

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Regular meeting #11 for 2020 of the Grand Bank Town Council was held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the 50+ Club.

Mayor Rex C. Matthews, Deputy Mayor Clayton Welsh, Councillors George Bennett, Roger Brooks, Jack Burfitt, Stan Burt and Rick Grikis attended along with Town Manager Wayne Bolt, Town Clerk Sheila M. Dolimount, and Recreation/Operations/Maintenance Director Tom Burton. Administrative Clerk Michelle Patten is working.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION 2020-3314: R. GRIKIS/C. WELSH

Motioned that the agenda be adopted as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

3. **DELEGATION** NONE

4. **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS – NOVEMBER 23, 2020** NONE

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOTION 2020-3315: J. BURFITT/G. BENNETT

Motioned that the minutes of the Regular Meeting for November 23, 2020 be approved as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

a. **Grand Bank Volunteer Fire Department**

MOTION 2020-3316: C. WELSH/R. BROOKS

Motioned that the mandatory retirement age for the Grand Bank Volunteer Fire Department be changed from 60 to 65 based on consultation with Fire and Emergency Services.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

b. **Christmas Parade**

Deputy Mayor Welsh questioned if there was anything decided regarding Santa Clause being driven around Town. Recreation/Operations/Maintenance Director Burton advised that the Lions Club is not prepared to do it this year. He also advised that Samantha Strowbridge would be willing to be Santa. The Town agreed with this option.

c. **Light Up for Christmas**

Councillor Burfitt stated that the lights in Frazer Park looked beautiful and it was an excellent job in putting them up. Recreation/Operations/Maintenance Director Burton advised that there is an issue with keeping the lights on.

d. **Warming Centre**

Mayor Matthews advised that Town Manager Bolt and himself have worked on the Warming Centre with the Salvation Army and Eastern Health throughout the past year.

MOTION 2020-3317: C. WELSH/S. BURT

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank partner with the Salvation Army to provide a Warming/Emergency Centre and to consult with Eastern Health to identify their needs in case there is an emergency in the health care sector, and that the Mayor and Town Manager take the necessary steps and engage the necessary expertise to set this project in motion, and provide an update to Council within a reasonable timeline.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

e. **Burin Peninsula Joint Council**

Councillor Grikis advised the AGM meeting was cancelled and they are not sure when one will take place. It was agreed that when Councillor Grikis attends the next meeting he would bring forward the issues with the RCMP.

f. **Sale of Clearwater**

Councillor Grikis was wondering when a meeting will take place with Clearwater and the Town. Mayor Matthews advised that he had spoken with members of the Clearwater Staff, along with Town Manager Bolt and Town Clerk Dolimount. Councillor Burfitt advised that the GBDC had also spoken with Clearwater.

7. **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

a. **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities**

Received an email advising of the new Covid-19 Stimulus Program (CSP). Deadline for applications is December 7, 2020. Mayor Matthews advised that the application has been forwarded for funding.

8. **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Grand Bank – Fortune Ambulance Service Inc.**

Received minutes from their meeting on October 1, 2020. Some discussion took place on the minutes.

b. **Department of Transportation and Infrastructure**

Received a letter advising the tender for the Municipal Dam and Intake Improvements has been awarded to Bennett's Construction in the amount of \$519,713.75.

c. **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities**

Received a letter advising we have been approved for a one-time arena/pool restart grant in the amount of \$10,000.00.

d. **Jennifer Spracklin**

Received an email from a lady living in St. John's who kept up to date through social media/news on our community having cases of COvid-19 and thanked the town for handling the situation so well and working with Eastern Health to keep those cases contained.

e. **Eastern Health**

Received an email regarding a ParticipACTION Webinar on 24-hour movement guidelines for adults/older adults, which will take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

f. **Grainger**

Received an email advising they have recently aligned a partnership with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador to support/extend further assistance to all municipalities across the province for Maintenance, Repair, and Operating needs.

g. **Municipal Assessment Agency**

Received an update on the Municipal Assessment Agency.

h. **Canada Pharmacare Act**

Received an email requesting councils helping in adopting the Canada Pharmacare Act in Parliament – Bill C-213.

i. **Rural Development Network**

Received an email regarding Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI). A Call for Expression of Interest" was launched on National Housing Day, November 22, 2020 and they are reaching out to communities to see if they are interested in building affordable, adequate and suitable

housing that is financially sustainable for seniors, youth, and/or low-income individuals and families.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance Committee

Councillor Stan Burt, Committee Chairperson, presented a written report of a meeting the Committee held on December 10, 2020.

MOTION 2020-3318: S. BURT/R. GRIKIS

Motioned that the Finance Committee report of December 10, 2020 be approved as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

b. Development Committee

Deputy Mayor Clayton Welsh, Committee Chairperson, presented a written report of a meeting the Committee held on December 10, 2020.

MOTION 2020-3319: C. WELSH/J. BURFITT

Motioned that the Development Committee report of December 10, 2020 be approved as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Policy #58 – Water & Sewer Tax

POLICY #58

SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWER TAX POLICY

1. (a) Any building connected to the system is subject to pay the water and sewerage tax to Council.

(b) Where real property that is not serviced, is within 60 metres of the Town system and is capable of being serviced by the system, the owner of the property shall in the case where there is a residential and/or commercial building on the property, pay the water and sewerage tax to Council.

(c) Where an individual applies for an exemption, remission, or deferment, he/she shall apply annually and shall provide evidence of need satisfactory to the Council; and, the Council on a vote of two-thirds of the Councillors in office, may grant an exemption, remission, or deferment of such taxes either in whole or part for such periods of time as Council decides.

(d) Property where there is just one (1) water and or one (1) sewer line to the building, but has more than one separate unit, will be charged Water and Sewer taxes for each unit, ie; efficiency units, apartments, personal care homes, Blue Crest Cottages, etc..

(e) Hotels, Motels and B & B's will be charged Water and Sewer taxes for each of the following - rental units, living quarters, business units ie; Restaurants, Lounges, Gift Shops, etc.

(f) If at least one water and sewer charge is being paid on a building the additional charges for areas of the building that are vacant may be written off. The customer must notify Council in writing of such vacancy and the period of write off will commence upon receipt of such written notification. The minimum period applicable for write off shall be one calendar month. A signed affidavit must accompany a request for write off. Each building will continue to pay at least the minimum annual Water and Sewer tax rate.

2. Water and sewerage taxes shall be due and payable on the first day of each month. The account is considered to be in arrears if 3 or more months of taxes owing. The Council shall have the right to refuse or suspend service to customers whose account for water and

sewerage tax is in arrears.

3. A property owner whose water service has been discontinued will only have their service restored on payment of all tax arrears.

4. In exceptional extenuating circumstances whereby a resident or commercial taxpayer of the community cannot pay their municipal taxes due to unforeseen circumstances that a Committee comprising of the Town Manager, Town Clerk and Mayor would have the authority to enter into a special written agreement with the aforesaid taxpayer. In such cases the Committee would review any health changes, job loss, marital breakdown, passing of a spouse, financial hardship, lack of family support, past payment history, or other unforeseen circumstances that may leave a taxpayer in distress. All such cases will be presented to Council for their information only in accordance with all privacy legislation in Newfoundland and Labrador.

MOTION 2020-3320: C. WELSH/R. GRIKIS

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank approve Policy #58 – Water and Sewer Tax as amended.

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION CARRIED

b. Frazer Park Light-up

Mayor Matthews advised that the CEEP workers did an excellent job with the lights in Frazer Park. He also advised that Recreation/Operations/Maintenance Director Burton provided a report of the plan used, which was copied for all Councillors. Councillor Burfitt requested the Town look at installing receptacles to the new light poles to light up the wreaths. Deputy Mayor Welsh suggested Town Clerk Dolimount contact Clarenville regarding the lights they have on their poles. Councillor Burt mentioned the lights on the wharf on the Clearwater side.

c. Purchase of Vehicles

Mayor Matthews advised that two vehicles have been ordered for the Town and they came in below the amount budgeted for. Town Manager Bolt advised that the vehicles may be available in the spring.

d. Development Permit – Court Case

Mayor Matthews advised that the case was dismissed because the charge was laid under the Municipalities Act and not the Urban and Rural Planning Act.

e. Tender for Dam

Mayor Matthews advised that the tender for the dam has been awarded to Bennett's Construction. Town Manager Bolt advised a construction and site meeting will take place on Thursday, Dec 17, 2020.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Contract Negotiations

Mayor Matthews advised that proposals have been forwarded to the Union for review and negotiations to take place on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

b. Covid-19 Stimulus Program

Mayor Matthews advised that the Town should hear sometime this week if approved for the Stimulus Program.

c. Christmas Holidays Schedule

Mayor Matthews advised that the holiday schedule has been completed. The work schedule is the same as last year.

MOTION 2020-3321: C. WELSH/R. GRIKIS

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank accept the holiday schedule as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION CARRIED

d. Fiber Optic

Mayor Matthews advised that some areas of Grand Bank are ready for the fiber optics from Bell.

MOTION 2020-3322: C. WELSH/J. BURFITT

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank upgrade its internet to Fiber Optics.

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION CARRIED

e. Budget 2021

Councillor Burt, Committee Chairperson, presented the 2021 Budget.

MOTION 2020-3323: S. BURT/J. BURFITT

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank`s proposed 2021 Budget be adopted as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION CARRIED

12. COUNCILLORS FORUM

a. Budget

Councillor Burt thanked Town Manager Bolt, Town Clerk Dolimount and the Finance Committee for a great job done on the preparation of the budget.

b. Health Inspector

Councillor Grikis advised that there is no health inspector on the Burin Peninsula the nearest health inspector is in Clarendville. After some discussion, it was agreed to write Service NL.

Councillors Burt and Grikis left the meeting at this time, 4:00 p.m.

c. Pursuit

Councillor Burfitt advised that the Pursuit will stay in the Harbour during the winter and that the Harbour Authority is working on a Plan B.

d. Insurance

Councillor Bennett questioned if the Town was having any issues with getting insurance on historic properties. Town Manager Bolt advised that all of the Town`s properties have insurance.

e. Condition of Properties

Deputy Mayor Welsh suggested writing individuals, in the New Year, regarding the condition of their property.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all Councillors.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN OFFICIALS

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2020-3324: C. WELSH/R. BROOKS

Motioned that the meeting adjourn at 4:20 p.m.