



**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 14, 2022, at Magaguadavic Place, was called to order by **Mayor Detorakis** at 7:02 pm. **All Councillors** in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, Chris MacKinnon (Administrative Assistant). Additional attendance: Chief Sean Morton (SGFD); Vivian Peng (Planner, SNBSC); Andrew Sutton (CHCO-TV); Gallery of 2 persons.

2) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

3) AGENDA:

*Moved by **Deputy Mayor Rayner** to approve the Agenda, seconded by **Councillor Detorakis**. Motion carried.*

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Regular Meeting of Council – February 14, 2022

*Moved by **Councillor Rubin** to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by **Councillor Coulton**. Motion carried.*

b. Closed Door Meeting of Council – February 24, 2022

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2022, Closed Door Meeting of Council, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. Motion carried.*

5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- None

6) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- Mr. Tony Cooke advised he would not be able to attend, but would like to present to Council in the April meeting.

7) GENERAL REPORTS:**a. General Government:**

- The CAO presented the report for the month of February, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion resulted in the following information:
 - Funds for improvement of lot near Exit 52 come from road work and site development budgets. Recent fill was taken from storage at the lagoon, and only cost is the use of the excavator, about \$2,000.
 - Cost of moving forward on scaffolding for lower bridge is not known at this point. If it involves re-engaging the engineer there will be a higher cost. A full load study may be a few thousand dollars.
 - The Town is awaiting word on Municipal Designated Highway projects for Mt. Pleasant Road. CAO is expecting to hear this week or next.
 - The budget for the Canal Beach project is \$360,000. The rising cost has put the third part of the project, a retaining wall, on hold.
 - Regarding Day Adventure Center building rentals, the cost of rental was set by previous Council at \$200 (monthly). License of Occupation states security and improvement is the responsibility of the renter. So far there are two serious inquiries.

b. EMO Status Update on COVID-19:

- CAO presented the report for the month of February, 2022 (attached).
- Statistics are as of Friday, March 11.

c. Update on Local Government Reform:

- CAO offered an update on the reform process:
 - Council composition, Boundary Lines and Entity name are still being discussed ...
 - Two items that should be part of future discussions: 1) possible provincial funding for a new administration building, 2) possible properties being transferred from the province to the new entity.
- Discussion regarding providing more Councillors with information on the process.
- **Mayor Detorakis** described his understanding of how the information is able to be distributed, as well as the ability to interact with the process.

d. Fire Report – St. George Fire Department

- Fire Chief Morton presented the report for the month of February, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion regarding the following:
 - The need and cost for additional batteries for the portables.
 - Replacement of air pak cylinders this year. Cylinders are made of carbon-fibre and not steel, and cannot be re-certified after 15 years.
 - Gathering the fire chiefs of the new entity to discuss ways to save funds.
 - The possibility of fundraising for higher purchases

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

- Vivian Peng (Junior Planner, SNBSC) presented the report prepared by Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC) for the month of February, 2022 (attached).

- Discussion regarding a “post reform” document describing impact and needs following the amalgamation process.

f. Water & Sewerage:

- CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of February, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion regarding the following:
 - Completion of Hillcrest repair would likely be done in late Spring so it can be paved with other Town paving.
 - Water shut down will be most of a day. It could affect pressure as there will be no reservoir.
 - Waiting for Federal approval of application for new well and 3rd lagoon related to industrial park expansion. Approved at Provincial level but Federal has questions.

g. Transportation:

- CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of February, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion resulted in the following:
 - Salt is above budget for this year, as of the end of January.

8) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

*Moved by **Deputy Mayor Rayner** to approve in principal the bills paid and payable in principal to February 28, 2022, in the amount of **\$ 246,192.52**, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**.*

- Questions:
 - **Councillor Allison** discussed purchasing from Amazon versus local and New Brunswick vendors.
 - The “clam shells” are the bases of the light poles. Through the electrician’s distributor were able to get them for half price. Damage is typically from plowing and salt.
 - Tires for Vehicle 2 were general wear. Town inspects vehicle for safety each month.
- **Motion carried.**

9) NEW BUSINESS:

a. Comments on Municipal Plan

- Vivian Peng (Planners, SNBSC) provided information on the Municipal Plan update.
- Discussion regarding a public open house for input from the public, and combining with upcoming public hearing on zoning bylaw amendment.

*Moved by **Councillor Armstrong** to have an open house for input from the public in conjunction with a public hearing for By-Law #25B-2201, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B, seconded by **Councillor Deterakis**. **Motion carried.***

b. Wellfield Groundwater Under the Direct Influence (GUDI) Study

- CAO introduced the GUDI study. The process was initiated by the Province. Will be a requirement for a certification for all potable water supplies. Study on the impact of groundwater on wells. There is funding from the Environmental Trust Fund to give us up to 75% for this study now. Remaining cost will fund under water engineering and water study for the 2022 budget
- Discussion resulted in the following:
 - CAO will make contact with other municipality and ask more questions, and bring back the item to the April meeting. CAO has made the application and is approved, but Council will need to approve moving ahead with the process.
 - The Town portion of the cost would be \$3,250.
 - Well #6 will likely be required to start the study in its 5th year.

c. Introduction, and Resolution of Council on first reading, by title only, of By-Law #25B-2202, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B

- CAO advised this is an amendment to the zoning bylaw. Council received a planning report. The main purpose is to deal with freestanding signage in the bylaw. Right now we have number of general commission signs that are non-compliant with the bylaw. This amendment would bring them into compliance.
- Vivian Peng provided background on the request which lead to the need for the amendment.

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to accept the first reading, by title only, of By-Law #25B-2202, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B, seconded by **Councillor Coulton**. Motion carried.*

d. Resolution of Council on second reading, in its entirety, of By-Law #25B-2202, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B

- CAO read the bylaw in its entirety.

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to accept the second reading, in its entirety, of By-Law #25B-2202, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**. Motion carried.*

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None.

11) CORRESPONDENCE:**a. Letter from Sally & Billy Duncan**

- CAO advised Letter is regards to speeding in the Town of St. George.
- Comments from various councillors in support of the letter and in reviewing the merits of previous proposals for addressing the speed problem in Town.
- CAO asked to schedule the service commission speed radar

12) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- a. None

13) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

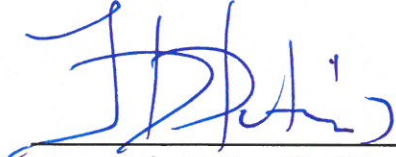
- a. **Deputy Mayor Rayner**: Shared regarding the situation and Ukraine, leading a number of volunteers from throughout Entity 53 and the Multicultural Association of Charlotte County to plan a Night for Ukraine, to be held at Magaguadavic Place on Tuesday, March 22, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. All proceeds will go to humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Asking for food donations for the supper, an item for the silent auction, or simply to show up; also asking for donations at the door. Contact her with questions.
- b. **Councillor Allison**: At last meeting **Mayor Detorakis** said something not appropriate to her and a lot of people heard it. Feels he owes her an apology for stating that she “needs help.”
- c. **Councillor Rubin**: Regarding Chief Morton’s comments about life cycle of the fire department, a Capital purchase is the only way to get air packs and cylinders. The Brunswick Street cleanup is being done so the property can be used in an RFP, and is not a bad idea. Paving projects have to be looked at and decisions made; prices going up and down. The transition committee is not open to the public; they can keep Council updated the best they can but not a lot has been decided yet.
- d. **Councillor Coulton**: She agrees about the fire department and local reform. Asks for Council to meet regarding summer festival. There is a lot of interest and volunteers. People are giving ideas and would like to talk with the Council to bring them up to speed.
- e. **Councillor Armstrong**: Expressed the need to keep pushing forward and advocating for the things we believe in. Regarding reform, it feels as Councillors should have the opportunity to be informed, and has not personally received much information. Stands with **Deputy Mayor Rayner** in support of the Ukrainian people. Asked for clarification regarding the Town’s responsibilities toward St. George’s Day.
- f. **Councillor Detorakis**: Reminded Council she asked last meeting to give a portion of funds from festival to the St. George Elementary School playground, and is asking Council to consider this again. Last year festival was done for about \$10,000, leaving another \$10,000 in the budget. This donation is a way to do something positive and meaningful.
- g. **Mayor Detorakis**: Stated the importance to keep procedures civil and adhere to some rules, and when they are broken to remind people. One such issue is the sharing of emails exchanged in confidence from within in Council.
Regarding amalgamation, he had a briefing with the Telegraph-Journal. The idea that the Town is negotiating with the Province is inaccurate. Representatives are there from around the new entity and are lectured on what they can do. It is like beans on a square plate or beans on a round plate, but we will be having beans. So far there is no consultation and more about being informed about what must be adhered to.

14) NEXT MEETING:

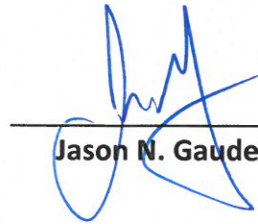
- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Magaguadavic Place (or via Zoom Video Conference).

15) ADJOURNMENT:

*Motion to adjourn by **Councillor Rubin**. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.*



John Detorakis, Mayor



Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO