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## Minutes of Council Meeting

January 24, 2023 7:00 PM

Present:	Deputy Mayor (Chair)	Brian Hooper
	Councillors	Rhoda Hannem
		Perry Pond
		Ken Tucker
		Derek White
	Town Manager	Todd Champion
	Town Clerk	Coreen Colbourne
	Recreation and Tourism Manager	Ashley Ivany
	Superintendent of Public Works	Bruce Roberts
Regrets	Mayor	Krista Freake
	Councillor	John Mullett

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought greetings to those watching on Facebook, fellow Councillors and Staff. He hoped that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wished everyone a Happy New Year, as this was the first meeting of the new year.

### **1. Call to Order – 7:05 pm**

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought forward a land acknowledgement.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**23-001 Pond/White**

**Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

### 3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting December 13, 2022

**23-002 Pond/Tucker**

**Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 13, 2022.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper welcomed Fire Chief Lee Whiteway to the meeting.

### 4. Recreation/Tourism Committee

#### Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

#### Stadium

The stadium is available for hourly bookings, if anyone is interested in booking the stadium they should contact Ashley at the Town office, or the Lewisporte Stadium if it is after hours.

The Senior Seahawks have made the playoffs, their first home game will be February 4th, 2023.

#### Woolfrey's Pond Park

As we draw closer to the 2023 season, the Recreation and Tourism Manager and the Park Manger will be drafting the 2023 contracts in the coming week. Phone calls will be made to seasonals from last year around mid February to discuss returning in the 2023 season. New bookings will start in around Mid March.

The Comfort station tender had closed before Christmas, unfortunately the tender came in over budget. The Town Manger, Recreation Tourism Manager, and the Superintendent of Works are reviewing the scope of work and hope to retender the project in the coming weeks.

#### Other Recreation

The Lewisporte Ski Trail is preparing to open for the 2023 season. Membership applications can be found on the 02 Athletics Club's Facebook page.

#### Special Events

The Town of Lewisporte is preparing for our 2023 Winter Carnival. The Winter Carnival will take place from Feb 24th - March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. There will be fun for the whole family.

If you are a business, resident, organization, or group, and you are interested in hosting an event during our winter carnival, even if you are not sure what to host, please contact Tiffany at the Town Office and discuss ways that you can participate in our Town Festival.

As the new year kicks off, we ask that you stay tuned to our Facebook page as we will be posting new and exciting events for the whole family to enjoy!

Deputy Mayor Hooper addressed a concern that was ongoing with one of the lanes at the bowling alley, the recreation director advised that the problem was fixed that day.

## **5. Economic Development**

### **Update by Councillor Pond**

5.1 Occupancy Permit – 23-001R – K & L Ventures Limited, permit to occupy 7 Old Briton Crescent.

**23-003          Pond/Tucker**

**I so move to accept the occupancy permit, 23-001R for K & L Ventures, to occupy 7 Old Briton Crescent, as presented.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

### **Craft Shop/Museum/Dinner Theatre**

The deadline for the RFP for the disposal of the old museum, on January 16, 2023, has passed, with no proposals being submitted. The committee will be taking a look at how the RFP was promoted and re-submitting it again.

The Economic Development Committee is still waiting on assistance for the redesign of the new Dinner Theatre and Craft Shop.

### **Marina**

The Town is still on track to have an evaluation completed by Transport Canada by the end of February. Council has scheduled a meeting with Minister Hutchings on February 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss how the transfer may or may not occur.

### **Economic Diversification**

Committee members have not been able to schedule a meeting with the Province that is favourable for everyone.

### **Port Development**

Economic development members are confident that there will be a response to the Town's proposal at the beginning of next week, January 30, they are cautiously optimistic that it will go in the Town's favour.

Councillor Pond spoke of an article in a recent publication by Energy NL that identified five exploration prospects to look for in 2023, the 4<sup>th</sup> in world, was Cape Freels, which will be a port opportunity for the Northeast Coast of Newfoundland.

The Town has secured a consultant for the next few months, to work on various opportunities for the Town, until a more permanent solution can be secured with the Province through diversification.

## **6. Lands Committee**

### **Update by Councillor White**

In the spring, the Town's staff will be looking at property clean ups.

Permits are something that residents and businesses should keep in mind when making repairs and/or changes to their property.

In the near future, the Town will have a parcel of land for sale at the top of Pelley Street.

## **7. Public Works**

### **Update by Councillor White**

Councillor White reminded the public that the Town's snow clearing regulations are in effect, they can be viewed on the Town's Facebook page, he reiterated that there is to be no overnight parking on the streets. He mentioned that there were a couple of vehicles left on the street overnight recently, if the frequency increases the Town will start removing vehicles, which will cost the owner of the vehicle an impounding fee.

Deputy Mayor Hooper thanked the Town's staff on the tremendous job that they did during a recent weather event that lasted most of the weekend.

## **8. Protective Services**

Fire Chief Whiteway started the protective services update with a report from the Regional Fire Rescue

His last attendance was on August 30<sup>th</sup>. 2022

There has been 21 meetings and practice nights for a total of 3306 hours.

There has been 23 calls for service, that includes structural fires, low acuity fires, motor vehicle accidents, and two search and rescues.

Practices include both departments, the satellite department of Brown's Arm which includes members from Laurenceton.

The LRRFR has had two meetings with the protective services committee, one joint meeting with the fire department executive and one without.

Four executive meetings have been held, this is where the logistics of the department are kept on track.

Members of the LRFR handed out treats at the Trunk or Treat, where Sparky was in attendance, as well as on Halloween night, they attended the fireworks display and community bonfire on November 5.

In November the LRFR had their annual party recognizing years of service, there were members recognized for various years of service, some as many as 40 years.

Fire Chief Whiteway spoke of the signing of the mutual aid agreement that was signed with Campbellton in the fall, to assist with structural fires. The firemen have been called out two times for assistance since the signing.

The cascade system was upgraded this past fall with four more cylinders, due to the purchase of new breathing apparatus, to help shorten fill times, in the case of a major fire. The pumper has been tested, breathing apparatus and flow tests with Scott and Survive Air.

Fire Chief Whiteway thanked Council for accepting the budget that the LRFR executive put together.

In December the fire department purchased a demo unit smoke maker, this unit will be used in training, this allows the firefighters to get away from live fires, carcinogens and if new trainees remove their masks, they won't inhale fumes.

Fire Chief Lee spoke of a new cancer awareness program, this is where fire fighters will keep record of any incidents while on duty to track any cancer causing agents they may encounter. He said one in three firefighters get cancer.

The fire department has their Junior Fire Fighting Program students selected, the last count was 29.

Fire Chief Whiteway wanted to thank the outgoing and in coming members of the various committees of the FD, without them the FD would not operate as it does.

Deputy Mayor Hooper mentioned the date of this year's annual firemen's banquet was March 4.

Councillor Tucker spoke of the response to Campbellton's calls for support, one being fairly recently that ended up with the LRFR being called twice in the one evening. He also spoke of the praise given to the LRFR members on social media platforms, as well as from the Mayor and Fire Chief from Campbellton. Fire Chief Whiteway responded by saying that the members of the Campbellton FD on duty had things under way when the LRFR arrived, as was how it was supposed to go.

Meetings of protective services will resume next week, as well as with the FD executive to continue their review of the regional fire services. PS members is hoping to have a full report in the spring.

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought forward the safety issues associated with the winter weather, with the freezing and thawing, ice conditions are probably not safe, so be very cautious when going near or on the ice.

## **9. Finance/HR**

**Update by Councillor Hannem**

The Town of Lewisporte has received confirmation from Municipal and Provincial Affairs that a review of Council's 2023 Budget was carried out and no material deficiencies were revealed. Which basically means the budget has been approved.

Town residents and businesses can expect to see their property, water/sewer and/or business tax invoice in the next couple of weeks.

A 3% discount is being offered again this year if their property, water/sewer and/or business taxes are paid by March 31, 2023, and there is no previous balances owing.

The public should be aware that while credit cards are accepted this year as payment on their taxes, there will be a 2% fee applied to the payment amount.

This is an important note for senior's: the 15% senior discount is being offered to seniors again this year that are receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement, that is, there is an amount showing in Box 21 on the 2022 T4A OAS, but only if paid on or before May 31, 2023, and only on his/her/their principal residence.

### **Motion**

Under the section 32. (1) of the ASSESSMENT ACT, 2006, a municipality or the city shall, by resolution, prior to January 31 in a year, appoint a commissioner.

**23-004 Hannem/Pond**

**The finance committee recommends, and I motion that the Town of Lewisporte appoint Mr. Hardy Sparkes as assessment review commissioner.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

### **9.1 Cheque Register – Scotiabank (Gas Tax Account)**

**23-005 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve the cheque register as presented, cheque number 1 for a total of \$946,146.96.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

## 9.2 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)

**23-006 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve the cheque register as presented from cheque numbers 002396 to 002501 for a total of \$546,982.06 with the exception of 002426, 002457, 002462, 002481, 002491, and 002489.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers.

**23-007 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002426, 002457 and 002462.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers.

Councillor Pond was in conflict and left Chambers.

**23-008 Hannem/Tucker**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002481 and 002491.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Hannem was in conflict and left Chambers.

A motion for approval of cheque number 002489 could not be brought forward, as the remaining Council members felt there were not enough present to vote, so it was tabled and will be brought forward at the next public council meeting.

Councillors Pond and Hannem re-entered Chambers.

## **10. Correspondence**

### **10.1 Municipal Assessment Agency Memo**

Councillors were encouraged to review the memo.

## **11. Other Committees and/or Business**

Councillor Pond gave an update to Council and residents on the Lewisporte Community College Inc., as a representative of the Town. The auditor presented their financial statements for the year ending July 31, 2022. He reported that the College remains profitable and is contributing greatly to the community.

Deputy Mayor Hooper reported, as Chair of the Board, for the Lewisporte Marina Administrative Authority, that even though the boating season is over, there are still regular meetings scheduled to take care of paperwork, they are also looking at better marketing opportunities. Some PR materials, as well as a new website.

Councillor Pond said that while Die Trac has traditionally been a skilled trades training college, they are in the process of looking at opportunities to expand. He also mentioned that there is a vacancy on the Board if any person from the community would like to come forward. He commented that Mike and Heather are doing a fabulous job keeping the school administratively. There was further discussion of Council on what Die Trac brings to the community financially.

## **12. Adjournment**

**23-009 White/Pond**

**Resolved that the meeting adjourn.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:48 PM

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on February 14, 2023.





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Brian Hooper, Deputy Mayor



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Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer