

A regular meeting of Council was held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Mayor Paul Stapleton  
Deputy Mayor Scott Goldsworthy  
Councillor Tom Toope  
Councillor Christian Hayter  
Councillor Barbara Warren  
Town Clerk/Manager Linda Sweet  
Water & Sewer Operator Glen Vokey

**Delegates:**

Fire Chief Doug Ballett  
Bill Stoikos  
Greg Squires

**Visitors:**

Ron Warren, Ian Morris

Mayor Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes for December 4, 2023, were circulated and Mayor Stapleton asked if there were any errors or omissions. No errors or omissions were noted **Motion 2024-02-01:** was made by Councillor Toope, it was seconded by Councillor Warren. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

**Motion 2024-02-02:** was made by Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy to adopt the agenda that was posted online, it was seconded by Councillor Hayter. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Ballett informed Council that our tanker truck lost the motor on Thursday evening while on a trial run to Trouty. He went on to explain that the truck has no compression and there is oil around the motor. He also noted that Trinity Bay North has been generous enough to loan one of their tanker trucks to us until April 30<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the truck is at the Port Rexton fire department and will remain there until Port Rexton gets their tanker back or until April 30<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion took place and Mayor Stapleton said he spoke with the Fire Commissioner and is trying to arrange to have a meeting with the Deputy Minister in the coming week/weeks to seek a solution.

Fire Chief Ballett informed Council that the FireFighters Without Borders are an organization that collects firefighting equipment from various organizations and has them inspected and donates these items to various fire departments across Canada. He went on to explain that they have 15 pallets of equipment (hoses, pumps, suits, etc..) plus two portable ponds that are being donated to six fire departments on the peninsula and the only cost will be the delivery of the pallets which is approximately \$7,500.00 plus taxes. A discussion took place and **Motion-2024-02-03:** was made by Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy to split the cost of the freight between the six fire departments, it was seconded by Councillor Warren. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried. Fire Chief Ballett left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

### **Water & Sewer**

The Water & Sewer Operator informed Council that we have two pumps that are at Xylem for repairs and the cost to repair both are \$12,982.19 plus tax and the cost to purchase two new pumps are \$22, 030.00 plus tax. He went on to say that repairing the pumps with the new parts will be as good as purchasing new ones but wanted to let Council make that decision. A discussion took place and **Motion 2024-02-04:** was made by Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy to have both pumps repaired at a cost of \$12,982.19 plus tax, it was seconded by Councillor Toope. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

### **Delegates**

Bill Stoikos congratulated Mayor Stapleton and Councillor Warren on their elected positions and thanked Council and staff for the great job they are doing in running the town. He also noted that he was not here to dispute his tax bill but questioned the logic on how Council set the mill rate for an area zoned as seasonal residential. He went on to explain that he knew he would not get the same services such as garbage collection and snow clearing as this was stated in his letter of approval but was not aware he would be paying the same mill rate as residents that were receiving these services. A discussion took place and Mayor Stapleton explained this was a policy decision that the Town Clerk/Manager would investigate and check with other municipalities that have similar situations and bring it back to the next meeting.

Greg Squires informed Council that he is proposing to start a hydroponic farming business called Island Greens. He explained that he will offer fresh, eco-friendly greens all year round to supermarkets, restaurants, and individuals from Bonavista to Clarendville with a variety of lettuce, herbs, and leafy greens which he is hoping to start in August/September 2024. He went on to say he would need to place a container/trailer 40 x 10 which will arrive already built and will be on wheels so it will be movable on his property at 16 -18 Cooksley's Road and would need to hook up to the Town water supply.

A discussion took place and Council agreed that this was a fantastic business proposal and would write a letter of support to attach to the business proposal. Mr. Squires left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

### **Incoming Correspondence**

- a) Bell Re: A new area code, 879, is being introduced in our region starting February 17, 2024. - File
- b) Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure Re: INFC's Rural Transit Solutions Fund. - File
- c) Communities in Bloom Re: Participating in the 2024 Communities in Bloom program.
- d) Municipal Assessment Agency Re: Update on the Agency. – File
- e) Dept. of Municipal and Provincial Affairs Re: Accessible Communities Grant. A discussion took place regarding the Building Age-Friendly Communities Grant and Council agreed to remove existing wheelchair ramp to the Town Building and replace with a new wheelchair ramp that meets code, remove 80 feet of the existing pavers in the community park that are deteriorating and becoming a tripping hazard and replace with Class A, and purchase 8 new picnic tables for extra seating for seniors while in the park at a total cost of \$22,022.42 less HST/PST with the Town's share being \$1,997.06. **Resolution 2024-02-05:** was made by Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy to apply for funding in the amount of \$22,022.42 with the Town's share being \$1,997.06 to do upgrades for accessibility, it was seconded by Councillor Toope. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy and Councillor's Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement. No objections, resolution carried.
- f) Dept. of Fisheries, Forestry & Agriculture Re: Derogatory Feature Names and Invitation to Submit Feature Names for the NL Geographical Names Database. - File
- g) Bobbi Skanes, Tract Consulting Re: Services they can provide. - File

Invoices for Operating Account from December 1, 2023, to February 1, 2024, \$79,678.88. A discussion took place and **Motion 2024-02-06:** was made by Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy to pay the invoices in the operating account, it was seconded by Councillor Hayter. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

Income for Operating Account from December 1, 2023, to February 1, 2024, \$87,962.03

<b>Operating Account</b>	<b>\$68,219.59</b>
<b>Southside Trail</b>	<b>\$352.20</b>
<b>Fire Dept. Funds</b>	<b>\$57,798.82</b>
<b>Trinity Festival</b>	<b>\$5,827.45</b>

A discussion took place and **Motion 2024-02-07:** was made by Councillor Warren to accept the finances as presented, it was seconded by Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy. Mayor Stapleton, Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

### **New Business**

The Town Clerk/Manager informed Council that we are getting interest in renting out the

boardroom, but we don't have a policy in place at the present time. She went on to say that when Rising Tide Theatre rents upstairs from May to September they also provide cleaning services daily and provide all washroom and cleaning supplies. She went on to say that we do not have cleaning services for the building and if considering rental of the building a cleaner would have to be hired.

A discussion took place and Council agreed to look at putting together some thought on creating a policy and bring back to the next meeting of Council.

The Town Clerk/Manager informed Council that she has not sent out any poll tax invoices for 2024 and was wondering if Council would consider getting rid of poll tax all together as we usually only bring in \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00 per year. Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy declared a conflict of interest as he pays poll tax. Council agreed Deputy Mayor Goldsworthy was in a conflict of interest, so he left the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

A discussion took place and Council agreed for the time and the cost of postage, etc., it was not worth the effort. **Motion 2024-02-08:** was made by Councillor Hayter to remove Poll Tax from 2024 budget, it was seconded by Councillor Warren. Mayor Stapleton, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

**Motion 2024-02-09:** was made by Councillor Warren to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., it was seconded by Councillor Toope. Mayor Stapleton, Councillors Toope, Hayter and Warren in agreement, no objections, motion carried.

The next regular meeting of Council will be Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Building.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk/Manager