

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 9, 2012

A regular meeting of Council was held on Monday, January 9, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. There were seven members present namely Mayor Betty Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor Douglas Robbins, Councillors Rodney Gray, John Norman, Lindsay Phillips, Paul Mouland and Barry Randell. Also present at the meeting was the Town Manager, Calvin Rolls. The meeting was presided over by the Mayor.

At this time the Town Clerk proceeded to swear in the newly elected Councillor from the By-Election held on December 13, 2011, namely Rodney Gray.

The Mayor and Councillors then welcomed Mr. Gray to the Council.

It was moved by Councillor Randell and seconded by Councillor Phillips that the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2011, be adopted as read. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion then arose concerning the following Councillors' concerns:-

(1) Councillor Gray's concerns:-

A. Bayley's Cove Pond area. Councillor Gray wanted to know if this area will be considered wet land or if there will be future development in the area. It was agreed to discuss this when the Town Plan is reviewed later in the spring.

(2) Councillor Randell's concerns:-

A. Post Office Box Lobby closed after hours. Councillor Randell feels that the box lobby should have extended hours of opening to the public. It was agreed for the Town Manager to check with the Post Master re this matter.

(3) Councillor Norman's concerns:-

A. Wood cutting on Old Catalina Road. It was stated that people are cutting wood in this area without permits. It was agreed to investigate this matter.

At this time it was agreed to check out the status of land in this area with respect to power of sale.

B. Provincial Budget Consultations. It was agreed for the Town of Bonavista to make a presentation at Arnold's Cove on January 30, 2012.

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C. Dialysis Committee. Councillor Norman stated that the Dialysis Committee will be meeting with a representative from Eastern Health at St. John's in the near future and he will keep Council apprized on this matter.

D. Water problem Long Lane. It was agreed to check this matter out in the spring.

E. Decisions made at Garrick Theatre with respect to finances. It was stated that some changes have been made — the results of which remain to be seen.

(4) Councillor Phillips' concerns:-

A. Mess on properties of Chard's Construction Ltd at 129 Confederation Drive and 333 Confederation Drive. It was agreed to write Chard's Construction and advise them that they must clean up these properties immediately or further action will be taken.

(5) Councillor Mouland's concerns:-

A. Sewer Jet Truck for clearing sewer blocks. It was agreed to discuss this matter when the next Capital Works applications are submitted.

B. Snow Clearing. Councillor Mouland stated that he had complaints about snow clearing.

(6) Deputy Mayor's concerns:-

A. New Alzheimer Units for Bonavista. It was stated that all tenders were higher than engineers' estimates. This is being worked on.

(7) Mayor Fitzgerald's concerns:-

A. Funding to repair The Matthew. It was agreed to try and arrange a meeting with Government to discuss this matter further.

B. Projects to qualify people for Employment Insurance. The Mayor wanted to know if more funding is available under CEEP funding to help the people since there are still a lot of people who don't qualify for EI.

A discussion then arose concerning the business arising out of the minutes:

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(1) Status of Bonavista Hospital. It was agreed to write Pat Coish-Snow, COO Discovery Region, Eastern Health asking for clarification on the status of the Bonavista Hospital. The sign says “Bonavista Peninsula Health Care Center” but the cards read “Bonavista Community Health Center.”

(2) Conflict of Interest situation with Councillor Norman regarding Strathie’s Road Sub-division. Council decided that Councillor Norman was in a Conflict of Interest situation because his parents live there. Councillor Norman proceeded to state his case — why he should not be considered in a conflict situation.

At 9:10 p.m. Councillor Norman retired from the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to disregard the decision on “Conflict of Interest” made in the last meeting regarding Councillor Norman. Councillor Phillips was contrary to this decision.

At 9:20 p.m. Councillor Norman returned to the meeting.

A discussion then arose concerning the following:-

(1) Accounts Payable. The Town Clerk presented a list of bills for approval to pay. A copy of this list of bills is attached. It was moved by Councillor Randell and seconded by Deputy Mayor Robbins that these bills in the amount of \$505,292.32 be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

(2) News Release from Peter Penashue and Mayor Betty Fitzgerald re Small Craft Harbour Funding for marginal wharf in Bonavista.

(3) Letter from Jim Swyers, J. T. Swyers Hospitality Ltd., requesting a tax reduction for The Harbour Quarters since they had less than 50% occupancy in 2010. This request was based on the fact that another room rental business was granted a reduction for the same reason. It was agreed not to give any reduction at this time.

(4) Shawn Martino building a shed in his yard without the necessary permit from Council. This shed does not conform to our regulations — it is too close to property boundaries. It was agreed to advise Mr. Martino that before a permit is issued this shed must adhere to Council regulations and be moved back four feet from his property boundary.

(5) Municipal Assessment Agency Annual Report for 2010 - 2011.

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(6) Wood Turning Shop Business Tax for 2011. Mike Patterson requests a tax reduction since he was only open three months this year. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Robbins and seconded by Councillor Randell to give the Wood Turning Shop a 50% reduction in Business Tax since he is only open seasonally. Motion carried unanimously.

(7) Letter from Brian Farewell, C.U.P.E., regarding classification of Junior Tremblett and Frank Monks. This letter requests that Mr. Tremblett and Mr. Monks be paid operator wages when they are working because they were initially hired as operators and should be grandfathered in to the operator classification even if they are called back as labourers. This would only apply in this particular case.

(8) Statement of Income and Expenses for Cabot Stadium for December 2011.

(9) Letter from Town of Clarendville requesting our support to lobby the Provincial Government to extend the divided highway on the Trans Canada from Whitbourne to Clarendville. It was agreed to write this letter of support.

(10) Letter from Marjorie Hicks re mess on property at 48 Rolling Cove Road adjacent to her property. It was agreed to write the owners of the property and advise them that this property must be cleaned up.

(11) Larry Harris requesting permission to take in a lane known as Penn Lane adjacent to his property off Hawkins' Lane in the Town of Bonavista. It was agreed to look at this matter for the next Council meeting.

(12) Old 1998 Pickup. It was agreed to tender this pickup for sale.

Since there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.