



**THE TOWN OF ST. GEORGE
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the St. George Town Council held on Monday, May 11, 2020, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:08 pm. All Councillors in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant.

- 2) Councillor Allison** moved to approve the meeting via use of electronic means (using Zoom) given the current directives of the Province of New Brunswick regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris.

4) AGENDA:

Moved by Councillor Allison to approve the Agenda, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion Carried.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Not addressed. Moved to June meeting.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

None

7) FIRE REPORT:

Chief Justin Johnston read the report as written for the month of April (attached).

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked if the grass fires were down this year. Chief Johnston confirmed it is.

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Alex Henderson, Planning Director, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission, read the development report as written for the month of April (attached).

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. EMO Status Update on COVID-19 and the Town of St. George – Jason Gaudet
 - Coming out of Easter weekend there were 166 cases and appeared to be a change in mood of residents as if the state of emergency was lifted. Is concerned once the public eases its attention on the matter it will let its guard down, so still working with the Province and getting messages out over social media.

- Over weekend of April 18-19, non-essential activities occurring led to notices and a Town Hall memo that directives were still in place.
- Monday, April 20 – 118 cases in New Brunswick, starting to indicated the Province was probably over the “curve”.
- April 22 – Acting Mayor Avery and CAO had a conference call with Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA), since restricting all non-essential travel across the Canada and USA border they have seen a decline of 79% of entry by land and sea; a decrease of 94% from last year. Entry into Canada remains prohibited for non-essential entry, but some late snowbirds may still be returning from across the border.
- Continued conference calls throughout that week with Public Health and Public Safety.
- April 24 - Province announced a phased approach to return to normalcy. Looked at an initial phase of light red or Pink, where the phase was Red at the height of the pandemic. During Phase Pink went to a two-household bubble, opening of golf courses, and opening of fish and hunting seasons.
- Since the state of emergency in the Province went into effect, over 990 tickets were issued by the province, ranging from \$220-\$10,000.
- Entering May looked different for the entire province of New Brunswick. Lull with no new cases. By May 3 there were no longer any active cases in NB.
- May 5 – Province announced the first case since April 18
- May 6 - Another new case in Saint John, a long-haul trucker. Making a total of 120 cases in the Province.
- Friday, May 8 - Move to Phase Orange, lifting a number of restrictions and introducing controls. Phase Orange allows for retail facilities, offices and restaurants to open and return elective surgeries and priority health services.
- Discussions continue regarding seasonal residents and cottage owners wishing to enter New Brunswick. Is especially concerning for neighboring communities such as St. Andrews and St. Stephen, who have seasonal population or experience an increases in traffic.
- By the second week of May there have been over 17,700 tests completed in New Brunswick. No new cases. Remain at Phase Orange, hoping to move on to Phase Yellow in next couple weeks.
- **Acting Mayor Avery** asked if the YMCA will be opening. CAO advised the YMCA is reaching out to parents now with operations beginning possibly as early as next week. Signage has been put up in the center, floors waxed, some painting done. Parents who have had children in the program should expect contact this week.

b. Mr. Stephen Swim - resident, 49 Riverview Ave.

- Stephen Swim introduced himself as a resident of St. George who has lived on Riverview Avenue for more than thirty years. He also made the statement he has not yet spoken to any lawyer on this matter.
- Mr Swim came to represent himself, the residents of Riverview Avenue, Memory Lane, and the “town” in this matter, being the Day Adventure Center (DAC). DAC has been an area of concern for many years. Earlier this year the lower section near the trails was closed down by the Town due to concerns regarding garbage in the area.
- Mr. Swim’s presentation is to talk about next phase as to what we can do to make the area a place of better protection, an area of peace and quiet where residents can enjoy their own homes.
- Mr. Swim has been in talks with Jason Gaudet about how we can make this happen through Facebook (copy of correspondence given to Council). When asked if gates were going to be

installed, Jason Gaudet answered yes. This was the CAO taking responsibility as the Town to install gates. Mr. Swim also provided the CAO an example of a gate that may be suitable. Posts are already place and gate can be built easily. CAO stated he turned the issue to Leonard Lee for installation.

- When looking at costs, due to COVID-19 there will not be festivals this year. The Town has funds for this year's festival that may be available. He has also bought a set of gates for \$200, so they can be purchased inexpensively.
- To the question when we can expect the gates to be installed, the main concern is the evening time. Younger kids are gathering, smoking, drinking, playing loud music, and other kinds of disturbances. The simple way to address the issue is to have gates and lock them in the evenings.
- How will the gates be closed each day? Every morning someone from the works department tests water from the pump house, and they could do it at no cost to the Town. What about closing the gates? The person who closes the gate at Canal Beach could also close these gates. Residents on Riverview Avenue are also willing to help and see no reason why they could not be allowed to close those gates.
- What about early morning risers who want access to the trails? Walkers can enter via other accesses on Riverview Avenue, behind the Scotiabank, or the "freshwater landing".
- It is important to have hours posted for boaters and others to be aware of the hours of operation. Boaters would have to be aware of the hours and get out of the water prior to DAC closing. If they would like to be on the water longer they can go to Canal where the boat landing is available 24/7 outside of the locked gates.
- Mr. Swim and residents are asking for the next step to be put into play, and that it will cost the Town very little to do.
- Mr. Swim additionally stated DAC is Irving land and property. He will also take the information to Mr. Robert Fawcett (JDI) and let him know the concerns and the solution offered to the Town. Not only is Irving a stakeholder in terms of the property, but Mr. Swim believes in case of an accident caused by someone coming through the DAC that Irving will be held legally liable.
- Mr. Swim recounted the story of one resident who went to DAC for the purpose of using the trail, saw 12-14 cars lined up and did not feel comfortable using the trail or bringing children on the trail.
- **Acting Mayor Avery** thanked Mr. Swim for his presentation and advised the Council would get back to him prior to the next Council meeting.

10) GENERAL REPORTS:

a. General Government/Personnel:

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of April.
 - As a result of the Province moving to Phase Orange, full staffing has returned to the Town Hall and Public Works with a number of controls in place.
 - The Town has made a proposal to the Province on upgrade work at Canal Beach, such as a canteen and washrooms building. The total is approximately \$75,000.
 - A number of projects that were temporarily slowed down due to the pandemic have started to be reviewed, such as: upgrades to the residential lagoon, new well development, paving on Main Street. In addition the Town is working with the Province on a slope erosion project on L'Etete Road and in communication with the Province on repairs to the South Street Bridge.

- Several initiatives for the Fire Hall have also started to get back on track, such as the vehicle exhaust system.
- The Town, through partnership with St. Mark's Anglican Church and the Province, is moving forward in the three year restoration project of the First Community Cemetery on Main Street.
- Also on Main Street, through funding from the Fundy Community Foundation, the Town will improve a small piece of land on Brunswick/Wallace Streets known as Dunwoody Corner.
- Additional work will occur at the Eagles Nest including repair to the steps and clearing of the vegetation.
- Through partnership with JD Irving and Ducks Unlimited there will be a new picnic structure on the Marsh Trail across the river from DAC.
- In the next month we hope to move forward with Habitat for Humanity and their project on Brunswick Street.

b. Community Services/Partners:

- **Acting Mayor Avery** read the report as written for the month of April (attached).

c. Water & Sewerage:

- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of April (attached).

d. Transportation:

- **Councillor Cooke** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of April (attached).

Councillor Cooke added there was a small pothole in the pavement (on L'Etete Road) just beyond the Circle K/Irving, about 6" x 6" but now is about 2 feet. We could have fixed that with some patch and now it will take some effort. We should get there because it is dangerously close to the slop.

Acting Mayor Avery asked when the line marking and arrows will be done. CAO answered it will hopefully be done later this month. **Acting Mayor Avery** also asked if the FINA parking lot will have an arrow in out redone. CAO stated he is working with someone local to do that work.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked if it was known what engineers or someone was on L'Etete Road today. CAO replied it is planning for the slope erosion project.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris inquired about the South Street Bridge project. CAO advised work started today and detours are in place. **Councillor Murray** asked if people are able to use the Eagles Nest during construction. CAO replied they cannot during the first part of the project, but it will be available later. **Councillor Murray** also questioned whether the lower parking lot was available. CAO stated the lower lot is fine.

e. Tourism:

- **Councillor Allison** shared that as of May 6, the Province put out new information for Tourism. A new social project program has been established for the Province to fund online culture performances during the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects, showcases and performances cancelled due to the pandemic will receive \$2,000 for their presentation on social media. All of the information can be found on www.gnb.ca.

f. Economic Development:

- **Councillor Murray** shared we have received the go-ahead to open the Community Garden. Every other planter will be available for social distancing. Applications will be released this week.

Due to COVID-19 fundraising efforts for the Multigenerational Park have been on hold. With the new normal efforts will be renewed for approaching businesses for sponsorship. Hopefully we will have a Splash Pad for the summer.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of April, 2020, in the amount of **\$119,674.84**, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Acting Mayor Avery** stated the Province has asked there be no events or festivals until after December 31, 2020. Other municipalities have cancelled their events through 2020. Though we would rather not do it, we do have

Councillor Cooke moved to cancel all Town events through 2020, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.

Discussion amongst Council around the question of what happens if later in the year we are given the opportunity to do something on a smaller scale? The issue would be readdressed at such time.

Councillor Cooke commented on the Town having money budgeted for events which will no longer be hosted this summer. Can some of those funds be directed towards repairs at the Works Department and Fire Department? **Acting Mayor Avery** advised the idea can be given to the CAO and have him come back with ideas.

Motion carried.

Acting Mayor Avery advised this will be revisited as needed.

- b. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved for a Resolution of Council of first reading, by title only, of By-Law # 21 Subdivision By-Law, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Read by **Acting Mayor Avery**. Motion carried.

- c. **Councillor Murray** moved for a Resolution of Council of second reading, in its entirety, of By-Law # 21 Subdivision By-Law, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.

The CAO advised because of the length of the By-Law, it will be made viewable beginning tomorrow until the next Council meeting. It will be available online and at the Town Hall.

Motion carried.

- d. **Councillor Allison** moved for a Resolution of Council to request the view of the Planning Review & Adjustment Committee (PRAC) of the proposed By-Law # 21 Subdivision By-Law, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.

The CAO commented the Town needs them to review the proposed bylaw and have them submit their review of the bylaw, including briefing notes by the commission. Motion carried.

- e. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved the dismissal of outstanding accounts detailed in file TOSG-ARWO2020, for the amount of \$14,743.44, six individual items, seconded by **Councillor Murray**.

Acting Mayor Avery stated that under the instruction of our Accountant and the Clerk, it is best to clear these items from the books. These are a mixture of delinquent accounts, by which all means of recover have been exhausted, and there is no hope of recovery. Motion carried.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The CAO advised By-Law #85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection will remain tabled. The COVID situation has reduced the ability to meet. The By-Law will be presented at the June meeting for final reading.

13) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. The CAO explained Min. Oliver has requested our five year plan that goes up to 2025. The currently plan goes to 2024. We will need to provide a new section Municipal Designated Highway (MDH) to be worked on. The deadline is August 31. This applies to the Provincial roads in Town (Mt. Pleasant Road, L'Etete Road to Fundy Drive, L'Etete Road connecting to Bonny River).

Work to be done on Mt. Pleasant Road continuing shoulder and sidewalk work and then will come back down the hill. MDH did not happen last year, and CAO said we were advised it will not be happening this year. It is putting down thoughts for the long term and is not binding. Will bring on agenda in June or July.

- b. **Acting Mayor Avery** read a letter from Charlotte Dial-A-Ride addressed to Mayor and Councillors. The Charlotte County Alternative Transportation Association will be having its Annual General Meeting virtually in the next few weeks. Previously all of the municipalities were represented on the Board of Directors. The letter invites the Town to appoint an individual to represent the Town of St. George on their Board of Directors. Board meetings are once a month and last about one hour, and will be held on Zoom foreseeably for the rest of the year.

Councillor Allison volunteered to serve on the Board. CAO stated he will reach out to the Association and advise **Councillor Allison** has expressed interest in serving. **Acting Mayor Avery** expressed thanks to **Councillor Allison**.

14) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Acting Mayor Avery** shared the day was May 11, and was supposed to be Election Day. Because of the pandemic, the Council sits for another year. Council said they would represent our Town, so they will do so. Let's hope we can get thing straightened out and get our elections back on track. Thank you to all who are doing a phenomenal job.

15) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

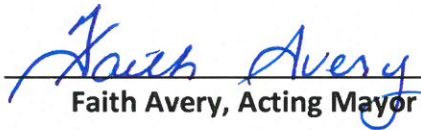
- a. Stephen Swim expressed thanks to Council, and his group is looking forward to making the move towards the next step. It will show itself quickly as to what is being done to manage the situation in our Town and we will not accept this kind of behavior in our Town.

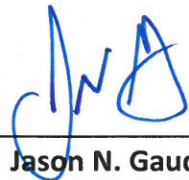
16) NEXT MEETING:

- a. The date of the next Regular Meeting of Council will be Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00pm.

16) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO