

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 19, 2023**

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

Also present: Randy Brockerville, Director of Operations & Public Works
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.

Before proceeding with the agenda, Mayor Keating welcomed two students to the Council Chambers, who were the recipients of the Town's 2022-2023 scholarships.

Dr. Chester Harris Memorial Scholarship

The recipient of the Dr. Chester Harris Memorial Scholarship for the 2022-2023 year is Ms. Brooklyn Kelly. Brooklyn is the granddaughter of Maryann Kelly and is currently attending Memorial University where she is enrolled in the Faculty of Nursing. The Dr. Chester Harris Memorial Scholarship is valued at \$500.00.

Mary Hodder Scholarship

The recipient of the Mary Hodder Scholarship for the 2022-2023 year is Ms. Amber Saint. Amber is the daughter of Toby and Melissa Saint and is currently attending Memorial University where she is enrolled in the Faculty of Social Work. The Mary Hodder Scholarship is valued at \$500.00.

Both students came forward to accept their scholarships and pose for a picture with the Mayor.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/001R

Moved by Councillor Keating, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED the agenda be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/002R

Moved by Councillor Hodder, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on December 5, 2023, be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/003R

Moved by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Edwards

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the special Council meeting (No. 1) held on December 5, 2023, be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/004R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the special Council meeting (No. 2) held on December 5, 2023, be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the privileged Council meeting held on December 5, 2023, were tabled for information purposes.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising to bring forward from any of the meetings. Mayor Keating did note that there was a change to the minutes of the last Recreation Committee meeting, which was sent out to Council and will be signed as the official minutes of that meeting.

5. Delegations

This item was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

6. Committee Reports

Protection to Persons & Property Committee

Councillor Nolan reviewed the minutes of the Protection to Persons & Property Committee meeting held on December 14, 2023.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/005R

Moved by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Edwards

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to appoint Melanie Kilfoy, Director of Finance & Administration, as the Head of the Public Body as required by the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015, with the understanding Petrina Power, Town Clerk, is the ATIPP Coordinator and Mayor Brian Keating is the backup ATIPP Coordinator.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/006R

Moved by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given for Fire Chief Bolt and Lieutenant Snook to attend the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Training taking place January 12-14, 2024, in Bishop’s Falls.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence was received from the MMSB regarding participating in their Compost Bin Distribution Program 2024 wherein the Town could purchase bins at a subsidized price and offer them to residents at that subsidized price. The Town has participated in this program before and will address this item after the Christmas holidays.

Correspondence was received from the Department of Health and Community Services questioning whether the Town would be interested in becoming a naloxone distribution site to make it available to the public in the event of an emergency. It was determined that because the RCMP and ambulance services provide these kits, the Town would not become a distribution site.

There were no animal control or anti-litter issues to report.

The Marystown Volunteer Fire Department has been very busy with 6 calls received since the last Committee meeting for a total of 113 calls for the year to date. On behalf of Fire Chief Bolt, Councillor Nolan thanked Council for their support of the Department.

A concern was brought forward regarding the lack of light in the vicinity of Canada Post on Ville Marie Drive. This item has been forwarded to the Director of operations & Public Works to complete an inspection of the area.

Councillor Nolan advised there has been an increase in vehicle accidents recently, given that Marystown is the hub of the peninsula and it is the Christmas shopping season. With the increase in traffic within town and on the highways, Councillor Nolan reminded everyone to use extra caution and drive safe during this busy season.

Finally, Councillor Nolan wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Recreation & Special Events Committee

Deputy Mayor Walsh reviewed the minutes of the Recreation & Special Events Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023.

Deputy Mayor Walsh advised that in the New Year, they will be reviewing attendance to Committee meetings. Some members have advised they will not be able to attend future meetings due to work commitments while others haven't kept up with attendance so the Committee will be looking for new members.

Things have slowed down with the outdoor facilities however, the Kaetlyn Osmond Arena is very busy.

WorkplaceNL did an inspection of the Kaetlyn Osmond Arena and things are in good working order with a very knowledgeable staff in place. There have been some inquiries into whether pets are allowed at the Arena. The Committee had a discussion on the topic and it was decided that only service animals should be permitted.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/007R

Moved by Deputy Mayor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to only permit registered service animals inside the Kaetlyn Osmond Arena.”

Motion carried on a vote of six to one with Mayor Keating, Deputy Mayor Walsh, Councillor Hodder, Councillor Keating, Councillor Myles and Councillor Nolan voting for the recommendation and Council Edwards voting against it.

The YMCA has been very busy. Deputy Mayor Walsh noted the YMCA is an excellent facility that is very well-run and it's great to see it so utilized. The Committee had a discussion regarding naming rights for the YMCA and felt it was a good idea to pursue this item further.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/008R

Moved by Deputy Mayor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Edwards

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to advertise a Request for Proposals for naming rights of the Marystown YMCA.”

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that a member of staff has already put some information together on this item and there will be some cost to the Town to initiate naming rights.

The Committee had a discussion on the Town's trails, noting the work already done and the work that still needs to be done. With the strong wind as of late, Deputy Mayor Walsh asked that residents advise the Town of any trees that might be down across the trails. There will be some further work on the trails in the New Year.

Deputy Mayor Walsh wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Public Works Committee

On behalf of Councillor Keating, Councillor Hodder reviewed the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023.

The Committee had a discussion regarding various projects that will be completed under the Multi-Year Capital Works Program. A list of projects will be brought forward once information is finalized.

The Public Works Department has been busy with various tasks, including water leak repairs, pot hole repairs, installing signage, etc. Councillor Hodder reminded residents that if they hear running water where they shouldn't, they should report it to the Town as it could be a water leak.

Drawings and specifications for the chlorination building are ongoing. It's hoped that all information will be ready in the near future in order to move ahead on this project.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/009R

Moved by Councillor Hodder, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to submit an application for funding under the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Capital Works Program for the Marystown Town Garage Roof Upgrades and Restorations Project with total construction and engineering costs in the amount of \$160,457.61 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/010R

Moved by Councillor Hodder, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to submit an application for funding under the Municipal Capital Works Program for the Raymond's Road Watermain Replacement Project with total construction and engineering costs in the amount of \$604,954.45 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

There was a small leak at the water treatment plant that was addressed.

All equipment is operating well. The Town's new excavator is currently in Montreal.

Councillor Hodder advised there will be another bulk garbage collection pickup later this month. Residents were advised to keep their garbage bins back from the road to facilitate snow clearing, noting the arm on the truck can reach in at least 3.5 feet from the road to grab the bins.

Councillor Keating added one final note: the Public Works Department never stops working, no matter the weather or the holiday. On behalf of Council, Councillor Keating thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Planning & Development Committee

Councillor Myles reviewed the minutes of the Planning & Development meeting held on December 14, 2023.

The Committee met with Mr. Allan Crocker and Ms. Rosalie Crocker to discuss a request to rezone a parcel of land on St. Mary's Road where the St. Mary's Anglican Church is located for the purpose of accommodating a commercial garage/fabrication shop. This item was discussed by Council as a whole earlier this evening.

The Committee discussed future residential development around town, particularly in the Greenwood Street and Tolt road areas.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/011R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Edwards

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to advertise a Request for Proposals for the development of land off Greenwood Street for the purpose of a residential subdivision.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/012R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walsh

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to advertise Expression of Interest for land on Tolt Road for the purpose of future residential development.”

Motion carried unanimously.

As noted, a request was received to rezone a parcel of land on St. Mary's Road.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/013R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to start the process of rezoning land at St. Mary's Road from Public Institutional to Commercial for the purpose of accommodating an automotive garage/fabrication shop within the former St. Mary's Anglican Church, with the understanding the applicant, Mr. Allan Crocker, will be responsible for all costs associated with the rezoning.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Myles advised the process will start after the Christmas/New Year holidays.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/014R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED that an application received from Keith Brown for a Crown Land Grant in Rock Harbour measuring 0.047H with 10M frontage for the purpose of constructing a driveway to an existing property be approved.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/015R

Moved by Councillor Myles, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 109(2) of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, Council appoint Ms. Kelsey Kilfoy, Director of Planning & Economic Development and, in her absence, Mr. Robert Warr, Director of Recreation & Community Services, with the authority to approve or reject applications, as designated by Council, to develop land in accordance with the appropriate plan and regulations and that either of these employees may outline the conditions applicable to that development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 109(3) of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, and Section 404(6) of the Municipalities Act, 1999, the Director of Planning & Economic Development or, in her absence, the Director of Recreation & Community Services, be given the authority to issue an order under Section 102 of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and Section 404(1) of the Municipalities Act, 1999; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with subsection 190(4) of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, an Order made by the Director of Planning & Economic Development or, in her absence, the Director of Recreation & Community Services, be confirmed by a majority vote of the members of the Council present at the next meeting of Council after the order is made and if the order is not confirmed in this manner, it shall be considered to be cancelled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with section 2 of the Development Regulations, 2017-2027, under the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, Council shall, where designating to the Director of Planning & Economic Development and, in her absence, the Director of Recreation & Community Services, the power delegated under subsection 109(3) of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, make that designation in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all delegation of power approved by motion/resolution of Council under the authority of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, and the Municipalities Act, 1999, prior to December 19, 2023, is hereby repealed and replaced.”

Motion carried on a vote of six to one with Mayor Keating, Deputy Mayor Walsh, Councillor Edwards, Councillor Hodder, Councillor Myles and Councillor Nolan voting for the recommendation and Council Keating voting against it.

Finance Committee

Councillor Edwards reviewed the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/016R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED Council ratify payment of a Statement of Account received from Appleby Picco Law for File No. 2023261 dated June 9, 2023, in the amount of \$356.50 including HST for professional services regarding a human resources issue.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/017R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to advertise one double block, size 3 ½” x 1 ¼” in the Marystown Lions Club Community Spirit Calendar at a total cost of \$130.00 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/018R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to pay Invoice No. INV-38968-C1C7S5 received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities dated November 14, 2023, in the amount of \$1,940.73 including HST for 2024-2025 membership fees with funds to come from the 2024 budget.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/019R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust the remaining interest on Account No. GOUZV001 and Account No. GOUZG001 as the principal and 50% of the interest has been paid in full.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/020R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust 2020-2023 Mobile Business Taxes on Account No. ATLAN013 in the amount of \$800.00 plus interest.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/021R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust 2022-2023 Business Taxes for Account No. F-HCO001 in the amount of \$1,192.00 plus interest as the business has ceased operations.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/022R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED Council approve Change Order No. 1 received from Edwards and Associates dated December 4, 2023, for the Creston Boulevard Road Upgrades Project, Project No. 17-MYCW-22-00054 for additional consulting fees in the amount of \$2,553.00 including HST to complete a field survey for an additional 270 meters of road upgrading and prepare additional drawings and quantities.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/023R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to submit an application for funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for the Wharf Assessment Project in the Marine Industrial Park with the understanding the Town will be responsible for a municipal contribution of up to \$2,500.00.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/024R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to enter into an amended Municipal Infrastructure Agreement as received from the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure dated November 22, 2023, for the reallocation of cost-shared funds within the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Capital Works Program allocations as per the revised Schedule ‘A’ received from the Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED approval be given for Mayor Keating and the Town Clerk to sign the amended Municipal Infrastructure Agreement on behalf of the Town of Marystown.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/025R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to award the Dr. Chester Harris Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 to Brooklyn Kelly based on academic achievement.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/026R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to award the Mary Hodder Scholarship to Amber Saint in the amount of \$500.00 based on a combination of community involvement and academic achievement.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/027R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to pay Invoice No. MARY-23112-01 received from Tract Consulting Inc. dated December 8, 2023 in the amount of \$4,224.17 including HST for a Trail Assessment for the Marystown area, with the understanding that funds will come from surplus.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget 2024

Before presenting the 2024 budget, Councillor Edwards took a moment to thank the Director of Finance & Administration for her hard work and many hours on the budget. Councillor Keating

also thanked his Co-Chairs, Councillor Keating and Mayor Keating, for their input. There was a lot of discussing and changes back and forth to finalize a balanced budget. Councillor Edwards thanked all of the other Councillors and Directors for their input as well.

Councillor Edwards ran through some of the highlights of the budget.

The balanced budget for the 2024 Taxation Year has Revenues of \$9,339,669.50 and Expenditures of \$9,339,669.50. Overall revenues and expenditures increased by \$906,162.42 compared to the 2023 budget.

The only change in mil rate for the 2024 budget is with residential property which will be set at 7.0 mils (it was 7.5 mils for 2023), which is a drop of 0.50 mils due to the increase of 17.76% in residential assessments by the Municipal Assessment Agency. This translates to approximately \$194,000.00 in lost taxation revenue for the Town.

All other mil rates, water and sewer rates, minimum taxes, permits and fees will remain the same

The YMCA Operating Grant will remain at \$350,000 (same as prior year).

The Town will continue to offer the 10-month interest-free equal payment plan for residents without arrears. Anyone who is on the plan for 2023 will be automatically enrolled going forward. The deadline to sign up for the plan is February 16, 2024. Additional information on this preauthorized debit plan will be posted on the Town's website and social media sites and at the bottom of the 2024 invoices in February.

The rate for overdue accounts will remain the same at 12% annually, compounded monthly.

The Town will continue to accept all major credit cards and email money transfers (EMTs).

The Town will continue to offer the \$100 senior's reduction.

Again, Councillor Edwards thanked all Councillors and staff for their work and input on the 2024 budget.

Mayor Keating advised that when the new municipal assessments came out and showed increased property values for many residential properties, Council made a promise to try and assist in offering some relief. As a result, Council dropped the mil rate by 0.5 mils. Some residents will see their taxes drop a bit while others will not. The remainder of tax rates and fees will remain the same as in 2023. While the drop in the mil rate will mean a drop in revenue for the Town, services will remain the same as Council and staff work to better streamline operations.

Deputy Mayor Walsh advised a lot of work went into the budget. Deputy Mayor Walsh sat with the Director of Recreation & Community Services to review the budget for the Recreation Department. The Director of Recreation & Community Services runs a great Department and once the Department's budget was reviewed, it was passed on to the Director of Finance & Administration to incorporate into the overall budget.

Councillor Keating commended everyone on another job well done. Councillor Keating noted the budget was around \$3 million when he first joined Council and the population was around 7,000 people. Now, the budget is around \$9 million and the population has dropped to about 5,200. The Public Works Department is very important to the Town and the community. The Town needs its water and sewer, its roads, its equipment and its infrastructure. Despite the drop in population, Marystown

has grown over the years and has great infrastructure including the best treated water on the peninsula. Councillor Keating congratulated everyone on the budget and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councillor Nolan also congratulated the Director of Finance & Administration on the hard work she put into the budget. Congratulations also went out to everyone else involved. As the liaison for the Fire Department, while the Department is not getting everything they asked for, they should be pleased with their budget. Councillor Nolan wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councillor Myles noted that Councillor Edwards thanked Council and staff for their work on the budget. Councillor Myles took a moment to thank Councillor Edwards for bringing forward the 7th balanced budget since he started with Council. Councillor Myles advised he was proud to be a member of the team bringing forward this budget during these trying times.

Councillor Hodder took a moment to briefly talk about the deposits for water and sewer services. The cost of the deposit depends on whether or not the Department of Public Works has to cut into asphalt. If there is no need to cut asphalt, the deposit is \$500.00. If the asphalt does need to be cut, the deposit is \$1,000.00. The cost to install water and sewer services may seem expensive but includes the cost of materials, equipment and labour.

Councillor Hodder advised that there is new signage near the YMCA to indicate ATV crossing in the area. It is legal for ATV drivers to utilize the road from the Marystown Hotel to the former Ville Marie Swimming Pool for the purpose of accessing the trails and hotel. Users will need to cross McGettigan Boulevard and the signage was required for safety purposes.

Councillor Hodder thanked Mayor Elf for coming back again for another Christmas season and spreading cheer and positivity. Councillor Hodder congratulated Mayor Elf on another successful ‘Find Mayor Elf’ contest.

At this point, Councillor Edwards brought forward his recommendations on the 2024 Budget.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/028R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 77, 78 and 79 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, Council adopt the Budget for the Year 2024 showing Revenue of \$9,508,280.76 and Expenditures of \$9,508,280.76.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/029R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 101 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, Council adopt the 2024 Tax Structure.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/030R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Myles

“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 101 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, Council set the due date for payment of 2024 taxes at March 29, 2024.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/031R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 106 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, Council set the interest rate for overdue taxes at 12% annually, compounded monthly.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/032R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 109 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, the 2024 Tax Structure be published in The Telegram and by Public Notice in the Town.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Edwards wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to bring forward.

8. Approvals to Purchase

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/033R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Public Works Department to engage Mallay’s Industrial Services Ltd. for pumper service for blivet clean-outs at Gaze Cove, Bayview Street, Grieg Seafood and YMCA on December 12-13/23 at a cost of \$3,241.62 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/034R

Moved by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Recreation Department to purchase materials from Peninsula Castle for construction of the Walk of Hope Walking Trail at a cost of \$3,580.02 including HST.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Edwards declared a conflict of interest for the next recommendation as he is employed by the vendor in question. Councillor Edwards removed himself from the Chambers table to sit in the area set aside for the general public.

As Co-Chair of the Finance Committee, Councillor Keating tabled the next recommendation.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/035R

Moved by Councillor Keating, seconded by Councillor Hodder

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Recreation Department to purchase materials from Aylward’s Home Centre for construction of the Walk of Hope Walking Trail at a cost of \$7,520.63 including HST.”

Motion carried without the vote of Councillor Edwards who was in a declared conflict of interest.

Councillor Keating noted the cost of materials for the Walk of Hope Walking Trail may seem high however, the Committee is planning ahead by purchasing materials now before costs increase any further and they will be stored over the winter months until construction can start again in the spring.

Councillor Edwards rejoined Council at the Chambers table.

9. Regulations

There were no regulations to bring forward.

10. Other Business

Mayor Keating advised the public that earlier today, Council, along with one member of the Canning Bridge Concerned Citizens Committee, met with Minister Abbott, Department of Transportation & infrastructure, via Zoom to discuss the options to replace Canning Bridge, including a temporary bailey bridge. When Council met with the Minister in November, there was to be a follow-up meeting on December 6th however, that was delayed by another week or two. As noted, Council met with the minister today and had expectations of receiving information that was anticipated for the December 6th meeting. Unfortunately, Council was advised that the Department needs until the second week of January 2024 to put together a breakdown on the costs. While the lack of information is upsetting, the Department has promised to have those answers by the second week of January.

Minister Abbott did advise that the engineers have put together a preliminary cost of a bailey bridge and that cost currently sits at over \$5 million. A bailey bridge hasn’t been ruled out yet

which is why the Department needs more time to finalize their numbers and put forth a recommendation on the best route to take. Council did ask a number of questions but as noted, the only thing the Department could confirm was that they could have a final report by the second week of January.

Mayor Keating emphasized that Council is doing their part to work on behalf of the people, including lowering the mil rate to lower taxes and relieve some of the additional cost of living on the south side of the bridge. But it is now up to the Department to follow through on their part. Mayor Keating advised the funding is approved to relocate the waterline and Council will be going to tender in the New Year to ensure there are no delays on the Town's part when the time comes to remove Canning Bridge.

Mayor Keating wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

11. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion to bring forward.

12. Adjournment

The next meeting will take place January 9, 2024.

Motion

MMC 2023 12 19/036R

Moved by Councillor Keating, seconded by Councillor Nolan

“BE IT RESOLVED the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Keating
Mayor

Petrina Power
Town Clerk