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Minutes of Council Meeting

February 13, 2024 7:00 PM

Present:	Deputy Mayor (Chair)	Brian Hooper
	Councillors	Roxanne Haliburton
		Perry Pond
		John Mullett
		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

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought greetings to those watching on Facebook, fellow Councillors and Staff.

He brought forward a land acknowledgement.

1. Call to Order – 7:04 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

24-019 Haliburton/Mullett

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper passed along the Mayor's regrets for not being able to attend the evenings meeting. He also passed along birthday greetings to the Town's Superintendent of Public Works.

3.1 Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting January 16, 2024

24-020 Tucker/White

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 16, 2024.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

3.2 Minutes for Approval – Special Meeting of Council, January 23, 2024

24-021 Pond/Haliburton

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of January 23, 2024.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper passed along some updates from the Mayor:

- There have not been any updates from Scotiabank regarding the discussions that she and Councillor Pond had with representatives from the bank.
- After previous cancellations, a meeting has been scheduled with MHA Bennett for this Friday. Topics include easier access to diversification funds and Lewisporte not being included in the collaborative health clinic announcements, after being told that the Town would receive one.

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought awareness to women's heart and vascular health mentioning the Wear Red Canada Day Campaign for February 13th. The Mayor also proclaimed the day as Wear Red Canada Day.

4. Recreation/Tourism Committee

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Mike Austin Arena

- The Arena is currently bustling with a variety of upcoming tournaments and events, catering to diverse interests and age groups within our community.
- This weekend, Lewisporte is hosting a high school hockey tournament. Additionally, Lewisporte is eagerly anticipating the championship finals of the Senior Seahawks. Both events will draw significant attention and support from the town of Lewisporte and surrounding areas.
- The Town is proud to announce that the NL Winter Games Figure Skating Competition will be held at the Mike Austin Arena March 1st, 2024. This event offers an opportunity for residents and visitors to witness the province's top-tier athleticism, free of charge.
- Looking ahead, the Mike Austin Arena will be hosting an Easter Tournament for U11B teams from April 4th to April 6th. This event will bring together young athletes for a weekend of competition and fun.

Woolfrey's Pond Park

- The camping season is quickly approaching, and Woolfrey's Pond Park will be opening May 16th, 2024, contracts will be sent out to the seasonal campers in the coming weeks as staff prepares for the upcoming season.

Winter Carnival

- The Winter Carnival promises exciting activities for residents of all ages, from traditional favorites like snow sculptures and skiing to newer additions like Nerf battles and a senior's tea, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Taking place February 21st – February 25th, the carnival will be a celebration of community spirit and winter fun. Stay tuned to the Town's Facebook page for a comprehensive list of events and detailed information on each activity.

5. Economic Development

Update by Councillor Pond

Councillor Pond indicated that most of the files that the economic development committee have, are working their way through certain processes, the chair is hoping to have further updates at the next Public Council Meeting.

Upgrade of Railbed

The Town had the opportunity to sit down with businesses owners that are impacted the most by recreational traffic. The meeting went favourably, and the Town will proceed with the application process for funding.

Port Development

The Town received a draft management agreement from Transportation and Infrastructure to take over the management of the Port while the formal transfer is being undertaken. A review of the agreement will take place at the next meeting of economic development.

Marina

The purchase of the Marina has been finalized and paid for.

6. Lands Committee

Update by Councillor White

Under the Municipalities Act, 1999, a parcel of land that is available for purchase must be advertised for public sale.

24-022 White/Tucker

I hereby motion; under the Municipalities Act 1999, it is required that Town land sales be publicly posted for seven days, I hereby motion that the Town advertise the sale of approximately 1100 square meters of land adjacent to 1 Stanhope Road on the East Side of Stanhope Road, the unit pricing for that piece of land would be the un serviced commercial land rate of \$2.69 per square meter.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor White stated that the piece of land was on the side of Eastlink and behind (on top of the cliff).

Councillor White said that in May staff would be canvassing the town looking at both residential and commercial properties for the condition of the property. He wanted to remind property owners to start preparing for the cleanup of their land, homes, or businesses. He also reminded the public that permits are required if any repairs or renovations are completed to the outside of the properties.

7. Public Works

Update by Councillor Mullett

With an impending snowstorm upon us, Councillor Mullett reminded the public that the Town's snowing clearing equipment will be seen making several passes over the streets and when cleaning up from the snowfall, for residents and business owners to not push snow unto the sidewalks, there are pedestrians that use the sidewalks. Councillor White added that the public will always see the snowplough make two cuts on each side of the street.

Councillor White suggested that the paving of Main Street be added to the agenda for discussion with MHA Bennett. He said that many people ask why the Town is leaving Main Street in such a deplorable condition, Councillor White pointed out that while it goes through the town, it is a highway and therefore falls under the Provincial Government for repair, as well as Premier Drive, as it leads to other communities.

8. Protective Services

Update by Councillor Tucker

Regional Fire Service

Motion

The term for a fire chief is three (3) years, and that expired at the end of 2023. There is an election process for the fire chief position, which was held in January, with only one candidate coming forward, the fire chief position was acclaimed by the current fire chief, Lee Whiteway.

24-023 Tucker/Haliburton

I move to accept the election report for Chief of the Lewisporte Regional Fire and Rescue and support the appointment of Lee Whiteway as Chief of Lewisporte Regional Fire and Rescue for a term of three (3) years.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper congratulated Chief Whiteway on behalf of Council, for attaining the position, and is looking forward to working with him and the rest of the executive of the Lewisporte Regional Fire Rescue.

Councillor Tucker shared some information from the special meeting that was held by the Council on January 23rd, 2024. The Town applied for funding from the Provincial Government to purchase a new pickup truck for the Fire Department. It was a 70/30 split between the Provincial Government and the Municipality, with a value of approximately \$138,000.00. A motion of the Council had to be made in order to accept the funding, which was the purpose of the Special Meeting held. The new pickup truck will be used to purchase replace the black pickup that has been in service with the fire department for several years, it will be a crew cab, 4-wheel drive with an eight-foot box. It will help support the fire department, carrying firefighters and their equipment, when responding to calls for service.

RCMP

The new Corporal, who will be the supervisor for the Lewisporte Detachment, has arrived in Town, members of Council have a meeting scheduled with him for this coming Thursday. This will give Council and staff an opportunity to introduce themselves. At that time, the Council will also discuss community policing and bring up any issues that the Town is experiencing. Some of the senior officers of the RCMP will also be in attendance.

9. Finance/HR

Update by Councillor Haliburton

9.1 Motion – Changes to Policy FN 04 – Unpaid Taxes and Permits Granted

At the January 16, 2024, Public Council Meeting, the finance committee brought forward Policy FN04, Unpaid Taxes and Permits Granted, upon further review, Council would like to include a clause in that Policy.

Policy FN 04 states: A building permit application shall not be approved if there are outstanding taxes on the property in question for the previous calendar year(s).

Finance will bring forward the additional clause.

In the event, the permit application is deemed to be for an emergency repair, the permit may be granted, at the discretion of the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Public Works, while there is still an outstanding balance on the property owner's account.

23-024 Haliburton/Pond

Be it resolved to accept Policy FN 04, as presented in the Council Agenda.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

9.2 Motion – Changes to Policy AD 03 – Use of Town Vehicles/Materials

Both the protective services committee and the finance committee have reviewed Policy AD 03 - Use of Town Equipment/Materials. The updated policies have been presented to Council in the Council Agenda.

The finance committee brings forward the following additions to the policy:

1. Town vehicles are to be used for municipal business only, any other use is at the discretion of the Town Manager.
2. It is recognized that certain employees require vehicles in order to carry out their departmental duties. Emergencies and other occurrences (such as monitoring street conditions, responding to citizen complaints, water and/or sewer breaks, flooding, etc.) require these individuals to respond after hours to assess situations and decide on courses of action as required.

The following individuals are considered to be permanently on call and have vehicles assigned to them, while residing in the town of Lewisporte:

1. Town Manager
2. Superintendent of Works

23-025 Hailburton/Pond

Be it resolved to accept Policy AD 03, as presented in the Council Agenda.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

9.3 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)

24-026 Haliburton/Pond

I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 003454 to 003548, with the exception of cheques 003464, 003470, and 003474 for a total of \$374,984.80.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

Councillor White was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:30:50.

24-027 Haliburton/Pond

Motion to approve cheque number 003464.

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Pond and Tucker.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

Councillor White re-entered Chambers at 7:31:27.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:31:32.

24-028 Haliburton/Pond

Motion to approve cheque number 003470.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:31:59.

Councillor Mullett was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:32:07.

24-029 Hooper/Tucker

Motion to approve cheque number 003474.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

Councillor Mullett re-entered Chambers at 7:32:36.

10. Other Committees and/or Business

All items were brought forward earlier in the meeting.

11. Adjournment

24-030 Hooper/White

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

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

Opposed: None


Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:33 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on March 12, 2024.



Brian Hooper, Deputy Mayor



Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer