



**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, September 14, 2020, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:00 pm. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris, Councillor Allison and Councillor Murray in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Alex Henderson (SNBSC).

- 2) Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** 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 Allison. Motion carried.

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

4) AGENDA:

Moved by Councillor Murray to approve the Agenda with the following amendments: Items 12.a and 5.b be tabled, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion Carried.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of August 10, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.
- b. Councillor Murray moved to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2020, Special Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion carried.
- c. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2020, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.
- d. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2020, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

None

7) FIRE REPORT:

CAO Jason Gaudet read the report as written by Chief Johnston for the months of July and August (attached)

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

CAO Jason Gaudet read the report as written by Alex Henderson, Planning Director, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission, for the month of August (attached).

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

None

10) GENERAL REPORTS:**a. General Government/Personnel:**

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of August.
 - L'ETETE ROAD: Work is nearly completed with the sidewalk left to be installed. Overall on schedule. We appreciate the patience of the residents and those in the neighbouring communities.
 - LAGOON UPGRADES: Parts have arrived. Start installation towards last of September or early October
 - NEW WELL #6: Archaeological report has been submitted. Expecting to receive something in the next few days for review.
 - CANAL: We had a good event on the opening of the accessibility walkway and mobi-mat. Unfortunately these will see more use in 2021 as the beach is closed for the season
 - SPLASH PAD: Awaiting corporate sponsorship.
 - SEWAGE LIFT STATION (L'ETETE RD): We hope to start this project following the end of the slope project.
 - MAIN STREET PAVING: Tenders are in and will be awarded.
 - DAY ADVENTURE CENTER: Girl Guides and the women's outreach group will be using the old museum building for the Fall.
 - KENT STREET PLAYGROUND: Play equipment has been installed. We are waiting to install a sign for playground rules.
 - Posted a position for a casual janitor. If interested in applying, please contact Jason at the Town.
 - YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: We are looking at hiring, at no cost to the Town, youth for public works under the Provincial Youth Employment program from October to December.
 - Mobi-mat: Was a great event, a beautiful day and well-attended.
 - Great to see that we are able to give the Girl Guides somewhere to meet. If we could not offer them something they would not have had a place to operate this year.

b. EMO Status Update on COVID-19 and the Town of St. George:

- The CAO offered the EMO report for the month of August.
 - The Town remains as "Level One: Active Monitoring" as the Province renewed its Mandatory Order of a State of Emergency on September 3.
 - Since mid-August, 13 new cases were reported, though by mid-September there were only 3 active cases remaining with none of those cases being in hospital. New case reported today. To date, the Province has confirmed 194 cases with 2 deaths and over 66,600 tests being completed.
 - In the week of September 7 school reopened, albeit with a variety of changes for busing and remote learning.
 - With schools and churches imposing restrictions on secondary users, many non-profits and community groups are struggling to find a place to meet. The Town has been working with several groups on utilizing vacant buildings while ensuring these groups have COVID-19 operational plans for the safety of their participants.
- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked where the case reported today was from. CAO: Zone 1.

c. **Community Services/Partners:**

- **Acting Mayor Avery** advised there is nothing to report for the month of August.

d. **Water & Sewerage:**

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

e. **Transportation:**

- CAO Jason Gaudet read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of August (attached).

f. **Tourism:**

- **Councillor Allison** read the report as written for the month of August (attached).

g. **Economic Development:**

- **Councillor Murray** shared the Economic Development report for the month of August.
 - The Community Garden is looking for volunteers for the 2021 season. We are looking to revamp the Garden, so new ideas are welcome.
 - Masks are now required at the Independent Grocer.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Councillor Murray**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of August, 2020, in the amount of **\$170,539.54**, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.

- **Councillor Allison** asked about a purchase at Home Depot for tools. CAO replied they were for Billy who cleans up trash around town.
- **Councillor Allison** with the resignation of the current janitor position, when is the position for cleaning the medical center up for renewal? CAO: That is through the Mall. It is part of the invoice with the Medical Center, the same as phones and internet. **Councillor Allison** asked if there is a contract with us? CAO: No, that is all handled through the St. George Pharmacy.
- Motion carried.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion on Halloween (Saturday, October 31)

CAO advised that residents are asking about the status of Halloween. It has been a discussion of calls with other municipalities, the Province, and the Department of Public Health. AMANB and UMNb are seeking guidance from the Province to determine whether this should be cancelled or at least get some messaging out about how to best proceed. A lot of the municipalities are waiting to hear from the Province whether it will be a provincial ban or leave it to the municipalities to make the decision.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked if the Province did decide there is a ban on Halloween, is there something keeping residents and subdivisions from doing something on their own.

Councillor Murray clarified, such as a fine for doing something. CAO: It depends on how it is worded, an order from the Province.

Different suggestions were made by various councillors.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked how long it will take to hear what they have decided.

CAO: They were supposed to get back to us this week but it may be a little bit longer. They are in the middle of an election and they may wait for a new minister to take office and make a decision on it.

CAO: As of right now Halloween is status quo.

- b. **Councillor Allison** moved for the adoption of Policy 55A-2020 - Liability and Damage Claims Policy, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. CAO advised this sometimes referred to as a “pothole” policy. It was discussed earlier this year and requires the adoption of Council regarding people submitting claims for damages such as hitting a potholes. It brings for discussion that the Town is not an insurer, potholes are not something we seek to.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris commented, they will go to the insurer first, but then will go to the Town. Why do we have a claim form? CAO: It does cover everything including personal injury. If they still wanted to submit a claim we would go through the process of reviewing, it gives some paperwork in case of filing.

Motion carried.

- c. CAO read the results for opening of Tender # 2020-05 Main Street Asphalt Resurfacing. Projects will be funded by the Gas Tax Fund. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved the acceptance of tender presented by Galbraith Construction in the amount of \$122,000, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion carried.
- d. **Councillor Murray** moved to accept the reading by title only of By-Law #85-1-2020 Amendment to By-Law # 85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.
- e. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to accept, the second reading of By-Law #85-1-2020 Amendment to By-Law # 85 Garbage & Recyclables, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. CAO read the bylaw. Motion carried
- f. CAO advised two items are being brought forward to declared as surplus property and assets. Both of these were acquired for the Kent Street playground with Provincial funding, however we have run out of room with the Kent Street playground.

Councillor Murray moved to declare the “Ten Spin” spinner and “Jax Pack” climbing equipment as surplus, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.

Councillor Murray commented that the St. George Elementary School (SGES) playground is in rough shape. Suggested donating the surplus equipment to the SGES and they can install as needed. It is open to the Community, everyone goes to the school and will get enjoyment out of it. It was acquired at no cost to the Town.

Motion carried.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. CAO advised the resolution was tabled at the time and he was given instructions to go back regarding the price of the sale. They are to reply back by the next council meeting, and it sounds very much in the Town’s favor. This is the residential lagoon. As **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** stated in the last meeting the value of a lagoon is very limited.

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Acting Mayor Avery read the proclamation declaring September 2020 as Big Brothers Big Sisters month.
- b. Charlotte County Hospital Foundation is holding its annual radiothon and is looking for a donation. CAO: There is about \$1000 left in the budget line for our donations budgeting at the first of the year. Councillor Murray advised we have we given in previous years. Acting Mayor Avery replied we have but cannot recall the years. It has been a while since a letter was received from them.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved to make a donation to the Charlotte County Hospital Foundation, Inc., for the amount of \$250, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

- c. CAO advised regarding letter from a resident with a concern: Resident from Brunswick Street. The letter was just received on September 10 (last Friday) and distributed to Council prior to the meeting. He is asking Council to reconsider compensation for an invoice and to amend policy or bylaw to accurately reflect water usage. He is not looking to avoid paying his share of the service.

We do invoicing for water in two periods, January to June and July to December. There are people who start their water service in May and have to pay the full first segment according to the Bylaw. If a seasonal resident leaves and shuts water off in November and returns in May he has to pay the annual rate and the rate for shut off fees. Changes would require an amendment to the Bylaw. It is coming up for review, and at that time the correspondence can be brought back up.

Councillor Murray reiterated, he is paying more because of the disconnect fee. Why would he even disconnect it? CAO: Some residents have the fear of water breaks when being away in the winter time. It is a bit of added insurance.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris commented there would be a cost involved. Seems to be an awful lot to ask. CAO: A monthly payment would require sending bills to all of the residents each month and would be rather costly. Other options when it comes time to review the Bylaw include a quarterly bill, and sending to residents quarterly. We also have to look at the cost of running the water system.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked, have we ever had such a request? CAO: Over time we have had some seasonal residents request the option of paying on a prorated basis, but this is the first letter directly to Council. The plan is to review the bylaw by the end of this extended mandate, sometime this winter. We don't have anything in the Bylaw allowing us to pay back for months they didn't use.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris added that at the same time we have people having a hard time paying their bills.

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. Acting Mayor Avery expressed Thank you to the Works Department for the work they have done in the Town, as well as the Mobi Mat. They put a lot of work in Canal. It is part of the job and they do a fantastic job. You can tell they take pride in what they are doing.
- b. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris would like to do something in regards to meetings, where Council is meeting again in person. Hopes to have a gallery next month and would like to review options to get it done.
- c. Councillor Allison stated The summer students did a really good job helping the works dept. They were very polite, excellent guys. They were a good bunch of young men helping us.

- d. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if we can we order a flag or two for this building (community center). **Acting Mayor Avery** added the Canadian flag is in bad shape. CAO: New flags arrived today and will be up tomorrow.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- a. None

17) NEXT MEETING:

- a. The date of the next Regular Meeting of Council will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00pm.

18) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO