



**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, June 14, 2021, at Magaguadavic Place, was called to order by **Mayor Detorakis** at 7:00 pm. **All Councillors** in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC), Andrew Sutton (CHCO TV), Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD), Representatives from YMCA of Greater Saint John (Shilo Boucher, Adrienne Boudreau, Tracy Craig), and public gallery of eight (8) persons.

- 2) Councillor Rubin** moved to approve change of venue (room) due to compliance with the current directives of the Province of New Brunswick regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. Motion carried.

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

4) Introduction of New Members of Council for the Town of St. George (Recording of Oaths and/or Affirmations).

The CAO advised the recording of the Oaths of Office (attached).

- The following members of Council for the Town of St. George were sworn-in on Monday, June 7:
 - Mayor John Detorakis
 - Deputy Mayor Barbara Rayner
 - Councillor Sam Rubin
 - Councillor Leslie Armstrong
 - Councillor Alexa Detorakis
- The following members of Council for the Town of St. George were sworn-in on Friday, June 11:
 - Councillor Brenda Allison
 - Councillor Nancy Coulton
- In accordance with the Local Governance Act, c. 18, all Members have signed the "Form 1" and all forms are on record at the Town Hall.

5) AGENDA:

- **Mayor Detorakis** advised Agenda item 11, d, Formation of the Committees of the Town, is only to discuss a committee of the former mayors of St. George, and the forming of other committees to be tabled to a future meeting.

- Councillor Rubin moved to approve the Agenda with the above clarification, seconded by Councillor Detorakis. Motion carried.

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of May 10, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Coulton. Motion carried.
 - Councillor Armstrong advised to correct the amount for the St. Mark's cemetery to \$5,000. CAO confirmed the change.
 - Councillor Detorakis asked about the street camera project cost and use for security. CAO advised we are still receiving quotes for cost. The bridge camera will have a limited view. Another camera will be installed on Main Street near the Post Office and will have more angles.
 - Councillor Coulton asked if a monument for all members [of the Fire Department] will be installed. CAO answered it is currently on hold but will be taken up again.
 - Mayor Detorakis asked about moving Municipal Designated Highway funds to budget for next year. CAO advised funds were already reallocated to capital. Also, surplus funds are available on the second year after the budget ends, not the next year.
 - Mayor Detorakis asked if Coastal Link Trail construction this summer has been approved and if it is through forested land. CAO advised they are working on details with the Province and the Regional Service Commission with regards to single or mixed use. It does go through forest land, and a forester has not looked at it, to the CAO's knowledge.
 - Mayor Detorakis asked if the community garden is open and suggested more promotion. CAO advised it is open and people can come to the Town Office for a box.
 - Councillor Armstrong asked if the progress on new Well #6 will have a financial impact on the Town. CAO advised no financial impact.

7) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- a. None.

8) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. YMCA – St. George
 - Shilo Boucher, President/CAO of the YMCA of Greater Saint John, opened the presentation by referencing the handout sent to Council in advance. Serve area from Sussex to Saint Stephen. In St. George they are trying to grow programs, extend reach, and see where the need is. Their services takes the shape of what and where the community needs.
 - Adrienne Boudreau told a "Y Story" about a child whose life was impact by the Y in St. George. The Y wants to make sure the building is available to anyone else when they are not using it (rolling in and rolling out for use). Started in St. George in 2018. Have run the after school program, summer day camps, a free "Girls in motion" program for the community, drop-in pickle ball and dodgeball in the schools when they were open for use.
 - Questions from Council resulted in the following additional information:
 - About 10 students attend the after school program at this time, though prior to COVID-19 there were 28 in the program.
 - The YMCA has talked about a building of their own in the future, but nothing done yet. They consider the community center an "ideal space", and they setup and tear down so that the space can be used by others.

- They are open to fitness classes or other needed programs for seniors and young adults.
- Discussions about the possibility of a library coming to the center and its impact on the YMCA. If the YMCA had to relocate, they would need to get a new license as well as location. Requirements need to be met to have a license, from window sizes to exits. Would have to begin the process. This is also a good location for buses to come from. Depending on where they move to, buses may not have access due to “imaginary lines” from the Education department. This is part of the reason the schools could not be used when the program started, as some students cannot cross certain lines. The option of a community hub has been explored but many of the parameters may concern the Town.
- Hours for the after school program are setup at 1pm and runs until 6 pm.
- When the YMCA first came to St. George there was discussion with Cooke’s [Aquaculture] about sponsorship but the conversation stopped and did not move forward. The YMCA wants to ensure they are not taking away from something already offered in a community. As an advisory council they receive suggestions and take to see if it can be done.
- **Mayor Detorakis** thanked the representatives from the YMCA for coming and expressed the need to continue the conversation.

9) GENERAL REPORTS:

a. General Government:

- The CAO presented the report for the month of May.
 - Splash Pad – After receiving the variance agreement from Granite Town Hotel, we are now awaiting a contractor (4th contractor now!) to put in the concrete pad for the mechanical building so that the splash pad company can return to finish up the hook up. Also waiting for NB Power on setting power to pad area. We will need to look at site work such as grass, shrubs and seating.
 - Lower Bridge Sewage Pipe Insulation – we will likely skip a Sewage Lift Station upgrade this year in favour of addressing the insulation issues on the South Street Bridge. Cost is \$50,000.
 - Sidewalk Repair – along sections near upper Bridge/Brunswick Street as well as Chapel Corner (Main-Riverview) and in front of the elementary school.
 - Paving - With construction going on a Fundy Bay Drive, we will monitor on whether we can/should completed the planned Gas Tax Fund (GTF) paving of Salar Court in 2021. There are several pad areas that will need work such as a spot in front of Dennis Hall on Main Street.
 - Municipal Designated Highway (MDH) – the MDH for 2021 was postponed by DTI. This is the work on extending the sidewalk on Mount Pleasant.
 - Coastal Link Trail – sorting of some issues with permits and agreements with Department of Natural Resources. Construction is still planned to start this summer.
 - Canal Beach Rebuild – we were awarded \$310,000 for rebuilding Canal Beach; Dave Stevens (Silk Stevens) is the Project Engineer and we are awaiting official announcement from MLA Andrea Mason’s office/Province.
 - St. Mark’s Cemetery Restoration (Phase Two) – We have received (\$5,000) from the province; we hope the work will start this month.
 - Benches, Planters & Additional New Garbage Receptacles – we have received new benches (2), planters (2) and garbage receptacles (5).

- Well # 6 – Well #6 (on Riverview) has been connected to the water main line.
- Marsh/Duck Unlimited – new picnic shelter is being finished by Duck Unlimited on opposite side of river from Day Adventure Center.
- Protected Lands - we continue to talk with the Province on land protection (Under the Nature Legacy Initiative) for town lands around Well#4 (other side of tunnel; off Meadow Lane). This land is not developable given its proximity to our well however could offer some incentives for the town under this initiative.
- Post Office Plaza – the Christian Academy, in partnership with Change of Seasons, planted flowers in the post office plaza.
- Magaguadavic Place - We removed the not used air/heat unit from the roof and, so far, the roof is no longer leaking. Adding a couple more security cameras (in Kitchen and on end of building overlooking splash pad).
- Exit 52 Property – we put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for prospective developers for end July 2021 for the parcel of land at Exit 52 (gravel parking lot area).
- Canal Beach – John Young has agreed to continue with the Canal Beach Canteen again this year. We will also have better swim area buoys this year and removed the titter-totter.
- Day Adventure Center – some (youth?) appear to have been getting into one of the DAC buildings; though no damage this is a concern for public safety. Those doors/windows have been screwed shut for now. We will also need to look at restoring the band stand – despite work last year, the roof is once again an area of concern.
- New Flag Pole – we have installed a new institutional grade flag pole in front of town hall as the old one (welded pipe) was rusting through.
- Summer Students – we hope to have two summer students hired soon.
- Street Cleaning & Line Painting – We have schedule both a street cleaner and street line painting. Line painting may not be until August as there has been a shortage of paint.

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

- The CAO presented the report for the month of May.
- Our zone, Zone 2, remains in Yellow phase. As of today (June 14) there are 90 active cases (0 in our zone) in the Province with 7 in hospital. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 2,299 confirmed cases and 45 related deaths.
- There have been 596,413 total vaccinations administered of which 518,695 vaccinated with at least one dose, just missing the provincial target of 75% in order to move to Phase 1 of "Path to Green".
- The third phase is expected to come into effect on New Brunswick Day, Aug. 2, as long as 75 per cent of New Brunswickers 12 and older have received their second dose of a vaccine. At this time the province will move to the Green level, the mandatory order will end and all restrictions will be lifted.
- Residents are reminded that everyone aged 12 or older is eligible to get vaccinated. You can book at vaccination at the region's clinic at the Garcelon Center in St. Stephen by visiting the on line booking portal via the link on GNB.ca. Residents can also arrange a vaccination by calling their local pharmacy.

c. Fire Report – St. George Fire Department

- Fire Chief Morton presented the report for the month of May.
- Fire Chief Morton advised additional information for the new members of Council:

- Typically SGFD runs between 150 and 200 calls per year. Most in the spring for grass years, the rest of the year are 10 per month.
- Report needs to be corrected: incidents were 10 outside of town and 4 inside of town.
- Fire at Lake Utopia paper mill. Irving is very appreciative to SGFD as we took the lead on the fire. Senior SGFD management to meet with Irving officials for a debriefing and follow up.
- Training for area and representative to the community college to coordinate training.
- Worked on training of new firefighters all winter. Now working on courses for firefighters in service longer, more advanced courses. Were started in 2019/2020 but COVID has had an impact on the training as well.
- Questions from Council resulted in the following additional information:
 - There are around 27 fire fighters are on the roster, and Bonny River is at 4. SGFD and BRFD support each other.
 - Only one call may have been connected to accidents on the highway.
 - We serve town and are contracted to the province for a large area outside of town. We respond to all incidents in those areas. We also provide mutual aid to other departments and they do the same.
 - The SGFD budget is paid slightly more by the town, 52% to 48% by the Province. In a typical year more than 50% calls our outside of the town. Cost sharing is not on call basis but is dependent on tax base; tax base is less outside of town.

d. **Building and Planning Report – Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission (SNBSC):**

- Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC) presented the report for the month of May.
- Questions from Council resulted in the following additional information:
 - The regional recreation is not about building a building, but primarily about cost-sharing the administration. The community center facility is an included recreational facility. It provides services outside of the community as well. The Service Commission board has looked since 2017 at what assets there were, how to share costs, and how to work together regarding adjacent facilities. Funds will be put in a bucket and will be shared between this facility and the arena and the arena in Blacks Harbour. The amount of funds is based on the cost of the facility, so the arena would receive more than this facility (community center)
 - SNBSC has not broken down calculations for tax implications to the Local Service Districts (LSDs) in the case of amalgamation. The Department of ELG is responsible for it.
 - One of the functions of Commission is to be a forum for the municipalities and LSDs to advocate at the regional level. Mr. Henderson appreciated the Mayor's request to be "the brains for planning" and representing the Town before ELG.

e. **Water & Sewerage:**

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

f. **Transportation:**

- The CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of May (attached).
- CAO added the flag pole at the memorial park was placed by the fire fighter association.

- Questions from Council resulted in the following additional information:
 - Curbs and sidewalks are being repaired now after a delay in repairing these “open wounds”. The Town’s goal is to repair them within a week but the contractor has repeatedly pushed back their schedule during COVID-19.
 - The speed trailer tracks the speed and speeding (“over speeds”) and the information is sent to the RCMP. The RCMP is not obligated to take action, but the Town hopes for some impact on traffic controls. The unit is not capable of a “stealth” mode. No photos are sent to the RCMP.
 - The Town requests the speed radar, not the Regional Service Commission. Based on concerns shared by residents about speeding and hoping people will change their habits along certain streets.
 - “Speed traps” are available in areas where there is municipal policing. Where it falls under the motor vehicle act, where the community depends on the RCMP, it is up to the RCMP to enforce this. The only request we can make to the RCMP for more coverage, and hope they will follow up with more patrols.

10) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve in principal the bills paid and payable in principal to March 31, 2021 in the amount of **\$ 392,081.06**, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**.

- Questions from Council resulted in the following additional information:
 - The “clam shells” are the bases for the light poles on Main Street.
 - Hanging baskets were purchased from Mayfield’s, as they were last year.
 - Costs for garbage include separate charges for pickup and transportation (FERO) and depositing at the dump site (SNBSC).
 - Leonard’s phone has had problems for some time, resulting in replacement.
 - The \$700 received for an event is related to Canada Day. If we do not use it we will have to return it.
 - **Mayor Detorakis** commented on improving transparency and accountability with more visible rules about what things are going to preferred suppliers and what things are going to bid. Council may have to revisit the policy.

11) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Setting a date for Presentation of the 2020 Financial Audit.
 - **Councillor Allison** moved for the setting of a Special Meeting of Council for the presentation of the 2020 Financial Audit on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, seconded by **Councillor Coulton**. Motion carried.
- b. Distribution of annual 1st half of the Charlotte County Boys and Girls Club funds for 2021.
 - Discussion by Council regarding the intent of the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County (BGCCC) for the distribution of funds. Additional discussion regarding whether to award all of the funds to one applicant or to and how to distribute among multiple applicants.
 - **Councillor Allison** moved to divide the \$5,000 evenly between the seven groups listed below, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. Motion carried.
 - The following groups to receive \$714.28: Back Bay Home & School, Blacks Harbour School, Charlotte County Christian Academy, Community Living Center, Fundy Minor Baseball, St. George & Area Food Bank, St. George Curling Club (Little Rocks & Juniors).

- c. Letter from Min. Jill Green regarding the Municipal Designated Highway program 2022-2026.
- The CAO summarized the letter. He advised the MDH plan typically gets bumped to the next year in these cases. Town has done some adjustments on pricing over the last couple of years. To get further quotes could be a fruitless effort, especially if 2022 sees it is postponed again. Council could move the same plan ahead or change the plan to something else. CAO recommends to move ahead and submit to the province for 2022-2026 plan.
 - Reasons for postponement are usually advised before the end of March or April. This year it was budget restraints. Usually it is budget restraints or a change in strategy provincially. Even though we had it cancelled in 2019, we did have the L'Etete Slope project completed in 2020 by the Province at about \$600,000.
 - **Mayor Detorakis** described the need to draw attention to the importance of the highway. The sidewalk is the Town's responsibility and we have to find a way to put it in the budget. The highway itself should be more than just resubmitting the old plan. It has patches, it has sink holes. There is an obligation to let them know this is not just another highway but is very important for our town, for our school.
 - **Mayor Detorakis** moved to submit the plan, and to include a request details for the postponement of this year's project, seconded by **Councillor Detorakis**. Motion carried.
- d. Formation of Committees of the Town.
- **Mayor Detorakis** expressed the importance of committees. It is an important part for us to create committees and seat volunteers. Council needs to bring the message out to get people involved, who are not just looking to bring a wish list but be willing to get involved.
 - **Mayor Detorakis** advised he is creating a panel of former mayors reporting to the mayor instead of a Town committee. He has received a lot of feedback on the need for this panel. These people have contacts, a big resource. A letter will be going out tomorrow to these individuals stating the panel has been created to report to the Mayor.

12) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

13) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Congratulatory letter to New Council from The Honourable Brenda L. Murphy - Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick (attached).

14) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- **Councillor Allison** commented about having a good orientation on Saturday. We will work well together. Sometimes we won't agree and sometimes we will. Welcome to everyone.
- **Councillor Rubin** advised as Council goes along some things will become easier to understand. Slope erosion had to take priority over the sidewalk. Council needs to go over the budget to understand how things work, and it will take a while to do that.
- **Deputy Mayor Rayner** expressed thanks to Faith Avery as acting mayor during the COVID crisis and to all of the previous Council.
- **Councillor Armstrong** confirmed the orientation was very valuable. This is her first time on a committee or Council. She is looking forward to the future and being part of decisions for the benefit of the committee.
- **Councillor Detorakis** shared she is looking forward to working with everyone. Orientation was good and there is still a lot to learn.

- **Councillor Coulton** described how she needs to hear both sides of the story before making a decision. Can be cantankerous and also very pleasant.
- **Mayor Detorakis** expressed thanks to the CAO. When a new Council shows up it is a lot of work. It is important to recognize the staff and the tremendous amount of work they do. Council is in an orientation period and they are going to keep learning.

Wants to “raise an alarm” that [the Green Paper for updating Local Governance] is out, and things are going to happen fast. Council has a very small opportunity to say something, though the government may ignore it, but can make them feel accountable to recognize the Town’s position. Working with the CAO we need to get in touch with the mayors of Blacks Harbour and St. Andrews. It is a high priority and we need to move on it fast.

Overall, he is very excited and thinks it is going to go great. Thank you to all present.

15) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

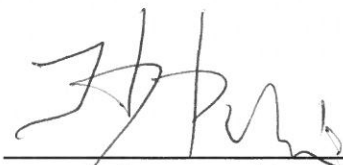
- Sean Morton spoke regarding ATV operation on the Coastal Link Trail (CLT), and asked if the Town is lobbying for single use or mixed use on the local portion of the trail.
 - The CAO responded the Town is lobbying for the CLT, which is primarily foot and bicycle traffic. He has advised use of ATVs on the trail, which has an effect on the funding. The Town wants CLT to be priority number one.
 - Mr. Morton stated he purchased his ATV because of the easy access he has to the trail. Wants to encourage ATVs and snowmobiles to use the trail.
 - **Mayor Detorakis** shared several Councillors have been approached regarding this. It is not simple to do. Rules are set by the province and motor vehicle, as explained to him by the RCMP. If we have a place where they can come and park, that is something else that can happen. There is also a challenge of getting ATVs across the River.
 - Raymond Hall added that when he brings guests to the areas, they spend money at Uncle Mayn’s or Pennfield, but would rather be spending their money in St. George.
 - Archie Leslie commented on the use of public roads in Sussex.
- Raymond Hall expressed thanks to all for stepping up to do what they are doing. **Mayor Detorakis** stated his hope Mr. Hall will have the same opinion a year from now.

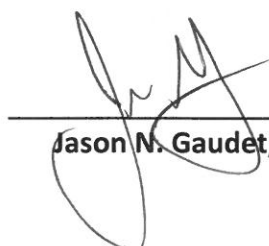
16) NEXT MEETING:

- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Magaguadavic Place (or via Zoom Video Conference).

17) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by **Councillor Rubin**. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.



John Detorakis, Mayor

Jason M. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO