councillor Carmichael said that it should be administrative to decide, pick what is the best fit for the building.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said that the Café needs to be discussed also.

Deputy Mayor Bourque referred this to the CAO to do that job, that is what they are paying him for.

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that one thing they learned this weekend was to trust the Administration Staff more. When the committee structures are in place it is important to have entities in our building. Staff can help us make this happen. We have to rely on the judgement of the people we have working for us.

CAO Ferguson mentioned that in regards to the Café the issue is that council has a big difference of opinion. Council is not all in agreement with what they want done with the Café. He has no problem putting out a tender for the café if that is what Council wants.

Deputy Mayor Bourque is of the opinion that they should not be allowing an individual to come into the café and pay hardly nothing with state-of-the art equipment while other local businesses have to

pay big rent, and lots of other expenses, etc. A mistake was made in the first place, just auction off the equipment and have the area up for rent in other ways.

Mayor Arseneault said that everyone must be respectful of the different opinions.

Councillor Carrier is of the opinion that this space was for a food service business, and everyone should have a right to it even if the Village paid for the equipment. There is a Policy in place as to the cost of rent and she feels that people should not be penalized for the Village putting in the equipment. There is a lack of food services in the area, and it is worth trying to get something in there.

Mayor Arseneault said that he has come away from the weekend optimistic and that compromising is a good thing.

CAO Ferguson said he and Clerk/Treasurer Cormier could sit down and tweak the tender, get an electrical to put in a separate heating meter in the space. Can't let things go on forever, and he cannot do anything without the direction of Council.

Councillor Carmichael said it is time to stop stalling and move this item forward. It is great that we can work better together.

Mayor Arseneault said the message they received from Mr. Novack is that they should not over burden the staff with projects that Council should be working on.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell mentioned that she had a few requests from residents that a warning sign should be installed near Curry Drive and Main St. that there is a hidden driveway there. CAO Ferguson will contact Eric Caron from DTI in regards to this.

Councillor Carmichael also mentioned that there is a passing lane from Curry Drive to Hodgins St. and it is very dangerous. This is a very different issue that just changing a sign, DTI would have to study that area and give their recommendation since it is their road.

Councillor Carrier is asking for a sign to be put up on Chaleur Drive that there is a deaf child on that street.

CAO Ferguson will look into this also.

CAO Ferguson

719 Noel Rd. – CAO Ferguson was instructed to get information on the issue back at 719 Noel Rd. He contacted Mr. Frenette at Roy Consultants as they did the study of this location twice before. The report was given both times to previous council and again it has nothing to do with the anything the Village did. However, he did receive two options from them that may fix the problem. Both options are in attached to your agenda package.

Option 1 – Re-Profiling of the existing brook, cost is \$108,000. A watercourse alteration permit will be needed.

Option 2 – New storm sewer system to re-direct the flow from the take off between civics 698 and 716. This option will require much more work at the cost of \$364,000.

Both options are on private property.

CAO Ferguson said it is up to council to make the decision on how they want to proceed.

Councillor Carrier asked why would it be an issue to continue to do the ditch along Noel Rd. Get an independent study on this too.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said that as many of you know he has been on council for a number of years and he recalls several places that work was done on private property, lower Belledune to Green Pointe, water was flooding over the road and 2 pipes were installed, Hodgins St. resident had an issue, that was about an \$80,000 job, Gagnon St. – flow downhill from Irving Garage, Carney Rd. cottage was cut in two with the water issue, village fixed that problem also, and waterflow on Doyleville Rd. cost of over \$140,000. So, prior to all of this there has been spots in our community that has had water problems and would have gotten worst if let go. At the end of the day if any taxpayer has a water issue the village should help them.

Councillor Robinson said that we should get another engineering company to have a look at these issues, they did work on Brideau Lane twice and it did not work.

Deputy Mayor Bourque would be in support of getting another engineering company to have a look at these issues.

2471 Main St. – Cell Phone Boosters

CAO Ferguson discussed the issue with the cell phones in this building, when there is work that needs to be done in the back rooms, the girls have to run back and forth with the technicians because there is no reception in the back, or even in our offices. Even if the regular phones went down there would be no way to use the cell phones to get work done. It was suggested that we get boosters for the building. North Coast Electronics was up and had a look the situation. He gave 2 different quotes, 1 for the municipal section and 1 for the rental spaces. It can be done in two phases or at the same time. However, if we want to get the work done before the Spring it has to be done within the next few weeks. Direction was given by council to go ahead and get the work done.

DTI – Summer Maintenance

CAO Ferguson spoke with the head guy from DTI today, Daniel Leblanc, and he mentioned that we may want to be careful if we give up the summer maintenance because once we get rid of the DTI doing the summer maintenance, we will not be able to get it back.

Mayor Arseneault asked if there were any questions.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said she is concerned about losing the summer maintenance, she would not be favor of this.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said he has been on 4 different councils now and DTI has never given us the service that we pay for. Our own guys could probably do the work better and faster. If we drop the summer maintenance it should not affect the winter maintenance.

Mayor Arseneault said both are good points, while we are not getting the service that we pay for we still want to maintain a good working relationship with DTI.

Councillor Carmichael asked what exactly does DTI do in the summer for maintenance and what would we be losing.

The summer maintenance is to fix potholes, etc.

Mayor Arseneault asked if we know of any other municipalities that dropped the service.

CAO Ferguson said that he had not seen too many workers up this way this summer, they did not fix any guardrails that were broken during the winter months, they did work at the bridge in Jacquet River and our maintenance crew had to go clean up the work afterwards. He knows it would be an insult to them and the relationship with DTI is important.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell suggested that we give them a report, they must have guidelines of the jobs they are suppose to be doing during the summer months. CAO Ferguson asked them to do 2 things and they were not done.

CAO Ferguson is looking for direction on what the next step should be.

AJN Update

CAO Ferguson, Mayor Arseneault and Deputy Mayor Bourque had a meeting today with the representatives from AJN. It was a very positive meeting, some things are going very well, some are not. They may be going ahead anyway even if they do not get all the money from the province. They are working with Training New Brunswick and are looking at having a job fair in January 2022. They are also looking at land, they would like to build homes for their workers, they have about 10-15 main people that will work here and train the people who get hired. They are looking at hiring 75 to 200 people in the coming years. They were inquiring about the land that the municipality has on Jacquet River Drive. They are very excited about this project. They have a deadline with ACOA.

Mayor Arseneault asked if council had any questions. He will put an email together this weekend for council and he will mention to them that if there is another opportunity to meet with them and all of council.

In regards to the DTI summer maintenance Mayor Arseneault would like to have a copy of the email sent to CAO Ferguson, also send it to council.

Main St. (Route 134) Speed Reduction and Signage Change

In regards to the speed reduction, the process was to make a request which was done, then a study was completed and sent to DTI. There was a 4-day study that was performed by Mr. Sullivan. CAO Ferguson is waiting for the recommendations from this study.

Signage – as of now there is one sign being designed for the front of this building, in regards to the other signs we are trying to determine if all the signs that are up right now are on Village property or not, the Planning Commission is looking into this for us.

Report from Fire Department – Unsightly and Unsafe Properties

Since the report has been received from the fire department the first step has been put in motion. Formal letters have been sent to the home owners of the residences that have been deemed unsafe. The process could take up to a year and a half before anything gets done. Our main goal is for the properties to get cleaned up.

Flags (Half Mast or Full Mast) – Directive

CAO Ferguson apologized for putting up the flags. He had checked with other communities and everyone other community has their flags up since September 30, 2021. The fire department had inquired about the flags as they had a previous deputy fire chief that passed away and they could not lower the flags to pay respect to him.

Mayor Arseneault said this is an issue that we have to pay special attention to. What would be the best place to have this discussion? Do we discuss tonight or on email? How do we want to approach this?

Councillor Carrier said that she feels that we are a unique community and we showed great respect with flying the indigenous flag and paying tribute when we had the ceremony in September. We are here to respect and honor the indigenous people. We should raise the Canadian Flag and the New Brunswick flags and leave the indigenous flag at half-mast. Maybe we could ask Chief Richardson.

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that we should also ask Chief Labillois.

Councillor Carmichael said we should reach out to the Chiefs as to whether the flags should be up or down.

Councillor Robinson she does not understand what the issue is, if we have to ask the Chiefs whether we should still be paying respect is an odd question. It cost us nothing to keep the flags at half-mast.

Councillor Carrier mentioned that we still have to show respect to the people in our own community, that pass away like the previous Deputy Fire Chief or God forbid we have something happen to an employee or council or previous councils or employees and the flags cannot be lowered to pay respect to them.

Mayor Arseneault said he was speaking with Fire Chief Legacy and it was suggested that the flags be put up in front of the fire department and then can be lowered when a firefighter passes away.

Councillor Carrier said that when her grandfather Roherty passed away, being the first Mayor of Belledune, the flags were put at half-mast and the family was very happy that the Village paid their respect to him, it meant a lot. Putting the flags up just in front of the fire department is ok but we there should also be a way to show others respect.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said she would like to see the Indigenous flag left at half-mast and put the others up.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said to ask Ottawa and the province what they are doing.

CAO Ferguson said that he received an email from Councillor Robinson in regards to the Federal Government having theirs lowered. This was because of a promise from Prime Minister Trudeau. All other places have their flags up.

Clerk/Treasurer Cormier
Chaleur Bay Watershed Group

A request had come in from the Chaleur Bay Watershed Group asking for a representative from Council to be appointed to this group. No decision was made or no directive was given.

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that at his last meeting with CRSC it was mentioned that Nigadoo and Belledune did not have anyone appointed. They are looking for a council member, it is very important that we have someone appointed. Remuneration for mileage will be covered, they have meetings quarterly. Councillor Robinson said she would be interested in this position.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said he may have considered it however he is very happy that Councillor Robinson put her name forward.

Clerk/Treasurer Cormier will bring a motion for this appointment to the next meeting.

CAO Ferguson left the meeting at this point.

Mayor Arseneault brought up the fact that CAO Ferguson does not get paid mileage and he has a lot of mileage traveling back and forth. He is asking us to consider amending his contract to be paid for mileage. The indication is that he will be here until the end of February, because we will only have a new CAO by then. Mayor Arseneault said he made no promises. What is councils' thoughts on this?

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell said she had no issue in giving CAO Ferguson mileage as he is doing a great job and doing much more than what was stated in his contract.

Councillor Carrier said that he is traveling from Bathurst to Belledune for good money, there are people traveling from Lorne to Bathurst for much less. She agrees that he is doing a great job but he knew where the job was when he accepted to take it.

Deputy Mayor Bourque said it probably cost about \$16 to \$17 per day for travel back and forth. So, he is spending a lot on mileage.

Councillor Carmichael said she had to travel to Bathurst for 9 years to work and she did not get paid mileage. He knew where the job was. He is a good guy and doing a great job but should be not paid for mileage.

Councillor Robinson said she would not have an issue with providing mileage, he has certainly done more work than he was expected to do and is doing a great job.

This may be brought forward for a motion to approve or not to the next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Bourque brought up that it could cost almost \$120/day if he is given the provincial rate. He thinks this would be expensive and would be extravagant. Maybe we could issue a lunch receipt or something like that for \$20/day.

Clerk/Treasurer Cormier said that council has a right to make a motion to say that they will provide \$20 flat rate/day, and the km's that are traveled within Belledune be paid, CAO Ferguson can keep a log book.

Councillor Carrier agrees that he be paid mileage for his job when he goes places for the village however not to be paid from Bathurst to Belledune. As she mentioned before there are a lot of residence traveling to Bathurst for minimum wage.

Mayor Arseneault said to give him a chance to speak with CAO Ferguson, explaining that he accepted the job and accepted to travel to Belledune. Pay mileage for travel within the village on municipal business – but not committed to anything else.

Mayor Arseneault mentioned that he was speaking with the Mayor of Petit Rocher in regards to developing bike trails like they have from Caraquet to Bathurst. They are starting a committee to develop trails from Bathurst to Belledune and would like to have someone from Belledune that would be interested in sitting on this committee.

Councillor Carrier said that Ronnie Dempsey bikes all the time. Maybe he would be interested in being on that committee. If there is no pay maybe the Village could offer a stipend. Mayor Arseneault said he would get more information and bring it back to council.

Closed Session: 6:30pm Economic Development Grant Application

- Local Governance Act – Section 68 (1) (a) (b) (c)

ADJOURNMENT

M 2021/11-01-180

Councillor Carmichael moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm, seconded by Councillor Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Assistant Clerk

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

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