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

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**1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The regular monthly meeting of the St. George Town Council held on Monday, November 8, 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, Chris MacKinnon (Administrative Assistant). Public attendance: Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD); Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC); Polly Cox (Granite Town Farms); Marlo Glass (Reporter, Telegraph-Journal); and gallery of 18 persons.

**2) OPENING PRAYER:**

The opening prayer was offered by the CAO.

**3) AGENDA:**

*Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to approve the Agenda, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.  
**Motion Carried.***

**4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by **Councillor Detorakis**. No discussion, **Motion carried.***

*Moved by **Deputy Mayor Rayner** to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2021, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**. No discussion, **Motion carried.***

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve the Minutes of November 1, 2021, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by **Councillor Armstrong**. No discussion, **Motion carried.***

**5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:**

- **Councillor Allison** declared a conflict of interest in regards to Agenda item 6.b, presentation by Polly Cox of Granite Town Farms, and advised she would be leaving the room for that item.

**6) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:**

- a. Granite Town Seniors (Jim Hanley)
  - Mr. Hanley sent his regrets for this meeting.

- b. Granite Town Farms (Polly Cox) – update on Visitor Information Center
- Ms. Cox presented information regarding the VIC and visitors during this past summer's tourism season.
  - **Councillor Coulton** asked for more information regarding the cost of services in the amount of \$6,000. Ms. Cox said she believed the value provided to the Town is a value of \$6,000.

*Moved by **Councillor Rubin** to pay Granite Town Farms the amount of \$6,000 for the service provided, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**.*

- **Councillor Coulton** asked for more information regarding the cost of services in the amount of \$6,000. Ms. Cox said she believed the value provided to the Town is a value of \$6,000.
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked if Ms. Cox could provide a statement of the services completed to be able to provide to auditors. Ms. Cox answered yes.
- **Motion Carried.**

## 7) GENERAL REPORTS:

### a. **General Government:**

- The CAO presented the report for the month of October (attached).
- **Councillor Armstrong** asked regarding the lower bridge insulation, is there any idea when this will be started? What is the issue that is stalling this? CAO answered that DTI has questions for the installer, and we have taken the questions to the installer and waiting for the installer to send answers.
- **Councillor Armstrong** asked if there any stats from the speed radar sign. CAO advised yes, , we can login and get that. **Councillor Armstrong** asked if that information can be shared. CAO answered yes, he can get it and send it to Council.

### b. **EMO Status Update on COVID-19 – Level One: Active Monitoring:**

- The CAO presented the report for the month of October (attached).
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked if we know where the [COVID-19] boosters will be delivered [locally]? CAO advised Horizon Health was looking at Magaguadavic Place but with the strike it has been put on hold.

### c. **Fire Report – St. George Fire Department**

- Fire Chief Morton presented the report for the month of October (attached).
  - Maintenance work was done on the trucks, including MVI and other needs for work. Truck 453 has to be returned for additional work.
  - Has also been working with CAO on the budget for next year.
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked if there is a surplus in the budget and want to use it for the radios, is anything needed from Council for the process? Chief Morton answered if there are funds left in the equipment budget line the CAO can do that, but if it requires moving from another budget line it will have to be bought to Council. Chief Morton believes there will be definitive information for next month's meeting.

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

- Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC) presented the report for the month of October (attached).
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked for more information about the transportation plan.

Mr. Henderson replied there are a couple of things the Commission will advise Council on, such as when a new public road is built they advise of the suitability for emergency vehicle and other access. There are standard references that can be used, but municipalities can look at additional information, such as looking at the right of way for all users and not just vehicles (pedestrians, cyclists, etc). The Commission will report these findings later.

e. **Water & Sewerage:**

- The CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of October (attached).
- **Deputy Mayor Rayner** asked why has it taken CBCL five years to come up with this information? CAO replied it is not for a lack of trying. **Councillor Armstrong** asked if this is important? CAO answered it is part of the certification, yes. We have gone around to the builder itself, but it does need to be stamped by a certified New Brunswick engineer.
- **Councillor Armstrong** asked if we have a report as to why the water levels are low? CAO advised Well #4 follows the level of Lake Utopia, and it is low this time of year. It is becoming more difficult to fill that well as the marsh is growing. He has had talks about trenching with Irving and Ducks Unlimited about doing some trenching to allow water to move. **Mayor Detorakis** asked to confirm if these inquiries were made several months ago? CAO replied yes. The issue is about cost. Ducks Unlimited used to do the trenching but now it is about finding a contractor to do the work.

f. **Transportation:**

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

8) **BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:**

*Moved by **Councillor Rubin** to approve in principal the bills paid and payable in principal to October 31, 2021 in the amount of **\$ 120,035.42**, seconded by **Councillor Detorakis**.*

- Questions:
  - **Councillor Allison** asked about the company that did the asphalt, are they going to fix some spots in the Spring? CAO advised it would have to be removed and redone. We have had a discussion with them but they have not said yes or no.
  - **Councillor Armstrong** asked regarding the utility fund, is there a double-posting of the same amount? 65110, is budgeted but does not appear to be used at all. CAO advised that is a salary that comes out of the general fund and goes through the utility fund. Salaries are moved at the end of the year. **Councillor Armstrong** asked why it is in twice. CAO said he will check on that.
  - **Councillor Armstrong** inquired about utility income, regarding the residential and industrial, it looks like we have \$83,000+ owing to us? CAO stated those are outstanding. **Councillor Armstrong** asked if any of those residential are 90 days or over? CAO answered yes, they would be.



- **Councillor Armstrong** asked regarding industrial, will that clear itself up? CAO answered it will. We have tried to charge interest in the past to speed the process.
- **Motion Carried.**

## 9) NEW BUSINESS:

### a. Committees of the Town

- **Mayor Detorakis** advised all Councillors have received a committee descriptions draft and identified list of individuals who have volunteered to serve. The committees have been approved but not the mandates. This is an opportunity to make amendments to the mandates. Also, there is a concern from the lawyer that may have to be added to the bylaw regarding committees.
- **Councillor Armstrong** asked why the draft was not in the original meeting packet. **Mayor Detorakis** answered he was under the impression all had received a copy of the information several months prior. He asked staff when the original draft was presented, confirmed as September 2021. CAO advised was drafted in September 2021 and has been in a draft state until today. It is up to Council to accept mandates or to go back for further debate.
- Discussion about tabling the committees until a later date or making adjustments.

*Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to consolidate the proposed Parks and Recreation committee and Volunteering & Community Support committee, and table the remaining committees at this time, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. Motion carried.*

### b. Business Improvement Area

- CAO explained this would be for the BIA, and we have two bylaws related to the BIA. Both of these give authority for the Province to collect 2% levy on property identified in the area, which is the downtown Main Street area. There is no active BIA; they have yet to submit a budget or a list of officers. We are required by the Province when we submit our budget to certify there is an active BIA.
- A request for input went out by letter and online surveys. Only one respondent is in favor of continuing the BIA. If we are going to continue the BIA we need a list of officers, more than just one person. If the interest is not there, Council will have to repeal those bylaws.
- It is a kind of double tax for those businesses. The Town logo and Main Street beautification projects came out of the BIA. This would not go away forever. If there is a group of businesses that want to bring the BIA back we can bring back the bylaws.
- **Mayor Detorakis** shared it has been suggested by some residents that the practice in other municipalities was to give to the BIA members allowance to do their own thing for improving their local area. There is a requirement for that money to be transferred to a third party. Can that be transferred to the Town? CAO advised if the BIA is repealed, any funds would be given to the Town and be earmarked for improvement of that area. **Mayor Detorakis** asked if the Town can continue collecting use those funds in the area. The CAO advised no. The BIA governs itself through its own officers and budgeting. We cannot facilitate a meeting or anything like that. We cannot even submit a budget on their behalf.
- Discussion regarding the process to repeal the bylaws.
- **Councillor Armstrong** asked if the BIA suddenly dissolved. No one is interested? CAO answered we have sent letters and surveys, and there is no interest. Three responses were received and only one was positive.

Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to repeal Bylaw #29, Business Improvement Area, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**. **Motion carried.**

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Rayner** to repeal Bylaw #31-B, Business Improvement Levy, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. **Motion carried.**

**c. Garbage Collection and the Southwest NB Service Commission**

- CAO advised this item is for discussion for the Town to bring back a recommendation to see if the Service Commission can provide the service of garbage collection. Currently it is under contract with all municipalities except for one.
- **Mayor Detorakis** added, Blacks Harbour is already doing it. The predicament we currently face that our contract ends in the near future and there is a concern that garbage collection has reduced to a near monopoly situation. The idea is to see if the service commission is interested in getting in the garbage collection business.
- **Councillor Coulton** asked how much longer the current contract is in effect. CAO advised it would be another 2 years. **Mayor Detorakis** commented that negotiations normally start sometime within the year before the contract ends.

Moved by **Councillor Detorakis** to approach the Service Commission to investigate the feasibility of performing garbage collection, seconded by **Mayor Detorakis**.

**IN FAVOUR:**

- Mayor Detorakis
- Councillor Detorakis

**OPPOSED:**

- Councillor Allison
- Councillor Rubin
- Councillor Coulton
- Deputy Mayor Rayner
- Councillor Armstrong

○ **Motion defeated.**

**d. Update on the Habitat for Humanity properties**

- CAO advised there were questions about the Habitat properties where the Town sold them two (2) properties on Brunswick Street. Agreement was a home would be placed on at least one of the lots by the end of October of this year. They have advised the Town that there have been pandemic and impacts to the community college that supplies the homes, they would not be able to complete by the end of October, and an extension would be necessary. A call will take place with Habitat later this month.

**10) OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. N/A.



**11) CORRESPONDENCE:****a. Association of Interior Designers of New Brunswick**

- CAO shared a letter was received advising there is a practice act, which is legislation for any certification and registration interior designers.

**b. Eastern Charlotte Waterways (ECW) regarding Project : Village Car Share**

- CAO stated a letter was received in regards to the project, giving thanks for the Town's time to consider working with them. We will continue to have conversation with them about placement of these vehicles. There are no plans for the next year to place a vehicle in St. George, but they are still looking at sites for the future.
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked where the vehicles right operate now. CAO answered in Blacks Harbour, St. Andrews, and St. Stephen.

**12) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

- Chief Morton asked regarding committees, where would one get a list of the committees? CAO advised they are on the website.
- April McLaughlin expressed thanks to Mayor and Council from the gardeners club for the use of the Maguadavic. It is much appreciated. She offered help if needed.

- Jenna Murray asked if people from outside of Town can join a committee? Mayor Detorakis answered yes.

Ms. Murray continued, regarding Bylaw #86, regarding social media and the conduct of members of council, expressed this bylaw was instituted to protect The town from what is currently happening on social media. Trolling on Facebook is not okay. Saying we have to live in Town Limits to have a say and then that they can serve on a committee does not make sense.

Ms. Murray added there are funds to be approved by the RSC, and does not think they will do so for a community that is not forward-minded.

- Matthew Grant commented with regards to the YMCA moving to the St. George Elementary School, it may not be a sustainable place for them. They may not be able to have day camps in the summer. What are Council's plans for the services?

- Tracy Craig introduced herself as a resident of Lake Utopia with a business in Upper Letang. Regarding the committees, in an exchange with the Mayor in July, she was asked to serve on one of the committees. Responded in the positive and expressed excitement to be involved (quoted from the email exchange). Was confused by the Mayor's response and had a meeting after that.

This evening Ms. Craig was confused by the developments of the meeting such as the VIC being gone, the BIA being gone, the YMCA is gone. She is concerned people are tired and ready to stop supporting those whose vision serves only the few in the Town of St. George and not the many who surround the Town all call home. People are looking to support those who share a vision of growth, for everyone, for a long time. The burden is not the sole responsibility of the Council or municipality.

The largest community in Eastern Charlotte, the Town is the service center to nearly ten times the municipal household count. The community does not want Council to choose seniors

over children. The community Council serves wants to have it all. They want Council to work with the thousands around. They want growth.

Instead of engaging with community leaders and organizations and volunteers who have put in time and resources to work together to solve problems, they have heard, “no.” We can have it all, but we must be willing to look beyond the current situation and beyond this term for the sake of progress.

### 13) STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Councillor Allison** expressed thanks to all for coming tonight and voicing their opinion. Will take what was said and see what we might be able to do for the Town.
- b. **Councillor Rubin** commented there are many challenges that Council has to face. Hard decisions, not always possible to please everyone. There are expensive ones. Taxpayers pay the price. We are a new Council and we face many things. Regarding the Hub, that may come. Regarding the RDC returns, there is not enough to keep this [community center] running.
- c. **Councillor Coulton** shared this is a new Council. Give us time to do what we want to do. Don't kill us before we get out of the starting gate.
- d. **Deputy Mayor Rayner** said Council has listened to what has been said and will take it under advisement. Some things have been said that shouldn't have been said. We can work through this.
- e. **Councillor Detorakis** expressed the Council does support the Y, and we are happy they were able to find another location that is suitable to them. The Council is for population growth, and it remains a priority. It is a complicated thing and they will do their best at it.
- f. **Councillor Armstrong** shared a thank you to all for coming and will take all that was said under advisement.
- g. **Mayor Detorakis** expressed thanks to everybody for coming.

Regarding a bylaw that was passed years ago, this Mayor has all the rights and privileges of a Canadian citizen to express his opinions on social media.

In the last meeting of the Service Commission there was a committee formed to address problems with attracting and retaining physicians. St. Stephen has a problem with some resignations. This committee will hopefully seek input from all the municipalities, and he hopes to be part of that committee. One thing he has heard from the doctors is the need to have a balance between work and life, and when the system is stressed that balance cannot be achieved. He is hoping to ask the doctors who came and left, and capture from them what they did not find that they wanted; not only in St. George but in other municipalities with recreational facilities.

Through the social media interaction the last few weeks, he has realized there are many individuals who do not know this Town is crying for volunteers. A lot of people around the table had to work late hours for Festival. There is a form on the website that can be filled out to help develop a pool for volunteers

**14) NEXT MEETING:**

- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Magaguadavic Place (or via Zoom Video Conference).

**15) ADJOURNMENT:**

- a. Motion to adjourn by Councillor Rubin. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

  
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John Detorakis, Mayor  
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Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO