



**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, October 11, 2022, 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). Additional attendance: Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD); Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC); Florence Mitchell, Dale Wells (CHCO-TV).

2) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

3) AGENDA:

*Moved by **Councillor Detorakis** to approve the Agenda, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.*

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Regular Meeting of Council – September 12, 2022

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by **Councillor Coulton**. Motion carried.*

5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- None

6) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a. Royal Canadian Legion – Branch No. 40

- Mr. Kevin Murray, on behalf of the members of the St. George Royal Canadian Legion, in appreciation for the Town putting the veteran's banners up, presented a donation to the Town in the amount of \$2,000.

b. Community Living (Lauralee Carrier)

- Ms. Carrier was not present for the meeting

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

- The CAO presented the report for the month of September, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion resulted in the following additional information:
 - Old meeting minutes were only archived up through 2003 due to the need to keep records on hand as required by the municipal records authority.
 - The Granite Town Hotel issue regards an easement which only goes halfway through their lot. The service easement should go all the way through the lot to Main Street. The lines also serve the Community Center and the Splash Pad. The cost of updating the agreement and a survey will be about \$1,000.

b. Update on Local Government Reform:

- The CAO presented the report for the month of September, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion resulted in the following additional information:
 - The organizational chart details who would report to whom, the hierarchy for staff.
 - Candidates can visit www.electionsnb.ca for nomination papers and other candidate information. The returning office for our area opened today in St. Stephen at “the old Kent building”, and is open every day except Sundays.

c. Fire Report – St. George Fire Department

- Fire Chief Morton presented the report for the month of September, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion resulted in the following additional information:
 - No special preparations for Halloween. Haven’t had a fire on Halloween in five years. In past years would hand out candy while being prepared for a fire call, but that ended with COVID.
 - Still waiting on batteries ordered last year. Some bunker gear coming. Items are ordered as they are needed with the hope they get here.

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

- Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC) presented the report for the month of September, 2022 (attached).
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked about the process to appeal an order. Mr. Henderson advised it would be handled in the court system. If the order is under the dangerous/unsightly bylaw, Council could setup an appeal committee. When it comes to a violation of zoning or the building bylaw, the only appeal would be in

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front of a judge. The planning appeals board only deals with denial of a development or building permit; it does not apply regarding enforcement.

e. Water & Sewerage:

- CAO read the report as written by Ron Groom, Acting Public Works Foreman, for the month of September, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion resulted in the following additional information:
 - The Town has been in communication regarding the styrofoam issue, and the situation has improved as more screening was implemented.
 - The cost of repairs and use of vacuum trucks for the issue is tracked because of our regular financial requirements. CAO will provide an overview of the pumping thus far.
 - The winch repair cost is currently unknown. It is something used regularly and we have only one.

f. Transportation:

- CAO read the report as written by Ron Groom, Acting Public Works Foreman, for the month of September, 2022 (attached).

8) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve in principle the bills paid and payable in principle to September 30, 2022, in the amount of **\$ 345,837.01**, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**.*

- **Councillor Allison** spoke regarding the use of Amazon as a vendor for items such as janitorial supplies, adding that a lot such supplies can be purchased in New Brunswick.
- Clarification of locations regarding electric bills.
- **Motion carried.**

*Moved by **Councillor Detorakis** to donate the \$2,000 received from the Royal Canadian Legion to the Food Bank, seconded by **Mayor Detorakis**.*

- Discussion regarding the legality of making the donation.
- Discussion regarding understanding of the purpose of the donation.

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to table discussion regarding the donation, seconded by **Councillor Armstrong**. **Motion carried.***

9) NEW BUSINESS:**a. The new Zoning By-Law, By-Law 25-C**

Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to accept the First reading of the Zoning By-Law, By-Law 25-C by title only, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. **Motion Carried.**

Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to set a Public Hearing of objections regarding the Zoning By-Law, By-Law 25-C, on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 7:00 pm, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**. **Motion Carried.**

Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to request the written views of the PRAC regarding the Zoning By-Law, By-Law 25-C, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**. **Motion Carried.**

b. Results of Tender: Mount Pleasant Curb & Sidewalk (MDH) 2022-04

- Council was provided with the results of the Tender as verified by CBCL prior to meeting. CAO reviewed the results.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rayner to award tender 2022-04 to Fairville Construction for the quoted amount of \$383,226.00, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. **Motion Carried.**

c. St. George Industrial Park Planning Projects

- CAO reviewed the Industrial Park Expansion handout provided to Council.
- CAO advised the Town has received two rewards from RDC. One is for a new lagoon area and the second for possible well development. Total cost for both projects is about \$600,000. Federal funding is 60 percent, Provincial is 33.3 percent, leaving 6.7 percent for the Municipal portion of the project, which calculates to \$40,020.
- **Mayor Detorakis** asked for information regarding an industrial park corporation. CAO advised the final cost of an industrial expansion could be \$3 Million to \$4 Million. Looking at establishing an industrial utility corporation to minimize liability, and hopes to have more answers before getting to the point of applying for construction. The work would take at least 6 months. Would also need to consider if there is need for more water as the usage has been reduced. When we get to construction, there will always be a municipal portion, but how will that be paid?

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- **Mayor Detorakis** reminded Council of previous meeting where it was agreed to ask the opinion of a lawyer if we can protect the rate payers of St. George by ensuring the cost of development for the new park would be shared by the rest of Eastern Charlotte. Town lawyer is away and both lawyers recommended have declined assistance. **Mayor Detorakis** has learned from the Deputy Minister that Council has the authority to proceed with setting up a corporation for the industrial park expansion.
- Discussion regarding the proposed project and the impact of forming a corporation.
- Discussion reading the proposed project being a study.

*Moved by **Deputy Mayor Rayner** to authorize the spending of \$40,020 to complete the municipal portion of the industrial park expansion planning projects, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**. Motion Carried.*

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

11) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Cornerstone Tabernacle - Appreciation for Road Work to Marsh Lane**
 - CAO summarized the letter received Discussion regarding confusion as to what Mr. Armstrong is expecting from Council.
- b. **Jessica Waring – Childcare in Rural Areas**
 - A letter regarding childcare concerns was received by Council via email.

12) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- a. Ms. Eve Hughes spoke on behalf of Laura Lee Carrier and the Community Living Centre. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Employment is a large part of the community living initiative. This national promotion involves using blue and purple lights, and there is a small cost. Ms. Hughes will be calling all businesses and sending information by email requesting involvement on October 20. The Chamber of Commerce will also be sending out an announcement.
Mayor Detorakis advised a \$100 gift card for the Centre was at the Town Hall and could be used for purchasing lights.

13) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Councillor Allison**: Thanks to everyone for coming tonight. Hopefully everyone stays warm as it is getting colder out there now.

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- b. **Councillor Rubin:** Thanks to the gallery for coming this evening. On behalf of the Town of St. George, it is an honour to hang the veterans' banners.

The Advisory Committee wrapped up as we head for the election. Three people here have been on the committee. We have made suggestions, but hear different things going forward. Residents will hear the government has been engaged with the public, and that is the committees. He is disappointed the ward maps shared here [at the candidate information meeting] are the same as those seen 6 months ago.

Most have probably received their new tax assessment. This is probably not the best timing. Inflation is at an all time high, bank rates increasing. This is an extra burden on families and homeowners in all of NB. The answer from the Provincial government is that the Municipality should decrease their tax rate. We no longer exist. We are going to pay more and get less.

The prov would like to have a 5-year budget. Doesn't know anyone who can run a household or anything on the same budget for five years, especially with increases as they are.

- c. **Councillor Coulton:** Thanks to the Legion for their generous donation to help with the banners. Can remember when that initiative was started by Robert Melanson, who had a great idea to honour the veterans. It caught fire and has gone all across Canada. Knows it was dear to Robert's heart.
- d. **Mayor Detorakis:** Wanted to recognize an important occasion, the passage of the occasion which essentially sent St. George to surrender its incorporation certificate. We talk about the lack of representation, the terrible time it was introduced. Things happened without us agreeing, but the powers that be in Fredericton say it is good for us. The process that Councillor Rubin described is not a surprise; it is consistent with what has happened over the past year. Has been part of the new mandate passed on to our region. There was an article to today in the Telegraph-Journal about the municipalities taking on social development and homelessness. There is a lot of passing the buck by the Provincial government, but no tax points passed on to the residents. He has been part of the same committee.
- With regards to where we go from here, hoping that as we move on to the election and Jan 1, those who decide to run will step forward and communicate a vision for our region. How they see the challenges and the resolutions, and how to do the best with the cards we have been given.
- e. **Deputy Mayor Rayner:** Thanks to the Legion; and Robert Melanson brought the idea back from the States. She was there when the first banner was hung in front of the Post Office. It is a wonderful project.
- f. **Councillor Detorakis:** Thanks to the Legion for their generous donation, and thanks to Council for the clarification. Thanks to **Councillor Rubin** for his speech.

Councillor Detorakis doesn't know a single person who isn't struggling at the moment. She went to the UMNb conference where they discussed cost of living, housing, policing. There was a lack of balanced representation. If we are going to be planning for the future we need a table that reflects the needs of everyone, and not to exclude certain folks from the conversation.

This Friday is a film screen for *E.T.* Waiting for confirmation from Council who is available to help, and is open to anyone from the public who would like to add a helping hand.

g. **Councillor Armstrong:** (No statement)

14) NEXT MEETING:

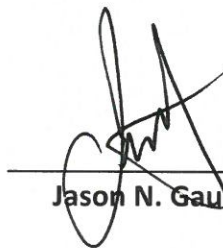
- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, November 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Magaguadavic Place.

15) ADJOURNMENT:

*Motion to adjourn by **Councillor Rubin**. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.*



John Detorakis, Mayor



Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO