

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT WILLIAMS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lewis Benedict, Kim Cogswell, Craig Newcombe, Ernie Hovell and Doug Gates

IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Tupper, Wayne Blenkhorn, Joe Keddy, Councilor Emma Van Rooyen, Geneve Newcombe & Darlene Robertson

The Chairperson, Lewis Benedict, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- I. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting on February 17, 2015, be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

I. Municipality of County of Kings:

- (a) Building Permit Report for Month of February, 2015. In Kings County 13 permits were issued with a total value of \$758 thousand, no permits were issued in Port Williams. *(Information only)*
- (b) Letter from Don Burns, Fire Official for the Municipality of the County of Kings providing the report from the Fire Inspection performed on February 12, 2015. Due to pending storm the re-inspection has been booked for March 31, 2015.
- (c) E-mail from the Municipality of the County of Kings providing the Municipal Council Action lists for February 4th and 9th. *(Information only)*
- (d) Letter of acknowledgement from the Municipality of the County of Kings which was in response to the letter sent by the Village Commission on February 18, 2015 regarding the review of the land use bylaw draft and map. *(Information only)*
- (e) E-mail from the Municipality of the County of Kings providing information about the potential snow loading effects on buildings. *(Information only)*
- (f) Information sheet provided by Brian Desloges of the Municipality of the County of Kings, providing flood information preparedness. *(Information only)*

II. Other Correspondence:

- (a) Letter from Honorable Stephen McNeil responding to the letter sent by the Village Commission on December 1, 2014, regarding concerns over recommendations 13 and 14 of the Provincial/Municipal Fiscal Review.

(Information only)

- (b) Offsite inspection report from Nova Scotia Environment advising that Well #6 is now considered to be non-GUDI (Ground water under direct influence of surface water). *(Information only)*
- (c) Letter from Fire Chief Lionel Rhynard, stating that he will be out of the country from March 6th until March 14th and that Deputy Chief Ryan Miller will be acting Fire Chief in his absence. *(Information only)*
- (d) Letter from the Charities Directorate providing acknowledgement to the application sent and providing the Village with a file number.

III. E-mailed Correspondence:

- (a) E-mailed update from the Green Tool Box for Growing Sustainable Municipalities.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- (a) **UV System for Sewage Treatment plant** – Superintendent, Joe Keddy reported that construction is complete. A testing and startup date of March 23 was set however due to the weather and snow looking at a different date. Still waiting for an invoice from the electrician for the UV sewer disinfection system.
- (b) **Request for additional bus stop** – Chairperson, Lewis Benedict reported that to date he has not received any responses since his meeting with John Lohr.
- (c) **Easements** – Superintendent Joe Keddy reported that he has received a new set of outstanding easements, from the Village's lawyer.
- (d) **Main Street Lateral Repairs** - Superintendent, Joe Keddy, reported that letters have been sent out.
- (e) **Nova Scotia Power street lights** – Superintendent Joe Keddy reported that currently we have 6 nonfunctioning street lights which have been reported to Nova Scotia Power.
- (f) **Radar Speed Sign** – Councilor Emma Van Rooyen reported that she will be pursuing funding discussions in April or May after the budget process.
- (g) **Review of Insurance policy** – no date has been set, the office staff will follow up with the Villages Insurance Company for available dates to review the policy.
- (h) **LED streetlights in new subdivision** – it was noted that there is possible damage to the streetlights by the snow plows. The Village Commission would like verification that the streetlights are not damaged. There was also discussion around the differences between LED and Induction lighting.

REPORTS:

Association of Nova Scotia Villages meeting with Honourable Mark Furey:

- Lewis Benedict reported that the Association met with the Municipal Affairs Minister, Mark Furey on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, to discuss concerns regarding

items 13 and 14 in the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review. On the following Thursday he received a phone call from the Municipal Affairs office stating that there will be a press release confirming the Province's position on Villages and that government will not force amalgamation or dissolution of Villages in the province. The Municipal Affairs office is looking at having a follow up meeting with the Association of Nova Scotia Villages in the near future. The Association issued a press release on March 13th in response to the news released by the Municipal Affairs office. The Commission thanked Chairperson, Lewis Benedict for all his hard work and dedication which played a large part to this positive outcome.

Volunteer Committee: Ernie Hovell reported

- There were nominations or letters of support received from five organizations
- Total of two nominations.
- Pleased to report that Brian Tupper will be this year's volunteer representative for the Village of Port Williams.

Janitorial: Brian Tupper reported

- Winter proving to be challenging this year
- Emergency lights and batteries have been replaced where needed.
- Melting snow and ice buildup on the roof caused a leak. Ceiling tiles have been replaced.
- It was mentioned that the windows need to be cleared of snow to prevent possible leaks/flooding.

Princess selection Committee:

- Information meeting has been scheduled.
- Currently have interest from four young ladies.

Recreation Committee: Wayne Blenkhorn reported:

- Cardio Tennis is gaining popularity
- There were discussions around a skate park
- Steve Wohlmuth attended the grant funding presentation at the Municipality – the presentation went well with no questions from council.
- To date no one has stepped up to be a soccer representative for Port Williams

Fire Department: Craig Newcombe reported:

- Two meetings
- Decided on meeting the second Sunday of each month
- No water usage
- 8 calls in the past month
- 11 members have completed their Safety officer course
- There were some budget discussions
- Ryan reported from the Fire Chiefs meeting that funding grants for this coming year will be the same as the previous year.
- New member making a total number of 27 members
- Due to insurance limitations there will be no working on personal vehicles in the fire department bays.

- Writing of policy is ongoing
- Nuisance fire calls will be routed through Brian Deslodge to determine if a Fire Department needs to be dispatched. Councilor, Emma Van Rooyen confirmed that this would be a new policy. The Village Commission questioned how a 911 operator would be able to determine what a nuisance fire call would be. Councilor Van Rooyen said that she would look into this and get back to the Commission.

Lions Club: Brian Tupper reported:

- Selling tickets for their upcoming charter night.
- Currently working on Float and upcoming Port Williams Days
- Catering functions coming up
- Still campaigning for new members

Kings County Council: Councilor, Emma Van Rooyen reported:

- Council sat through many grant request presentations
- Recommendation to reduce the percentage of current funding commitments and not approve any grant request for this coming fiscal year.
- Councilor Van Rooyen is looking at redirecting funding for the recreation coordinator through a different grant process.
- Council made the decision not to increase taxes this year
- Councilor Van Rooyen thanked the Commission and Joe Keddy for the excellent job on sidewalk clearing this year.

Water/Sewer/Public Works/Transportation Report: Joe Keddy reported:

- Nitrates 5.8 and 8.1
- Well number 6 is now non GUDI

Treasurer's Report:

- A motion to accept the Village General Operating and Water Utility financial statements for February, 2015 as submitted was moved and seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Chief Financial Officer, Geneve Newcombe presented a new reporting method which mirrors reporting to the Utility Review Board where the budget is included in the Financials. Village Commission is ok with the new reporting method.
- A motion to write off an uncollectable water invoice was moved and seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Chief Financial Officer, Geneve Newcombe attended the two budget request meetings with the Municipality. One for the Fire Department funding in which the Municipality requested further information. Additional supporting documentation requested was provided. There were no questions asked during the grant request meeting for the Recreation Coordinator.
- Working on budget for next year and will need to meet sometime in April to review with Village Commission.
- Need to start the water rate study process for the utility review board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) Set AGM date – Village Commission agreed that the AGM will be on June 4th at 7:00pm.
- (b) Ashley Roblin from Transcontinental Media phoned and asked if the Village would want to place an ad in the Kings County Advertiser in support of Daffodil Days. No action taken as not in Villages mandate.

Upon a motion being made, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.


Lewis Benedict, Chairperson


Darlene Robertson, Clerk