

The Village of Bible Hill regular monthly meeting was held on April 16, 2019 in the Village Office, 67 Pictou Road. Chair MacCormick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; the meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Call to Order: Chair MacCormick
Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg
Commissioner Burke
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Pitcher

Staff: Clerk and Treasurer Bell
Recording Secretary Chaplin
Solicitor Harris, Burchell MacDougall

Review and Approval of the Minutes of March 19, 2019 and April 8, 2019

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg
Seconded by Kennedy*

That the meeting minutes of March 19, 2019 and April 8, 2019 be approved.

Motion carried

Call for New or Other Business and Review and Approval of Agenda

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg
Seconded by Kennedy*

That the agenda be approved.

Motion carried.

Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interests

The Chair called for any declarations of conflict of interest and no conflict was declared.

Miscellaneous business including delegations

- **Crossing Guard Counts**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a crossing guard count that was taken the week of April 8 to April 12 at the crosswalk of Pictou Road and Hazel Drive, that was requested by the Commission. The count followed a resident complaint regarding an incident with a student falling in the crosswalk. Clerk and Treasurer Bell noted that, for the week, a total of three crossings were made during the morning shift, while a total of 55 crossings were made during the afternoons. The majority of afternoon crossings occurred when students were crossing with a stopped bus, lights flashing and

traffic stopped. The Commission discussed the number of students crossing, the traffic of Pictou Road, the other staffed crosswalks, and came to a consensus. Clerk and Treasurer Bell was instructed to seek out Department of Transportation approval and staffing for the crosswalk at Pictou Road and Hazel Drive with a crossing guard to be put in place for the afternoons until the end of the school year.

Business Arising out of the Minutes

- **Commission in Committee Report**

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg
Seconded by Kennedy*

I move that the Village of Bible Hill agree to extend the date of substantial completion, for the Village Office roof replacement project awarded to Fowler Construction, to February 28, 2019.

Motion carried.

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg
Seconded by Kenedy*

I move that the Village of Bible Hill accept the quote from Palaton Security at \$27 per visit for security services at the Bible Hill Recreation Park from May to October.

Motion carried.

Review of Correspondence

- **Good Neighbors Club Invitation**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented an invitation to the Commission for the Good Neighbors Club Open House, on April 24th from 2:00 - 4:00pm. The Commission noted their interest in the group; however, no Commissioner could confirm attendance. The Administrative Services Coordinator will check-in with Commissioner Burke next week to see if he is able to attend, and if he cannot, Clerk and Treasurer Bell will send regrets on behalf of the Commission.

Reports of Commissioners and Clerk and Treasurer

- **Commissioner Burke, Transportation Services**

Commissioner Burke spoke about the ongoing pothole issues in the Village, as well as the decaying trees along College Road that have caused issues in the recent wind storm. The Commission discussed the trees, mentioned that they are a safety concern, and requested that Clerk and Treasurer Bell contact NSTIR in regard to having those specific trees removed. Commissioner Burke also noted that May 4th is the last day that The Pond Restaurant will be open, that Crossley Carpet is closing in July and that there will be a Montana's opening in the Truro Mall in the near future.

- **Commissioner Kennedy, Protective Services**

Commissioner Kennedy presented that there were 27 fire calls so far in 2019, and no fire loss. He noted that there was a power surge to the Mellish Family home, caused by downed power lines in a recent wind storm. Commissioner Kennedy mentioned that the Fire Brigade's Chase the Ace fundraiser ticket sales are slow, and that the Annual Fire Brigade Auction is on May 4th at 10:00am. He also mentioned that the Fire Fit organizer asked the brigade to pair with Truro Volunteer Fire Brigade for the Fire Fit competition at the Truro Mall, and noted the wonderful turnout for the funeral of the fallen firefighter from Truro, Skylar Blackie. Commissioner Kennedy also acknowledged the appreciation for Scott and Donna MacDonald as well as the Ladies Auxiliary, for help in hanging/framing Fire Chief photos in the common room of the Brigade Quarters.

- **Commissioner Pitcher, Environmental Services**

Commissioner Pitcher deferred her report until the next Regular Monthly Meeting.

- **Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg, Recreation Services**

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg spoke about her attendance at the Bible Hill Volunteer Awards, CUPE bargaining negotiations, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, and the funeral of the late firefighter, Skylar Blackie. She then presented the Parks and Recreation Director's Recreation report. She mentioned that over the next few weeks staff and contractors will be repairing the damage caused over the winter and doing annual maintenance to get our parks and trails ready for summer and that the Parks and Recreation Director also met with faculty from the DalAC landscape architecture program to look at partnering on future parks and trail designs with their students. She also noted that our after-school programming is recommencing this week, and that there has been significant interest in Summer Day Camp already, with initial registration on May 23rd from 4-6PM. The Parks and Recreation Director will work with Bible Hill Consolidated Elementary School to provide some assistance to struggling families. Commissioner Van Kroonenburg then presented the summer facility opening schedule as follows: The Recreation Park washrooms will be available for the May long weekend, and the fields will be available for the last week of May. The Airport Park Field will be available for the May long weekend, and our splash pad will be opened on June 14th. Lastly, she reminded the Commission that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting is on May 7th, and for them to contact the Parks and Recreation Director or attend the meeting if they would like to give input on potential capital projects, as the Committee is reviewing their 6-year capital plan.

- **Chair MacCormick**

Chair MacCormick spoke about her attendance at the last Canada Day meeting and noted that the next meeting is set to take place on May 14th at 9:00am. She then noted the other events she attended being the CUPE negotiations, Bill Casey's Farewell Breakfast with the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce, the 12th Annual Women's Luncheon for Third Place Transition House with Recording Secretary Chaplin and Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg, as well as the Bible Hill Volunteer Awards Banquet on April 10th.

- **Clerk and Treasurer Bell**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented his report. He spoke about staff success in maintaining office flow while he was out of the office for an extended period for the first time without appointing an

acting Clerk and Treasurer. He spoke about his participation in CUPE bargaining negotiations and the Bible Hill Volunteer Awards. He mentioned that Grant Thornton auditors are currently in the Bible Hill office and that he expects their report is likely to be ready for the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on the second Tuesday in May at 6:00pm. He noted that there have been more complaints in regard to residents feeding the deer population, and also that summer maintenance staff will be starting in the coming weeks. Clerk and Treasurer Bell spoke about the 2-seat nomination period being held from May 9 to 16 for Commissioner Pitcher and Deputy Chair Van-Kroonenburg's seats. He noted that if an election is held, the date for an advance poll is set for June 4, the day after our Annual Electors' Meeting, and election day would be held June 8. Clerk and Treasurer Bell then spoke about the upcoming Bible Hill Fire Brigade Banquet on April 27th, as well as the Mayors' and Chief's Breakfast event on May 15, and reminded the Commission to RSVP as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kennedy took a moment to thank Clerk and Treasurer Bell for his attendance at the Bible Hill Volunteer Awards, and for taking photos at the event as well.

Accounts

Moved by Kennedy

Seconded by VanKroonenburg

That the Village of Bible Hill approves the accounts for payment.

Motion carried.

New Business

- **Minimum Wage**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell spoke about minimum wage increase as of April 1, 2019 of \$0.55 to \$11.55/hour and noted that it is set to increase an additional estimated \$0.55 on April 1, 2020 and again on April 1, 2021. He mentioned how programming and after-school staff, summer maintenance staff and crossing guards currently earn between \$12.64 and \$13.80, which was between \$1.64 and \$2.80 above minimum wage and that increases in minimum wage over the next three years will narrow that gap to between \$0.75 and \$1.98 above minimum wage, including assumption that wages will be increased in line with cost of living. The question he posed to the Commission was whether they wanted to consider increasing wages most close to minimum wage in order to maintain the current premium above minimum wage. After discussion, the Commission decided to leave the rate of pay as is and will discuss the matter further at a later date.

- **Budget and tax rate approval**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented the 2019-2020 Operating and Capital Budget for approval. He noted that there were some increases made in budget expenditures, such as the cost of streetlights, snow removal, as well as the upcoming hiring of a new Parks and Recreation Director with a two-week salary overlap. He noted the projected reserve balances to be \$1.418 million at March 31, 2020 compared to the previous year's \$1.403 million and lastly, he presented a tax rate history and noted that, if approved, this will be the 3rd consecutive year with the tax rates remaining the same in

Bible Hill. Clerk and Treasurer Bell noted that Bible Hill could operate on the same property tax rate for the year ahead, however future rising costs means pulling funding from reserves, increasing tax rates and/or further prioritizing capital projects.

*Moved by VanKroonenburg
Seconded by Kennedy*

That the Village of Bible Hill keep existing tax rates of \$0.70 for residential, \$0.525 for residential without sewer and \$0.87 for commercial per \$100 of assessment and adopt the operating and capital budget as presented for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Motion carried.

- **Municipal Alcohol Project invitation**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell reminded the Commission of an outstanding invitation for a Commissioner to attend the Municipal Alcohol Project meetings taking place in the Truro Police Service boardroom. Unfortunately, none of the Commissioners could attend the April 17 meeting. Clerk and Treasurer Bell will send regrets for the upcoming meeting and let Mr. Shedden know that one of the Commissioners will try to attend meetings in the future.

- **Fire truck disposal**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell spoke about the estimated delivery time being July for the recently ordered fire truck from Fort Garry Fire Trucks. He noted that prior to accepting delivery of the new truck, he would have to make room for it in the fire station by disposing of the oldest fire truck, a 1997 Volvo. Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented an advertisement drafted for the sale of the old truck and noted that he will attempt to establish a market value by having the truck appraised. The Commission spoke about wanting clarification as to what equipment currently on the truck is being sold with the truck, and what is going to be taken off prior to the sale.

*Moved By
Seconded by*

That the Village of Bible Hill approve Clerk and Treasurer Bell to decide with the Chief as to what is being sold with the old fire truck, have the truck appraised, and list it for sale.

Motion carried.

- **Unightly properties**

- **East Court Road**

Clerk and Treasurer presented a Dangerous and Unightly Complaint Form for a property on East Court Road. The Commission noted that they witnessed work being done on the home, and that they would like to hold off on sending the complaint form but would like Clerk and Treasurer Bell to ask the property owner for an update and potentially request for them to obtain a construction dumpster.

○ **Pictou Road**

Clerk and Treasurer presented a Dangerous and Unsightly Complaint Form for a property on Pictou Road. He explained that he has received a complaint regarding damage that had been done to nearby property and vehicles due to shingles of this building being in a state of disrepair and falling off. He noted that in addition, unsightly trash and materials were present around the side and back of the building. The Commission agreed to file the Dangerous and Unsightly Complaint Form with the Municipality of the County of Colchester.

○ **50 Main Street**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a Dangerous and Unsightly Complaint Form for a property on Main Street. The property contains a severely deteriorated outbuilding. The Commission agreed to file the complaint form with the Municipality of the County of Colchester.

Adjournment

Moved by Kennedy

Seconded by VanKroonenburg

That the April 16, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Village of Bible Hill be adjourned.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Chair MacCormick

Recording Secretary Chaplin

Clerk and Treasurer Bell
