



**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, March 8, 2021, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:03 pm. Acting Mayor Avery, Acting Deputy Mayor Harris, Councillor Allison, Councillor Murray in attendance; Councillor Cooke absent. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD), Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC), Andrew Sutton (CHCO TV), Public gallery of six (6) persons.

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

Acting Mayor Harris shared regrets from Councillor Cooke.

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

4) AGENDA:

Councillor Allison moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.
- b. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved to approve the Minutes of February 16, 2021, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion carried.
- c. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2021, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- a. Councillor Allison advised a conflict regarding agenda item 12.b, Re-tender of the Visitor Information Center, and will be stepping out of the room for that item.

7) FIRE REPORT:

Chief Morton reviewed the report as submitted for the month of February (attached).

- Chief Morton advised the total number of calls outside of Town limits was actually six (6).
- Acting Mayor Avery asked what JPRs are. Chief Morton said they are Job Performance Requirements, which is a fancy way of saying practical training. For some classes that is where all of the work is, at times 40-50 hours.

- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief to add Chris Chappelle as a probationary fire fighter, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

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

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. None.

10) GENERAL REPORTS:

b. General Government/Personnel:

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of February.
 - This past month we have had two serious incidents within our town, both without any conversation by the RCMP to town officials. I again have to stress the importance of our much-missed monthly reports and open dialogue. Speaking for the town, and as a resident myself, I feel we need to be more informed and kept current. We pay an annual amount of \$450,000 and feel that price tag should include a monthly report at the least. It is very sad when we learn of happenings via fb.
 - Eagles Nest, St. Mark's Cemetery, Benches on Main Street projects are awaiting external approval or timeline.
 - Coastal Link Trail: Town staff has meet with staff from Coastal Link Trail to discuss the upcoming investment of the trail here in town. It is expected that work will start this summer. This is the continuation of the trails in St. Stephen and St. Andrews that you have been reading about in the Saint Croix Courier. We are up next I am happy to say.
 - Canal Rebuild: Application submitted to Province on rebuild for 2021, awaiting on response.
 - Apartment Project on 10 School Street, 2 apartment buildings with 4 units in each. PRAC hearing will be held on March 18.
 - GNB Surplus Land awaiting on final survey and discussion from ERD.
 - South Street Bridge: We are looking at cost of replace the insulated sewage pipe on the bridge (which would have been replaced with a new bridge).
 - Exit 52 Property: We are now awaiting PID # from the land registry office; this parcel will accept zoning from bordering land which is "highway commercial".
 - The St. Marks Anglican Church is continuing leading a Community Builders Network. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 11.
 - One member of our Public Works has gone out on a short leave. We wish him all the best and a speedy recovery.
 - Business Office: We are still looking at promoting the office upstairs (office 2B) as a business office opportunity for administrative business, meetings, virtual meetings, etc.

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

- The CAO offered the EMO report for the month of February.
 - As of today (March 8) there are 36 active cases in the Province with 3 in hospital. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 1,460 confirmed cases and 28 related

deaths. As of 12:01am this morning, all zones in the Province re-entered the Yellow Phase.

- Although improvements have been made to increase access to testing in rural areas, one of the biggest gaps has been helping people understand that they may be able to access testing without having to drive to Saint John. Resident should be made aware that the Fundy
- Medical Center in Blacks Harbour offers a COVID-19 testing drive thru. All testing requires an appointment to be booked either by calling 811 or using the self-referral form and participants can select "Blacks Harbour" from the drop-down list of locations however testing is limited to certain days (no testing Thursday, Friday and Saturday).
- Remember testing is available should residents experience even one of the symptoms related to COVID-19 and results are provided within 24-48 hours.
- **Councillor Murray** advised testing has been extended to include Thursday and Friday.

d. **Community Services/Partners:**

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of February.
 - Town Events this Summer: The Town continues to monitor guidelines and restrictions by the Province regarding the pandemic but hopes to have a few outdoor events planned for this summer. We expect that due to the pandemic, we will likely not have a regular SummerFest as done in years past. We hopefully will be able to get something pulled together.

e. **Water & Sewerage:**

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

f. **Transportation:**

- CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of February (attached).
- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** talked to a resident today who wanted to thank whoever did salt/sand today.
- **Acting Mayor Avery** asked about the lights on the poles, if they will be up a while longer. CAO advised the intention is to leave up for another month.

g. **Tourism:**

- **Councillor Allison** advised there is no activity to report for the month of February.

h. **Economic Development:**

- **Councillor Murray** gave the report for the month of February.
 - Masks are still mandatory in all public spaces.
 - Horizon Health has made medical grade masks mandatory in all facilities.
 - We have been working closely with many contractors for housing development in our Town and look forward to growing our community.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Councillor Allison**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of February, 2021, in the amount of **\$ 167,877.82**, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion carried.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Heating system in Public Works area.
 - CAO explained this would be to install natural gas heaters in the public works bay. Currently they are hot water fans. They are so inefficient at times that sometimes the snow does not melt. Quote provided from E-ZEE Gas, lowest of those received. Total is \$8,872.00 + HST.
 - **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked, where the quote states the core holes are not included, who would do the prep work? CAO advised the Town can do that work.
 - **Councillor Murray** moved to purchase the works garage heating system from E-ZEE Gas for \$8,872.00 + HST, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.
- b. Re-tender of the Visitor Information Center.
 - **Councillor Allison** stepped out of the meeting room due to a declared conflict of interest, but remained in the building.
 - CAO advised this is for tendering of the Visitor Information Center (VIC). Have previously done multi-year tendering and an annual amount of \$15,500 provided by the Town. This would be whether to tender the VIC for 2021 for 5 years.
 - Discussion regarding VIC.
 - **Councillor Murray** moved not to re-tender the Visitor Information Center, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.
 - **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** commented the Town will speak with the current vendor to discuss their continuing the VIC without Town funding.
 - **Councillor Murray** asked for the funding to still be used for Tourism. CAO advised the funding is under Tourism and will remain for that purpose.
 - Motion carried.
- c. **Councillor Murray** moved for a third & final reading, by title only, of By-Law #25B-2101, a rezoning of PID 15174642 from an R-2 Zone to an R-1 Zone for the purpose of locating a mini-home as the main use of the property, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter from Charlotte County Archives for grant received from the Town. They have also launched a new website at www.ccarchives.ca. Recruiting volunteers for transcribing records in cursive writing.
- b. Letter from John Williamson regarding national 3 digit suicide prevention hotline, consolidating all crisis numbers. Looking for municipal leaders to join across Canada for the three digit 988 hotline by passing a motion of support and send a letter to key parties advising of the resolution.
 - **Councillor Murray** moved the resolution, Support for 9-8-8 Crisis Line, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.
 - Support for 9-8-8 Crisis Line
WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 9-8-8, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 percent;

AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;

AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 9-8-8 crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS the Town of St. George recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of St. George endorses this 9-8-8 crisis line initiative;

and that Staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to our local Member of Parliament, Member(s) of the Legislative Assembly, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.

- Motion carried.

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Acting Mayor Avery** shared a about Municipal Elections are in May, nomination papers can be submitted from March 20th and ends April 9th. I am hoping those that will be putting their names forward will give voters time to do their due diligence. It is a great way to serve your community.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Sharon Tucker: Observation regarding the motion for the VIC, the CAO may need to reference about the legality of passing the motion with three councillors. CAO advised he will double-check, as it will affect the motion itself as well.
- b. John Detorakis: Came to council a month ago and is happy to report that, first of all, public interest in the matter. Had an interview with CBC bringing forward his concerns about introducing mining claims inside the town. Had some correspondence with CAO, and believes the Town is aware of a hearing with the mining commissioner to discuss concerns raise about impact to his business and his house. The hearing is March 19 and he understands it is important for other stakeholders affected be able to share their concerns. Letter he received from the Mayor shares the Town has been doing some investigations with the Minister and the Province. Understands the municipality has limited authority in such situations.
Here because he put forward a request for the Town to issue a communication to the commissioner, identifying these issues and asking the commissioner to review the concerns. He is hoping to make sure all in the Council have received a copy of the letter he is asking the mayor to sign on behalf of the Council, and if there are any questions for him to answer about the content or intent. There is a deadline set for sending a letter before the hearing which he passed on to CAO.

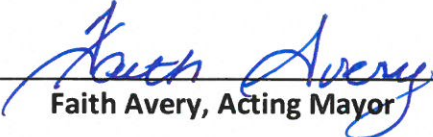
Acting Mayor Avery advised Council will have a discussion and CAO or Mayor will get back to Mr. Detorakis.

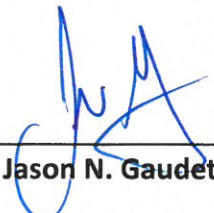
17) NEXT MEETING:

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

18) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO