



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
August 19, 2024**

Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque
Absent:
Late:
Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Landon Lee
Clerk Treasurer, Angela Culligan
Staff Absent:
Staff Late:

Call to Order & Welcome

- Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"
- Reaffirm Oath of Office

Adopt Agenda

M 2024/08/19-71

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

Statements of Conflict of Interest

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations

- Presentation - Vicky Theriault
- Presentation - Gerry Aubie

Business

Council

Mayor, Arseneault

Mayor, Arseneault vacated his seat at 7:32pm and returned to his seat at 7:49pm.

- Discussion on clean up of 831 Archibald Rd.

Mayor, Arseneault is looking for an update on the cleanup at the 831 Archibald Road property.

CAO, Lee has indicated that we've received the approval to go ahead with the tender process. We're hoping to have the tender out by the end of this week, we are still aiming to have this done by the end of August.

- Discussion on DTI road construction/repair work in the Village and surrounding areas.

Mayor, Arseneault started the discussion by saying that the Village of Belledune does not seem to get any measurable work done by DTI in terms of our roads.

Mayor, Arseneault indicated that two years ago he brought forward the idea of a committee that would be comprised of a member of Council and a member of DTI. Mayor, Arseneault would like to revisit the idea of a committee where we can sit four times a year with a DTI representative and try to push for some investment.

- Discussion on Truth and Reconciliation holiday and First Nations relations.

Mayor, Arseneault acknowledges that some citizens have reached out to Chief Richardson regarding Smearer Road West. Mayor, Arseneault believes that Council should halt any further development regarding Smearer Road West until there is a consultation with First Nations.

Councillor, Robinson commented it was the responsibility of the previous Council to have a vote on the public consultation.

- Discussion on Community Workforce Development Committee Port of Belledune.

Mayor Arseneault informed council that the Port of Belledune has put together a communications committee that Mayor, Arseneault sits in on. The purpose is to improve communication, this is the Port's strategy to try to keep people informed.

- Discussion on RCMP in Belledune.

Mayor, Arseneault believes that we've had fewer major incidents than what we had four or five years ago, but we still have issues with ATV traffic. Mayor, Arseneault acknowledged that there will always be some small things that take place, but as long as the people, especially the seniors, feel relatively safe, that's a good goal to keep in mind.

Councillor, Bourque commented that he believes that RCMP they are doing the best job they can with the finances available.

Councillor, Bourque

Councillor, Carmichael

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell

- Recap of Belledune Days.

Councillor Guitard-McDonnell wanted to let everyone know that Belledune Days was very successful. She thanked everyone who held events throughout the week, as well as the volunteers. She also mentioned that they are always looking for volunteers to help out with Belledune Days

Councillor, Bourque expressed his appreciation for the activities that were done at the Legion.

Councillor, Robinson

- Asset Management Plan Update

Councillor, Robinson is looking for an update on the Asset Management Plan, as it is past due.

CAO, Lee confirmed that the Asset Management Plan will be completed this month.

- Discussion on AJN - Transfer of property back to the Village of Belledune and rental of office space.

Councillor, Robinson inquired about the purchase agreement with AJN. Part of the conditions to the agreement was that they would have the property developed within a year. Councillor, Robinson would like to know if we can have action taken to have the property transferred back to the Village and have the Village put it back up for sale.

Directive was issued to CAO, Lee to reach out to legal to find out what needs to be done to get the property back.

- Update on policies due from Strategix.

Councillor, Robinson would like an update on policies and by-laws review.

CAO, Lee provided an update and will follow up with Yves. Strategix was hired through Environment and Local Government so if we don't get the results we want we could potentially reach out to them.

- Discussion on need for a petition policy.

Councillor, Robinson noted that there were some issues that came up with petitions and what the expectation is on the part of public for response. She would like to formalize the procedures in a policy.

CAO, Lee commented that we have reached out to other municipalities to see how they handle petitions. As CAO, Lee already has some information on this, he will move it out to Council.

Mayor, Arseneault said that he loves the idea of civic involvement in matters. It shows that people are engaged in issues. He believes that streamlining the process is a good idea, but not to the point where it becomes onerous.

- Discussion regarding meeting minutes and council expenses uploaded to Village of Belledune website.

Councillor, Robinson inquired about meeting minutes and Council expenses not being uploaded to the Village of Belledune

CAO, Lee confirmed that the meeting minutes are updated now but the Council expenses are not. He indicated that Clerk Treasurer, Culligan is looking into posting the expenses and that and they will be updated moving forward.

- Update on development/design of new website.

Councillor, Robinson stated that our current website is cumbersome and not user friendly. She stated that Council voted in 2022 to move forward with a new design and new development and we were looking for Requests For Proposals from other companies, and she would like to know if we can move forward on that.

CAO, Lee stated that he isn't sure where that was left off in 2022 but he will do some research. If a complete re-design is what Council is looking for that we could budget that in for next year, but there may be some other options.

- Discussion on Annual Reports 2022 & 2023.

Councillor, Robinson inquired about the Annual Reports for 2022 and 2023 as they are legislated by the Local Governance Act and they have not yet been adopted by Council. She would like to have those reports done as they are required by law.

Clerk Treasurer, Culligan was aware of the annual reports that were due. She is aiming to have the 2023 report complete by the end of August or beginning of September and will follow up with the 2022 report after that.

Administration

CAO, Landon Lee

- Regional Charging Station Project

CAO, Lee communicated that the Chaleur Regional Service Commission reached out as they are looking to gauge Council's interest in being involved in a project for electronic vehicle charging stations. Other regions are looking at putting EV stations in their municipalities. There are generally incentives that come along with a regionalized approach. Preliminary estimates suggest that with Federal and Provincial subsidies a \$125,000 fast charging station would cost the municipality approximately \$32,000. For a slower charging station, a \$9,500 charging station would cost the municipality about \$1,500. At this point they are not looking for a commitment, but they are looking for an expression of interest from Council.

Councillor, Guitar-McDonnell asked if the charging station at the Port of Belledune is open to the public. CAO, Lee replied that he believes it is open to the public, but he isn't sure if you have to pay for it. As a municipality, if we choose to put in charging stations, we can set the rate for them.

Councillor, Robinson stated that she is in favour of the charging stations.

Councillor, Bourque is not in favour at this time.

Deputy Mayor, Carmichael is not in favour at this time.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell is not in favour at this time.

Councillor, Robinson reminded Council that we will miss out on subsidies by pushing this to a later date and it will cost the municipality a lot more in the future.

Mayor, Arseneault stated that we were 3-1 on the issue.

Clerk/Treasurer, Angela Culligan

Closed Session

Adjournment

M 2024/08/19-72

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourned at 7:22pm., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk Treasurer