

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

Present were: Mayor Brian Keating
Deputy Mayor Andrew Walsh
Councillor Andy Edwards
Councillor Bridget Hodder
Councillor Gary Myles
Councillor Ray Nolan

Also present: Melanie Kilfoy, Director of Finance & Administration
Kelsey Kilfoy, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Robert Warr, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Petrina Power, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Keating called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/001R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED the agenda be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/002R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on November 7, 2023, be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/003R

Moved by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the special Council meeting held on November 7, 2023, be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

The following minutes were tabled for information purposes:

- November 7, 2023 Meeting with Progressive Engineering
- November 10, 2023 Meeting with Minister Abbott
- November 10, 2023 Meeting with Canning Bridge Concerned Citizens Committee

Mayor Keating advised a response is expected from Minister Abbott by December 6th on whether a bailey bridge will be installed until a new bridge can be constructed to replace Canning Bridge.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising to bring forward from any of the meetings.

5. Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

6. Committee Reports

Protection to Persons & Property Committee

Councillor Nolan reviewed the minutes of the Protection to Persons & Property Committee meeting held on November 16, 2023.

There were no major issues to report with regards to animal control. The Animal Control – Anti-Litter Officer has been dealing with a few stray cat issues.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/004R

Moved by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to issue a Clean-Up Order to the owner of property at 36 Thompson Street for the removal of lobster pots and clean-up of the property.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Follow-up is being made with regards to litter on properties on Creston Boulevard and Greenwood Street.

The Marystown volunteer Fire Department has been busy with seven calls since the last Committee report. Some of these calls have been challenging and on behalf of Council, Councillor Nolan thanked the membership for their professionalism.

The Department is anxiously awaiting the follow-up meeting with Minister Abbott regarding a bailey bridge and a satellite fire station for the south side following the Minister’s promise that current levels of fire protection service will be maintained.

Fire Chief Bolt and the Town’s Electrician will complete an assessment of the Salvation Army Citadel in Creston South with regards to some potential issues as they relate to a warming/cooling centre (whether mini splits will work with the Town’s generator).

Councillor Nolan thanked Firefighter Josh Stanford and Firefighter Josh Kelly for their service to the Fire Department. Both members have left the Department for out-of-town work commitments. The Department is currently accepting applications to fill these two vacancies.

On behalf of the Fire Department, Councillor Nolan thanked all individuals and sponsors for their support of the Heritage Memorial Monument and Grounds Upgrading Project. Councillor Nolan also thanked all sponsors and supporters of the 2023 Junior Firefighters Program.

Ongoing talks and pre-planning continue on the possibility of hosting the NLAFA 2025 Convention in Marystown with an anticipated 400+ delegates.

On behalf of Fire Chief Bolt, Councillor Nolan reminded residents that with the cold weather season approaching, residents need to ensure chimneys and heating appliances are kept clean and maintained and special caution needs to be taken to give space heaters their space.

The Committee discussed the increase in activity and speed on Tolt Road since the development of the Walk of Hope Walking Trail. The road is considered a Class 3 gravel road to be used by the public and speed signage has been posted. Councillor Nolan reminded residents that Tolt Road is used by many residents for various reasons including walking pets/animals and for exercise. Councillor Nolan asked residents to use caution in the area and be mindful of users.

Recreation & Special Events Committee

Deputy Mayor Walsh reviewed the minutes of the Recreation & Special Events Committee meeting held on November 14, 2023.

The Kaetlyn Osmond Arena has been very busy with tournaments ongoing. Maintenance is also ongoing to ensure the facility is in top shape.

There have been changes in usage since the Town implemented a pilot project at the YMCA that resulted in a decrease in membership fees. Membership is up to 1,108 with approximately 200-300 daily scans. The facility was closed on Monday, November 13th, in observance of the Remembrance Day holiday. The facility was open on November 11th and there were 112 scans on that day. There is some work ongoing at the YMCA, which will include the installation of an adult change table. This piece of equipment will be available for the public as a whole to use as necessary; no membership will be required. Residents will be advised once the table has been installed.

Deputy Mayor Walsh advised residents that the Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on the Town grounds on November 30th. In the event of inclement weather, the lighting will be rescheduled to another date. The Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade will take place on December 2nd and again, in the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled to another date. Anyone interested in putting a float in the parade should advise the Kinsmen. The parade will start at 11:00 a.m. with all floats to be at the school parking lot around 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. to coordinate.

Public Works Committee

In the absence of Councillor Keating, Councillor Hodder reviewed the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on November 15, 2023.

The Committee had some discussion on a bailey bridge until Canning Bridge can be permanently replaced. Council is currently waiting on more information from the Department of Transportation & Works.

There has been a request for no parking signage on a blind hill on Bayview Street near Memorial Drive intersection. The Director of Operations & Public Works will be asked to follow up on this item once he is back from leave.

Regular operations within the Public Works Department have been busy. Councillor Hodder noted the following:

- Plugged sewer repaired on Smallwood Crescent with the replacement of two lengths of 8" sewer
- Plugged sewer repaired in the vicinity of Gene's Auto Repair
- Layout completed for Charlotte Avenue Asphalt Extension
- Ditching completed on Tolt Road
- Pothole repairs completed on Creston Boulevard
- Culverts cleaned out; water leaks repaired

There were no updates on existing capital works or the water treatment plant as the Director of Operations & Public Works has been out of the office but the Committee has been advised that the plant is operating well.

The Town's new excavator was due to arrive on November 15th but there has been a delivery delay.

Equipment is ready for the snow clearing season.

Everything is operating well in waste management with no issues to report.

The Department of Transportation & Infrastructure did some clean-up of the road sides along Marine Drive from the intersection of Water Street East to Mount Vincent Crescent. There was some brush and other items removed from the roads and left at the shoreline. The Department was asked to remove the debris from the shoreline, which was done this week. Councillor Hodder noted the Department did a great job cleaning up the area.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/005R

Moved by Councillor Hodder, seconded by Councillor Edwards

"BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to hire Mr. Walter Rennie in a Maintenance position with the Public Works Department for a period of twelve weeks."

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee

Councillor Edwards reviewed the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on November 15, 2023.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/006R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to pay Invoice No. 7537 received from TownSuite Municipal Software dated November 2, 2023 in the amount of \$10,407.67 HST included for one (1) year online technical support and services covering the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 with funds to come from the 2024 budget.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/007R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to pay the September Monthly Claim received from the YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador dated September 3/23 in the amount of \$30,372.00.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/008R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust the remaining interest on Account No. BONNY002 as the principal and 50% of the interest has been paid in full.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/009R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED Council ratify a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society Friends of Daffodil Fundraiser that took place on November 5, 2023 in the amount of \$250.00.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/010R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given for the Town of Marystown to partner with the Kinsmen Club of Marystown as the main sponsor of the Santa Claus Parade taking place on December 2, 2023, and sponsor the event in the amount of \$500.00 as per the Donation, Grant and Sponsorship Policy.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/011R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED Council approve Seniors Discount Ratification Listing No. 5-1 dated November 3, 2023, in the amount of \$52,400.00.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/012R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED Council approve Accounts Payable Listing No. 8-1 as of November 15, 2023, in the amount of \$264,534.29 as per policy.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/013R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to donate two gift cards in the amount of \$50.00 each to the Salvation Army in support of the annual Happy Tree Launch, as per the Town’s Donation, Grant and Sponsorship Policy.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/014R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to host the Town’s Christmas Social on December 16, 2023, at the Marystown Hotel and Convention Centre.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/015R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to purchase 43 gift cards in lieu of turkeys for Council and staff at a cost of \$30.00 per card for a total cost of \$1,290.00 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/016R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to amend the following motion adopted at the regular Council meeting held on October 17, 2023, and amended at the meeting of November 7, 2023, to read as follows:

Motion

MMC 2023 10 17/020R

Moved by Councillor Keating, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walsh

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to reallocate funding from the unallocated Multi-Year Capital Works funding to the Creston Boulevard – Road Upgrades Project, Project No. 17-MYCW-22-00054 in the additional amount of \$63,300.00.”

Motion carried unanimously.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/017R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to rescind the following motion adopted at the regular Council meeting held on November 7, 2023:

Motion

MMC 2023 11 07/016R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to pay additional engineering fees for the Creston Boulevard – Road Upgrades Project, Project No. 17-MYCW-22-00054 and the Dober’s Road – Road Upgrades Project, Project No. 17-MYCW-22-00056 in the amount of \$2,530.00.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously.

Planning & Development Committee

Councillor Myles reviewed the minutes of the Planning & Development meeting held on November 16, 2023.

The Committee discussed the request for Expressions of Interest that was advertised for the former CHCM land on Ville Marie Drive. Only one proposal was received. It was an impressive proposal and the Committee is interested in talking to the proponent, who will be invited to the next Committee meeting to provide more information. The deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest has been extended by an additional month to determine if there is anyone else interested in developing the land.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/018R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Edwards

“BE IT RESOLVED that an application received from White Rock Construction Ltd. c/o Ken Barron to construct three 3-unit multiplexes and 1 4-unit multiplex at 26-32 Queen Street be deferred pending a text amendment to the Town’s Development Regulations as this application does not meet the requirements under section 3.3 Mixed Use Zone – Permitted Uses.”

Discussion

It was noted that the area in question is a mixed-use zone that includes a similar 5-unit complex just down the road from this proposed development.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Myles advised that some members of Council met with officials from Marystown Marbase Inc. yesterday evening. Councillor Myles deferred that item to Mayor Keating to provide an update.

Mayor Keating advised Council has been reaching out to various businesses to discuss their future plans so residents can be advised in the interest of economic development for the area. Members of Council met with Marbase and they are now waiting on information from Marbase so that it can be shared with the public, which they hope to have by this Friday. Mayor Keating assured the public that Council is looking out to the future of Marystown and the Burin Peninsula, including employment.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to bring forward.

8. Approvals to Purchase

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/019R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Fire Department to engage Grainger to perform SCBA and compressor annual servicing and testing plus required repairs at a cost of \$5,159.10 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/020R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Recreation Department to engage Keep Cool to provide emergency response to an ammonia leak and provide materials to have the leak secured and repaired at a cost of \$2,584.76 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Regulations

There were no regulations to bring forward.

10. Other Business

Deputy Mayor Walsh referred to the meetings Council had with Minister Abbott and members of the Canning Bridge Concerned Citizens Committee. It's been 9-10 months since the bridge closed and the Town is still without a bridge and still doesn't have an answer on a bailey bridge. It's anticipated Council will get some answers on December 6th. Deputy Mayor Walsh reference the minutes of the meeting with Minister Abbott wherein it was stated *“It's been taking some time to get a scope of work and determine how to proceed...”*. Deputy Mayor Walsh noted the simplest and fastest way to proceed is to install a bailey bridge. It doesn't need to be over-engineered or overbuilt, it just needs to accommodate light vehicle traffic. The Department has committed to a bailey bridge that, once a permanent bridge is in place, the government can reuse. Mr. Doug Power of Harbourside Engineering Consultants stated during the meeting that a bailey bridge is technically feasible and it's hoped the Department makes the decision to spend the funds for a bailey bridge. Deputy Mayor Walsh didn't feel it would be realistic to accommodate a fire truck crossing a bailey bridge and felt a satellite fire station on the south side would be the better solution. A single lane bridge with traffic light and a sidewalk would be the easiest, fastest route and it needs to be done. Two bridges can be constructed simultaneously, the bailey bridge and the permanent bridge – the Department just needs to be willing to spend the money and get it done.

Councillor Edwards agreed that there should be no reason why a bailey bridge couldn't be installed across the inlet from Reddy's Road to Raymond's Road. There's only 21 feet of water at its deepest and placing a bridge there would eliminate any issues with the intersections of Creston Boulevard with Water Street East and Water Street West or the road to Little Bay (Marie Drive). Installing one supporting structure wouldn't be a huge job and would allow for the span needed. The distance between Reddy's Road and Raymond's Road is about the same as the length of Canning Bridge. It would make more sense for the Department to look at that option and it's hoped the Department considers it sooner rather than later.

Referring back to the number of visits to the YMCA as reported by Deputy Mayor Walsh, an average of 230 people are scanning into the YMCA per day, or roughly 7,000 per month and over 80,000 per year, which is a lot of foot traffic. Councillor Edwards recommended bringing in some YMCA swag/paraphernalia as a revenue builder. Councillor Edwards recommended discussing this with the YMCA Board of Directors as it would help with some of the costs of maintenance and upkeep on the building.

Councillor Myles echoed everyone's thoughts on Canning Bridge and a bailey bridge. The loss of Canning Bridge has been a terrible inconvenience to everyone who relied on it and it's been a hardship for a lot of people living on the south side. Without a bailey bridge, once Canning Bridge is demolished, the hardship will increase for those who walk the bridge and can't afford taxi fare. It's hoped the decision makers really understand the situation at hand. December 6th will be a big day for Marystown as Council was promised answers over a month ago that did not materialize and the government has promised a second time to provide those answers and it's hoped they are the right ones.

Councillor Hodder advised that following the live feeds of Council meetings on Facebook, she reads the comments and she did note there were some negative comments following the last meeting. A number of residents are concerned about the negative impacts of a bailey bridge including traffic backups, issues at intersections near Canning Bridge, possible land expropriation, etc. those residents, like all residents, are entitled to those opinions and to express them to Council. This is why Council has also discussed where it would be best to put a bailey bridge to lessen the impact, should it be approved.

Councillor Hodder advised some concerns have been brought to her attention regarding the Mooring Cove Lookout, including bamboo growth. Councillor Hodder noted these concerns will be addressed at the beginning of the next summer season.

A motion was passed to provide gift cards to Council and staff in lieu of providing a turkey. Councillor Hodder noted the staff are entitled to their cards and she will be donating her card to the Grace Sparkes House Adopt-a-Family Program.

Mayor Keating advised Council brought up the idea of a bailey bridge about 10 months ago almost immediately after Canning Bridge was shut down to all traffic. At the time, it wasn't considered an option. Council is interested in the fastest and safest way to reconnect the north and south sides of Marystown and will be following up with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure if they don't get the answers they are waiting on. It was the lack of due diligence by the Provincial Government that has put Marystown and its residents in the situation they are in and it is up to the Provincial Government to resolve it. Council is in support of a bailey bridge.

On a final note, a terrible accident occurred on the Burin Peninsula Highway on Friday past. Mayor Keating was on the scene and partially witnessed what first responders have to deal with and see on a regular basis. The scenes they come upon are not pleasant and Mayor Keating offered a heartfelt thanks to all first responders for the work they do, noting Council is available to provide any support they need.

11. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion to bring forward.

12. Adjournment

The next meeting will take place December 5, 2023.

Motion

MMC 2023 11 21/021R

Moved by Councillor Hodder, seconded by Councillor Edwards

“BE IT RESOLVED the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Keating
Mayor

Petrina Power
Town Clerk