



**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, February 8, 2021, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:05 pm. All Councillors in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD), Vivian Peng (Planner, SNBSC), Andrew Sutton (CHCO TV).

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

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

4) AGENDA:

Councillor Allison moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded Councillor Cooke. Motion carried.
- b. Councillor Cooke moved to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2021, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

None

7) FIRE REPORT:

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

- Acting Mayor Avery asked, with the training, if Chief Morton would give a refresher, because you can get too much information. Chief Morton replied Fire Fighter 1 Is very extensive. They go two nights a week for 3 hours in the evening. You have to stay with the program. Refreshers would put them into the middle of the summer. Would rather stop and pick up again in the Fall. We need these students, don't want to lose or discourage them. Training is about a 2 year process.
- Councillor Murray asked if there is an online process. Chief Morton answered the training is being done online, but need a proctor for exams. Also have to work within restrictions of Orange Phase for number of people meeting.

- **Councillor Cooke** commented the calls from Upper L'Etang is 10 percent. Is that because of intersection and traffic? Chief Morton advised a lot of it is off ramp traffic and deer strikes in that area. They also get a number of alarms from local businesses.

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Vivian Peng, Junior Planner, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission, presented the report as written by Alex Henderson, Planning Director, SNBSC, presented the report for the month of January (attached).

- Ms. Peng also advised the matter of a new building code, B C 2015, which is applicable immediately and applies to St. George. New applications will be subjected to the new building code.

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. None.

10) GENERAL REPORTS:

b. **General Government/Personnel:**

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of January.
 - Canal Rebuild application has been submitted to Province on rebuild for 2021, awaiting on response.
 - Eagles Nest, St. Mark's Cemetery, Benches on Main Street are all projects that are awaiting external approval or timeline.
 - Splash Pad: Fixtures for the splash pad have been order at the end of December.
 - Exit 52 Property: We have confirmed the Town's ownership of the area at the end of Brunswick Street/parking lot. We are surveying the property and will rezone it to Commercial.
 - GNB Surplus Land : We are in the process of determining cost for surplus GNB land south of Main Street.
 - Casual Work: We have posted for a Casual Work for Public Works (or to at least build up our casual call-in pool).
 - Business Office: We are looking at promoting the office upstairs (office 2A) as a business office opportunity for administrative business, meetings, virtual meetings, etc.
 - Residents are reminded that the curbside appliance/bulk items pickup is current not running due to winter but will resume in May/June.
 - Town Events this Summer: The Town continues to monitor guidelines and restrictions by the Province regarding events for the summer with the pandemic but hopes to have a few outdoor events this summer. We expect that due to the pandemic, we will likely not have a regular SummerFest as done in years past.
 - As is the case each year, the Winter Parking Ban is in effects until March 31. Residents are instructed not to park on streets from midnight to 7am, especially during nights when snow is expected.
 - The old train station building was removed over the weekend after the owners found repairs to be too costly. No plans have been received on what the land owners have in mind for the lot.
 - Residents are urged to avoid the ice, especially ice on the Magaguadavic River. Temperatures in our area have not been favourable to thicken the ice. Lake Utopia has many open areas especial at the entrance to the river and along the shore.

- Residents will notice that Billy Williams has remained busy this winter with help to clear a few steps and door entrances around town. Billy is a familiar face with his summer trash pickup.
 - February is Suicide Prevention month. The Chimo line is 1 800 667 5005 and Kids Help Phone 1 800 668 6868 or text CONNECT to 686868. Reminder that 211 NB is accessible across the province New Brunswickers can call 2-1-1 and trained staff will work to connect callers with services for both everyday needs and times of crisis.
- c. **EMO Status Update on COVID-19 and the Town of St. George:**
- The CAO offered the EMO report for the month of January.
 - On January 25 the latest wave peaked at 348 active cases in New Brunswick.
 - Since early January daily case totals were in double digits until today, February 8, where new cases were down to 3.
 - On February 2 the Province announced introduction of the UK variant in New Brunswick.
 - There are currently 182 active cases with 7 in hospital. A total of 1,346 cases confirmed since March of last year, with 1,143 of those recovered, and 20 deaths in New Brunswick.
 - According to NB COVID-19 dashboard, which is available online, the Province has administered 17,277 doses with 4,460 reaching full vaccination.
 - Town officials continue to attend a minimum of 1 weekly conference call with the Province, which increases in frequency when in Orange or Red phases.
 - Case numbers are going in the right direction, down, but residents have to remain resilient, especially with the arrival of new variants in the Province.
 - Residents concerned with compliance can call the Province of New Brunswick Compliance Line at 1-844-462-8387, or can contact the Town Hall to put in touch with the Compliance Line.
- d. **Community Services/Partners:**
- **Acting Mayor Avery** advised there is no activity to report for the month of January.
- e. **Water & Sewerage:**
- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of January (attached).
- f. **Transportation:**
- **Councillor Cooke** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of January (attached).
- g. **Tourism:**
- **Councillor Allison** advised there is no activity to report for the month of January.
- h. **Economic Development:**
- **Councillor Murray** gave the report for the month of January.
 - Masks are still mandatory in all public spaces.
 - Please continue to respect social distancing guidelines.
 - Shop and dine local with your “Steady 10”.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of November, 2020, in the amount of \$ 149,144.37, seconded by Councillor Allison.
Motion carried.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Councillor Cooke moved for a resolution of Council to appoint Sean Morton as Fire Chief, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.
- b. Councillor Murray moved for a resolution of Council to appoint Derek Hatt as Deputy Fire Chief, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.
- c. Councillor Allison moved for a resolution of Council for a first 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 Murray.
CAO advised this is one parcel of land on South Street. It is currently r2, mixed residential, to move to single family residential. Owner is looking at installing a dwelling down there this spring. There are no problems as far as the Town is concerned and it matches up with a majority of our planning. They still have to follow building bylaw and guidelines.
CAO read the bylaw by title only.
Motion carried.
- d. Councillor Cooke moved for a resolution of Council for a second reading, in its entirety, 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 Acting Deputy Mayor Harris.
CAO read the bylaw in its entirety.
Motion carried.
- e. Councillor Cooke moved to request the written views of the PRAC on the proposed By-Law #25B-2101, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion carried.
- f. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved to set a date for public hearing of objections on the proposed By-Law #25B-2101, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B, for March 8, 2021, at 6:30 pm, seconded by Councillor Cooke. Motion carried.
- g. Awarding of Tender # 2020-03 Production Well #6 (with Change Order #1)
Due to Phase Orange of the Provincial Mandatory Order regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, bids were opened in private at 2:00pm on December 2, 2020 at the Town Hall by staff of the Town of St. George staff and read aloud, and have been provided to CBCL Limited for review.
Tenders were received for the construction of the new Production Well #6 (on Riverview Ave) and Upgrades the existing Well #2 (on Adventure Lane).
The following contractors submitted tenders with the corresponding bid (excluding HST):
 - Fairville Construction Ltd. - \$489,115
 - Fundy Contractors Limited - \$619,040
 - Philson Ltd. - \$620,040

All tenders received have been sent to CBCL for verification of cost calculations and ensure appropriate tender security.

The Engineer's Estimate for the project was \$398,785 excluding HST (including HST - \$458,602.75).

CHANGE ORDER # 1 – Removal of construction related to Well # 2 upgrade & decrease of contingency to reduce by \$163,200.00 excluding HST (including HST - \$187,680).

Councillor Cooke moved to award Tender # 2020-03 Production Well #6 (with Change Order #1), to Fairville Construction for the amount of \$489,115, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion Carried.

- h. **Councillor Murray** moved for a resolution of Council to rename & scope of Project 11474 (2020-03 / 192856.00) from New Well #6 & Rehabilitated Well #2 to New Well #6 & Detailed Design of Well #2, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.

CAO advised this is a formality for this project so Council is aware the scope of this project is changing. At one time it was Well #6 only and an update brought in Well #2. This is going back to only Well #6. The change is to the project name. The plan is that when Well #6 is all done we will approach the various levels of government to complete the work on well #2.

Motion carried.

- i. Review of Policy regarding Shut-off of Water & Sewage Service on Delinquent Accounts.

CAO explained this is a formality for this project so Council is aware the scope of this project is changing. At one time it was Well #6 only and an update brought in Well #2. This is going back to only Well #6. The change is to the project name. The plan is that when Well #6 is all done we will approach the various levels of government to complete the work on well #2.

Review of policy 53a-2019. Policy was approved on 11 February 2019. Reviewing the termination of service section:

- *As per Section 41 of By-Law # 27-C, A By-law Respecting Water and Sewerage Systems*, the Town may shut off the water services to a property if,
 - forty-five(45) days have elapsed since the date of billing;
 - after forty-five(45) days have elapsed, the CAO will send a letter to the rate payer via the mail advising that if amount is not paid within seven(7) days then water services will be shut off.
- The first Monday of April is designated as a "shut off" day, unless it falls on a holiday, or inclement weather, or under an EMO status level, at which time the second Monday of April will be designated, or when the EMO status level has been removed.
- On the day of, and prior to, termination of services, the CAO, with a member of the Public Work staff will, in person, deliver a copy of the letter and a copy of the rate payers account.

Looking for approval from Council to remove the EMO status or at least to put when not at Red level. It does correspond with the mandatory order. Restrictions have since been removed. When the policy was written in 2019 we did not expect and EMO status should last such a long time, expecting a hurricane or flood type event but nothing like a full, year round pandemic.

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris commented there are people who have years behind that started before the situation. Agree to put in as Red level as long as it corresponds with the Provincial order.

Councillor Cooke moved to change the wording of Policy 53A-2019, Section 2.0, paragraph 2, to state "The first Monday of April is designated as a "shut off" day, unless it falls on a holiday,

or inclement weather, or under an EMO status level of Red Level or above, at which time the second Monday of April will be designated, or when the EMO status level has been removed.”, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. None.

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. Acting Mayor Avery shared a reminder of the municipal elections in May. Nomination papers can be submitted from March 20 until April 9. Hope anyone who wants to put their name forward does not wait but puts their name in time for voters to do their due diligence and determine the “right” candidate is running.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:


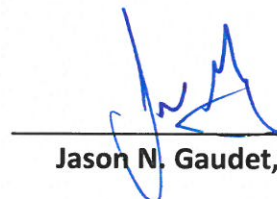
- a. None.

17) NEXT MEETING:

- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, March 8, 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 7:41 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor
Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO