



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
May 4, 2020**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: REMOTE - Electronic
Mayor, Joe Noel
Councillor, Paul Arseneault
Present: Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Councillor, Tracy Culligan
Councillor, Nick Duivenvoorden
Deputy Mayor, Sandenn Killoran
Staff Present: CAO, Landon Lee
Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier

Call to Order & Welcome

Adopt Agenda

M 2020/05/04-59

Tracy Culligan moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Amended with changes remove under Councillor, Duivenvoorden -General Comments about Covid-19, seconded by Nick Duivenvoorden. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict of Interest Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Business

Council

Mayor, Noel

- Belledune Broadband

Mayor, advised the presentation was given to the Village and the information received. He would like to have a motion to start looking at the proposal on May 19, 2020.

Mayor, Noel also recognized International Firefighter Day and to give a shout out to our Department who are doing an excellent job, especially during these times.

- Early election of Deputy Mayor -Discussion

Mayor, Noel noted that Deputy Mayor, Killoran will be resigning this position, and there will be a couple of things to do. Election of Deputy Mayor, would have been in June, according to By-law. In order to get him what he needs for May it would require a few things on the agenda for May.

Deputy Mayor, Killoran noted that a couple of things have switched up for him so June would be fine for him.

CAO, Lee spoke on the broadband proposal and the information received and he will serve as point of contact if Council have questions or comments regarding the proposal.

Deputy Mayor, Killoran said he followed up and went through the presentation. It is ambitious for the amounts of roads we have, and very particular with the upfront costs and on-going costs. Maintaining could be an issue going forward.

Mayor, Noel said we would weigh the pros and cons and go from there.

Deputy Mayor, Killoran

- Big Garbage Day

There are concerns in the community regarding the cancellation of the monthly big garbage collection day. Proposed the possibility of maybe looking at another way to provide the services, maybe dumpster, circulated throughout the community and people drop off their stuff.

Other Council members expressed agreement, given that people are doing extra cleaning this time of year. Also, noted was the issues in the past when the dumpsters were there, people just dropping stuff outside of the dumpster when it was full with garbage strewn all over the place. Unregulated and unattended could be an issue.

- Working as One - Statement

Deputy Mayor, Killoran noted that he is impressed how everyone came together the last few months, including meeting the technology challenges. It has made for a stronger Council. He is impressed how everyone picked up.

Councillor, Arseneault

- Veteran's Memorial Arena going forward (discussion)

Councillor Arseneault, said the employees came to him in January regarding problems with the number of hours worked – a big drop. In relation to that there is the cost of running the building. He brought this to CAO, Lee and feels he came up with a good solution, which he asked CAO, Lee to describe.

CAO, Lee said that his proposal would be looking at having the arena operate 40 hours per week with set days and hours open, where the renters would have to schedule within that time slot. That way the employees would get their 40-hour week and the scheduling would be within the days and time open. He said he was going to put something together and get out to Council next month.

Councillor's Duivenvoorden and Carmichael felt the concept was good.

Deputy Mayor, Killoran noted that while it seems like a good idea on the surface because of stability for employees, but based on the information Brenda provided for number of hours rented, he does not think a 40-hour week works there. Rental groups have been lost, minor and adult groups. As well take into consideration the \$400,000 short next year's budget, the NB Power reduced operation probably will result in them applying for reduction in taxes, no revenues from Salmon Barrier operation and reduced revenues at the Campground, all have to be considered. He does not want to see any promises of 40 hours for the arena until Council go through the budget process and see how they are going to keep up.

Mayor, Noel agreed that all the figures need to be looked at and CAO, Lee is very capable of doing that.

- Area Graduates Acknowledgement Proposal (discussion)

Councillor, Arseneault noted that it was brought to his attention that other municipalities are taking steps to acknowledge graduates this year, as they will not be getting the same recognition as they have in the past. Idea of purchasing banners and flying them throughout the Village was one concept. It went back and forth and is now being looked into by the Community Events Committee and Gina is now gathering some information.

Mayor, Noel said that the Committee will have a report and recommendation for the May 19, 2020 Council meeting.

Council general discussion was regarding the materials needed for displaying, the budget it will come from, the idea of which graduates to acknowledge – is Grade 8 really considered a graduate, should their acknowledgement be equal to a Grade 12 and Post Secondary graduate, groups should be handled differently with different suggestions being made.

The Community Events Committee are doing good work and having a lot of discussion.

- Jacquet River Park going forward (discussion)

Councillor, Arseneault noted that last meeting there was not given much focus on this and the employees are inquiring on the status of them going back to work. He has looked at this from a budgetary and legal/legislative view. He had discussion with MLA Daniel Guitard as well as Steven Horseman, MLA Fredericton and legally and legislatively no rules are being broken if the employees go back to work and Belledune has it in their budget. The question is does Council want it.

Other Council members commended and thanked Councillor, Arseneault for working on this and bringing the information back to them.

Council discussed the possibility of employees returning to work, currently Campground are not open to the public, but when they are it is important that the operations has a plan. If employees are to go back now, CAO Lee will need to have a plan in place for safety, work projects and management of personnel.

CAO, Lee said he is trying to get a preparedness plan in place and is working on it now to have ready before next meeting. - Safe work and Work plan.

Mayor, Noel agreed with what Council is saying and it looks a little more encouraging. Hopefully campgrounds will open and hopefully we will get NB travellers to Belledune – province encouraging stay home vacations – within the province.

- Salmon Barrier (discussion)

Councillor, Arseneault said the Salmon Barrier employees are asking the same questions about going back to work. Similar to the Campground, but the difference being the Salmon Barrier can be closed to the public. As long as the safety protocols are in place and followed.

Council are in agreement that employees should be able to return to work, keeping them away from the public and the public away from them. They will be provided with safety equipment and operation plan.

- Rescue Vehicle (discussion)

Councillor, Arseneault referenced the event in March which brought on a lot of emotional correspondence. He does not want to see the Village and Fire Dept. in a similar situation involving a person, and cannot respond because we do not have our own rescue boat. This is a Council decision, we should have a vehicle stored here, ready and available. This year \$40,000 should go in the budget along with an amount for training.

Mayor, Noel the Chaleur Regional Service Commission is looking at what is needed for the whole region. This got put on hold because of the situation we are in, but we need a regional committee to look at this.

However, Belledune needs to look at this at the Fire Committee meeting, we have to find out the Fire Department's priorities and work with them.

Deputy Mayor, Killoran said he submitted a letter to CRSC after the dog incident, requesting they look at this from a regional adoption of some sort of strategy for this type of service. There is a lot more than just the purchase of a boat, there is training, storage, launching and maintenance. The cost could be more like \$100,000 initially and probably \$30,000 annually afterwards.

Council members expressed their agreement that the Fire Department has to be involved in this decision. Are they interested in offering this type of service, training and taking on this additional responsibility? Question about the nearest coast guard and whether they would respond in an emergency.

Councillor, Arseneault communicated the two following points regarding a regional service: 1) Belledune would need to have quick access and 2) make this a priority for CRSC and other Mayors and representatives.

Mayor, Noel said it was a priority until this Covid-19 situation and the idea is to have a committee formed to look at this. CRSC should be getting back to a routine soon.

Closed Session Nil

Adjournment

M 2020/05/04-60

**Nick Duivenvoorden moved that the meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M., seconded by Tracy Culligan.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer