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Minutes of Council Meeting

March 7, 2023 7:00 PM

Present:	Mayor	Krista Freake
	Deputy Mayor (Chair)	Brian Hooper
	Councillors	Ken Tucker
		Derek White
	Town Manager	Todd Champion
	Town Clerk	Coreen Colbourne
	Recreation and Tourism Manager	Ashley Ivany
	Superintendent of Public Works	Bruce Roberts
Regrets:	Councillors	Rhoda Hannem
		John Mullett
		Perry Pond

Mayor Freake brought greetings to those watching on Facebook, fellow Councillors and Staff.

Mayor Freake brought forward a land acknowledgement.

1. Call to Order – 7:02 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

23-020 Hooper/Tucker

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting February 14, 2023

23-022 White/Hooper

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 14, 2023.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Before the Committee Chairs brought forward their reports, the Mayor mentioned that the Lewisporte Regional Fire Rescue held their annual banquet this past weekend. She congratulated the Family of the Late Barry Budden, as the LRFR members recognized him as Firefighter of the Year, she also thanked Keith, his son and Wade, his brother for accepting the award in his honour.

A sincere congratulations was given to those who participated, organized, looked after and volunteered for the Winter Carnival. The Mayor attended both events put off by the Town over the previous weekend, she said it was well attended by people of all ages. She commended the commitment and organization of the staff at the Town Hall that were involved, as well as the public works staff that took care of all the decorations, set up and take down for all of the events.

Congratulations were sent out to the Senior Seahawks for taking home the trophy on Saturday night after a clean sweep against Twillingate.

The Mayor, as part of the sub-committee of the Central Health Community Advisory Committee on recruitment and retention had an extensive, lengthy meeting about medical services in Lewisporte, they will take some recommendations from that meeting back to the Committee, she said she would also bring anything that she feels Council could be responsible for, back to them.

Mayor Freake said she joined the staff of the Journey Project, a not-for-profit organization that provides legal service to victims of partner violence. She attended a meeting recently and felt it was very informative, it was about resources available for those experiencing partner violence, and resources for children that may be living in homes experiencing this. Rev Paula, Tracey Curlew and the Mayor will be holding a larger event in June for this organization with representation from the Journey Project, they hope to have representatives from the RCMP, Freake's Ambulance and Public Health so people will be made aware of the resources available, that might need them.

There was a meeting with Minister Hutchings yesterday to discuss the Marina, she also had conversations with the MHA today regarding the RCMP services and the Wharf infrastructure.

4. Recreation/Tourism Committee

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Stadium

Deputy Mayor Hooper extended warmest congratulations to the Lewisporte Senior Seahawks on their impressive victory in the Central Newfoundland Hockey Championship this past Saturday. Their hard work, dedication, and skill have paid off and they should all be very proud of their accomplishment.

The cameras in the Lewisporte Stadium are now active and signage has been placed throughout the building. This update demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for everyone who uses the Lewisporte Stadium.

The new hot water recovery tank (that was motioned last year) is now being installed in the arena today. This new system will not only help to conserve energy but will also ensure that the arena has a sustainable and eco-friendly system in place.

New netting and pads have been ordered for our hockey nets and are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Woolfrey's Pond Park

The seasonal contracts for Woolfrey's Pond Park have officially been sent out and we have already received an overwhelming response of 30 seasonals. We are eagerly anticipating even more seasonal campers as we contact our waitlist, and monthly campers.

Motion

The Woolfrey's Pond Boardwalk is a vital community resource that provides an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the natural beauty of our area. By securing funding through the Building Age Friendly Communities Grant, we can ensure that the boardwalk remains a safe and accessible place for everyone to use. The repairs and replacement of this section of the boardwalk will provide a smooth and stable surface for walkers and runners. The project will also incorporate age-friendly design principles to ensure that the boardwalk is accessible and safe for seniors and people with mobility challenges.

I believe that this project is a valuable investment in our community and that it aligns with our shared values of promoting inclusivity and accessibility. I hope that you will join me in supporting this motion and in applying for the Building Age Friendly Communities Grant.

23-021 Hooper/Tucker

I am excited to make a motion to apply for the Building Age Friendly Communities Grant to support the repair and replacement of another 1/4 of the Woolfrey's Pond Boardwalk. The projected cost for this project is \$48,945.86.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Special Events

Deputy Mayor Hooper took a moment to express his sincere gratitude to those who participated in the Town of Lewisporte Winter Carnival. Whether a person attended the events, offered activities, or helped in any way, their contribution was greatly appreciated and made this event a great success.

The Winter Carnival was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy the beauty of the winter season. It was a joy to see so many people participating in the activities, having fun, and creating memories with their friends and families.

Deputy Mayor Hooper thanked the inside and outside staff that contributed to the Winter Carnival and the Community Groups that were involved.

5. Economic Development

Update by Councillor Tucker

Port Development

Correspondence with MHA Bennett today indicates that the project is moving forward, Council is waiting for an official response from the Government on the Town's proposal.

Marina

Transport Canada contacted an assessor to value the Marina and some of the surrounding area, it was completed around February 17th, 2023. The Town Manager heard back from Transport Canada with a confirmation that this was completed, but there were questions from Transport Canada for the assessor. Transport Canada are working with Public Works federally, as soon as the full project report has been finalized, it should be released to the Town.

Council members had a meeting with Minister Hutchings last evening, Federal Minister of Rural Economic Development, she was provided with a lot of information on the Marina and Council's plans. She did say she would personally work on the file for Council. Council is hoping to have an update back from her within a couple of weeks. The report received from Transport Canada will be shared with Minister Hutchings. Council hopes to have another meeting with her soon after that report is shared.

Craft Shop/Museum/Dinner Theatre

There were two meetings held late February with government officials to move along the craft shop/museum/dinner theatre project. Representatives from the Town and Provincial Government now have a better understanding of what is required of each other so there is hope that the project will move faster.

Councillors Tucker and Pond and the Town Manager attended a public consultation meeting in Bishop's Falls on February 22 regarding the proposal for Botwood area, wind to hydrogen power project, there was a great deal of

information presented on the project, if it proceeds, it will be a project of great magnitude and hope that there may be some benefits to the Town.

6. Lands Committee

Update by Councillor White

Councillor White reminded residents once again of the importance of obtaining a permit, permits can be picked up any time prior to construction.

The lands committee reviewed the development agreements that the Town has with developers, some of these developers are not meeting the guidelines set out at the time of conception. Any new development agreements may have some changes made to the guidelines of them. These changes will be brought back to Council for approval.

7. Public Works

Update by Councillor White

Councillor White said the upgrades to Beaumont Street will be going to tender early so that it can possibly be awarded in the Spring. He reminded the public that we have no control over when it can be completed, there are a lot of groups involved that can delay timelines.

8. Protective Services

Update by Councillor Tucker

The protective services committee had a meeting on February 23. A new emergency response plan has been drafted for the stadium; it is an OH&S requirement. The plan was presented to the LRFR executive for review, Councillor Tucker expects to see it come back to the PS Committee by their next meeting. If all is acceptable, protective services will bring it back to Council in the form of a motion to accept the plan.

PS had a meeting with the LRFR executive on February 28, some important items that came out of the meeting is standard operating guidelines that were drafted for OH&S, one being for the care of protective clothing of firefighters when coming from the scene of a fire. When the fire hall was upgraded there was a washing and drying system designed for this, so this guideline is being fulfilled already. Other guidelines will be reviewed by PS and if the committee has to make any amendments it will be brought to the LRFR. The operating guidelines will be implemented by the fire department.

There has been a meeting scheduled with the District Commanding Officer of the RCMP for March 13. Some policing concerns have surfaced affecting much of the Central Region. The meeting should clarify some questions the Town has as well as be provided with some updates from the RCMP with policing and scheduling of this area.

The Protective Services Committee performed a review of the Lewisporte Regional Fire Protection Service, Councillor Tucker brought forward the findings.

Lewisporte Regional Fire Rescue formed in October 2018, agreement in place between Lewisporte & Local Service District of Browns Arm, the agreement is in to its 5th year now and ends December 2023.

Mutual Aid/Fee for Service Agreements to cover other areas such as Stanhope, Michaels Hr., cottage areas at Indian Arm, Monroe's Pond, Notre Dame Junction, etc. Most recently signing a mutual aid agreement with Town of Campbellton. The LSD of Laurencton joined LRFR agreement.

Protective Service Committee conducted a review of the regional operations and administration over the past few months and the following is a summary of the recommendations going forward:

- Operational structure - 2 Fire Stations #1 Lewisporte, #2 Browns Arm which includes members from Laurenceton.
- Communications - currently repeater at Lewisporte, pager coverage for both Station #1 and #2, good radio coverage throughout the regional area, two mobile repeaters in place one each Station #1 and #2 for remote or portable operations, there will be a requirement to upgrade the current radio/pager system to provide coverage into Laurenceton (portable repeater located near or in Laurenceton) hopefully next year.
- Weekend shift on standby - during holiday weekends during the year (5 – 6 weekends), 6 members will be scheduled to be on call which they will be paid for the weekend on call, this will ensure a minimum of 6 members are available to respond to any calls during the identified holiday weekends.
- Annual Fees - An adjustment was made for this year 2023, due to rising operational costs mainly fuel, equipment maintenance, equipment purchase, training, etc., the annual fee for households, & cottages included under the regional fire service were increased to \$100 annually, which basically is a cost of \$8.33 per month for a household or cottage. At this time we feel this is a very reasonable fee for a good quality fire protection service for everyone involved. The annual fee will be reviewed on an annual basis going forward.
- Equipment - The department overall is very well equipped and priority equipment requests will be reviewed and submitted on an annual basis. This year LRFR has submitted an application for funding from the Provincial Government for approval to purchase a new pickup truck, 70/30 ratio.
- The current pickup (black one) is at the end of its service cycle and needs to be replaced with a crew cab, 4x4 pickup with 8ft box. Along with a pumper truck with 2 members this truck will mainly be used to support calls for outside areas and within the town as well. It can carry 5 members, with equipment including the portable water tank, approx. 2000 gallons, and with the new OH&S requirements to remove protective clothing bunker suits etc. after being on a fire scene can be used to store and transport the protective clothing back to station. This truck will be used for search and rescue calls, including ice rescue and will have a portable repeater to support communications in remote areas outside of normal repeater range. MHA has been briefed and we hope he will lobby government on our behalf to have the truck application approved. As mentioned earlier hopefully we can secure funding to get portable repeater for Laurenceton area operations (radio/pager).
- The current agreement between Town of Lewisporte and the LSD of Brown's Arm expires at the end of this year, during the next couple months or so the PS committee, along with input from LSD of Brown's Arm and LRFR Executive, will review the agreement and make any necessary amendments for a new agreement going forward.

- We are satisfied with the current Regional Fire Protection Service; the goals are to continue to provide the best service possible with our resources and is also feasible to the residents of Lewisporte and areas covered under the regional agreements. Our recommendations, if any requests are received for additional fire protection services outside of the Town of Lewisporte each case would require consideration on a case-by-case basis, we do not want to extend the service that could jeopardize the quality of service we have at this time.
- Administrative support required from Provincial Government if any expansion.

Deputy Mayor Hooper wanted clarification on the annual cost of fire protection services per household/cottage, Councillor Tucker said it increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00 this year.

Mayor Freake wanted to thank those involved in the review as it took place over the course of several meetings.

9. Finance/HR

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Finance had a meeting on Wednesday, March 1st.

Deputy Mayor Hooper reported on the inquiries of the minimum tax set on vacant land - there have been inquiries from residents on the vacant land tax imposed on property in Lewisporte for 2023. It was reviewed by committee members at their last meeting. There are possible changes to be made, but discussions need to be had with those affected. For anyone listening this evening please call the Town Clerk at 535-2737 for further clarification. Coreen will also be reaching out to those residents affected in the near future.

9.1 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)

23-023 Hooper/White

Motion to approve the cheque register as presented, and signed off on, by the finance committee, from cheque numbers 002541 to 002645 for a total of \$249,198.44 with the exception of 002564.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:39:42.

23-024 Tucker/White

Motion to approve cheque number 002564.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers at 7:40:20

Councillor White asked for further clarification on how residents affected by the vacant land tax would be notified as some are working, the Town Clerk said that she would be reaching out to those personally.

10. Other Committees and/or Business

Mayor Freake brought to the public's attention that fraudulent activity seems to be on the rise, through emails and cyber attacks. If you ever receive anything that is suspicious in nature, do not respond to the email, etc., reach out to the person/organization/business that is sending the email, etc. A good rule of thumb is, if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

Councillor White brought up that he has heard complaints from the public that there have not been many improvements at the Family Medical Clinic in being able to get appointments or hearing back from doctors on reports or bloodwork. Mayor Freake said that the committee that she sits on will be bringing recommendations forward to Central Health, but she feels that it will take some time. There is concern as to what will happen after April 1 when Central Health doesn't exist. Councillor White did say with five doctors that are practicing in Lewisporte there should be adequate care for the public, it just needs to be serviced better. Mayor Freake said she learned a lot since she became a member of the sub-committee of the Central Health Community Advisory Committee and will bring back to Council what she learns while sitting on that Committee, to aid in figuring out Council's best role in assisting the public.

11. Adjournment

23-025 White/Hooper

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:46 PM

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on March 28, 2023.



Krista Freake, Mayor



Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer