

Village of Bible Hill
Commission in Committee Meeting
October 13, 2020



The Village of Bible Hill Commission in Committee meeting was held on October 13, 2020 via videoconferencing, per the direction of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issued July 29, 2020 (enclosed). Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; the meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Call to Order: Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg
Chair MacCormick
Commissioner Burke
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Pitcher
Clerk and Treasurer Bell
Recording Secretary Chandler

Guests:
Carvell McNutt, Commissioner candidate
Tim Shea, Commissioner candidate
Justin Clark, Commissioner candidate

Call for new or other business and review and approval of agenda

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called for new or other business. Commissioner Pitcher requested to add correspondence from Redcliff Middle School to the agenda. Clerk and Treasurer Bell requested to add a radar speed sign to the agenda. Commissioner Burke requested to add Covington Place to the agenda.

Moved by Kennedy and seconded by MacCormick, that the agenda be approved with additions. Motion carried.

Call for declaration of conflict of interests

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called for any declarations of conflict of interest and no conflict was declared.

Miscellaneous business including delegations

Policy review – Draft Personnel Policy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell reintroduced the topic of a draft Personnel Policy, as deferred from the September meeting, and he noted two new suggestions to add to the policy: Introduction and Complaint Process. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Kennedy, that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill adopt the Personnel Policy with the following amendments: add DUI terms, add an introduction, add a complaint process, and remove new part-time employee benefits, otherwise as presented by Clerk and Treasurer Bell. Motion carried.

Bible Hill Recreation Park Field #3

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented information from the TAAC Revitalization Committee in regards to proposed renovations at field #3 at Bible Hill Recreation Park. Bell provided a report which noted the following aspects of TAAC's proposal: cost, scope of work, demand/benefit versus cost, operations, contributions, and funding/budget. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Kennedy and seconded by MacCormick, that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill defer the current proposal from the TAAC Revitalization Committee in regards to upgrades to Field #3, and for the Village to further investigate and explore field #3 revitalization costs and funding opportunities. Motion carried.

New business

Policy review: Bible Hill Recreation Park Dog Control Policy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a draft Bible Hill Recreation Park Dog Control Policy. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Kennedy, that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill adopt the Bible Hill Recreation Park Dog Control Policy, with an amendment clarifying that dogs be permitted off-leash in field 2, otherwise as presented by Clerk and Treasurer Bell. Motion carried.

Policy review: Water System Expansion Policy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a draft Water System Expansion Policy. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Kennedy, that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill accept the Water System Expansion Policy as presented by Clerk and Treasurer Bell. Motion carried.

New Year's Day Levee – roundtable on possible alternative format

Clerk and Treasurer Bell commenced a roundtable for a possible alternative format for the 2021 New Year's Day Levee. Bell explained how due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 New Year's Levee will need to be modified to ensure safety of those in attendance.

Chair MacCormick suggested the Commissioners create and post New Year's day videos on social media inviting residents to contact the Commissioners with any questions that may have. Pitcher recommended hosting a live virtual event.

Commissioner Burke suggested polling neighbouring towns, community groups, etc., to see what they are planning to do. Clerk and Treasurer Bell indicated he will poll others who hold levees.

Street lighting – Bible Hill/Truro bridge/Main Street walking tunnels/culverts

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented correspondence from a resident. The correspondence noted the Bible Hill – Truro bridge on Main Street is very dark at night, and suggested that Village of Bible Hill work with the Town of Truro to install lights on the bridge. The Committee discussed.

Agreed by consensus that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill explore upgrading lighting at the bridge and also at Main Street rail underpass and walking tunnels.

Procurement: Building signage

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a design for new building signage showing *H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall* with the Bible Hill logo icon on the front of 69 Pictou Road, and *Bible Hill Fire Brigade* worded on the east side of the building. The Committee discussed.

Agreed by consensus that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill approve the presented design for building signage, with lowercase and uppercase letters for accessibility.

Candidate advertising via Village website and/or social media

Clerk and Treasurer Bell introduced a template for Commission candidates for advertising on the Village website and/or social media to provide equal space on the Village website for each candidate to promote their platform. The idea was introduced as a basis to better inform residents of the candidates running for office. The Committee discussed.

Agreed by consensus that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill accept the proposed template for Commission candidate advertising on the Village website and/or social media.

Clover Drive Park Complaint

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a complaint regarding garbage being regularly left on the picnic table at Clover Drive Park. Clerk and Treasurer stated that the complaint suggested the table be removed to discourage persons from using the space and leaving their trash behind. Clerk and Treasurer mentioned the option of purchasing new garbage bins for the park and keeping the picnic table in place. The Committee discussed.

Pictou Road crosswalk complaint

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided a resident complaint regarding a crosswalk at Pictou Rd and Cumming Drive. Clerk and Treasurer Bell shared more information regarding the crosswalk on Pictou Rd, at Cumming Dr (next to HazMat). He described how the resident feels that the area is poorly lit and therefore risky to cross, therefore, the resident would like to see lights installed at the crossing to alert motorists of pedestrians intending to cross.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell noted how where this crosswalk is situated, it is mid-way between NSP poles, meaning, it does not have a streetlight overhead, but each of the poles next to it on the DAL side do have lights. He continued by explaining how this is the only crossing on all of Pictou Rd that does not have some form of crosswalk lights.

Bell recalled that the Commission has requested that NSTIR review the Village's existing crosswalks for potential improvements, with TIR agreeing to look at three per year, with the Commission prioritizing Pictou at Hazel, Pictou

at East Court, and Main at Riverside crosswalks this year. He discussed that while this crosswalk was not selected as one of the first three, but that this is an area the Village is actively looking at and working to improve. The Committee discussed.

Agreed by consensus, that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill prioritize renewing the Pictou Road at Cummings Drive crosswalk with NSTIR as part of the next crosswalk review.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell resumed with the second topic of the complaint, regarding bicycle use on sidewalks. Bell explained that the resident feels bicycles using sidewalks can be startling as they quickly come up behind a person without warning., and that the resident feels there is no respect for pedestrians with bicycles on sidewalks. Clerk and Treasurer explained how Bicycle NS says that cyclists must follow the same law as motor vehicles and use the right-hand side of the road, not the sidewalk, unless the person is a child under 16. Clerk and Treasurer suggested this could be a message for our sign, website and social media to remind residents. The Committee discussed.

The Committee agreed by consensus that Village of Bible Hill develop a message for the LED sign, website, and social media to remind residents about proper bicycle use.

Correspondence from Redcliff Middle School Counsellor

Commissioner Pitcher discussed a letter received from Delaine Green, Counsellor at Redcliff Middle School regarding the school's breakfast program, noting that since the current pandemic, the school has seen a large influx of students utilizing the breakfast program. Commissioner Pitcher explained how the letter also noted that with current safety guidelines, the program must utilize more single serve items, including yogurt tubes, granola bars, etc., which cost more money. Commissioner Pitcher noted that 150+ students are currently using this breakfast program, and that there are more students showing up to school without a lunch, therefore the program is trying to provide lunch to feed these students as well. The Counsellor requested Village of Bible Hill support of their nutrition program. The Committee discussed.

It was agreed by consensus that Clerk and Treasurer Bell reach out to the MLA, Dave Ritcey to draw attention to this situation, and to develop a listing of potential support for schools to contact in these cases, such as Bible Hill Kinsmen and similar groups, local grocery stores, etc. Commissioner Pitcher indicated that she will respond to Delaine Green.

Procurement: Speed Radar Sign

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided information from local RCMP noting speeding concerns on Pictou Road near Bible Hill Consolidated Elementary School and suggesting the Village install a speed radar sign to attempt to slow speeding traffic. Clerk and Treasurer explained that he has contacted NSTIR, and they indicated they would not permit a permanent speed radar sign installation but would permit installation of a sign on a temporary/rotating basis. He provided a quote of \$4,480.00 plus HST for a temporary pole mounted speed radar sign, which can be installed on current speed signs.

Moved by Kennedy and seconded by MacCormick, that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill purchase a temporary speed radar sign for \$4,480.00 plus HST to install within the Village with the intent to improve pedestrian safety. Motion carried.

Covington Place/College Road Grass Cuttings

Commissioner Burke reported that residents of Covington Place are seemingly dumping their lawn cuttings in the ditch, which can lead to blockages and safety hazards. The Committee discussed.

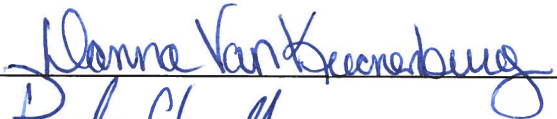
Agreed by consensus that Village of Bible Hill recommend Clerk and Treasurer Bell further look at specific properties and write a letter or notice to residents requesting they place their grass cuttings in their green bins as provided by the County.

Adjournment

Moved by Kennedy, that the October 13, 2020 Commission in Committee meeting of Village of Bible Hill be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

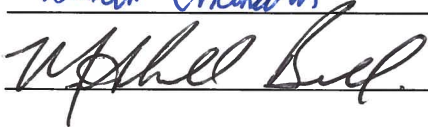
Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg

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Recording Secretary Chandler

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Clerk and Treasurer Bell

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Direction of the Minister
under a Declared State of Emergency
(Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*)
20-008

Under my authority in Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*, I order that this Direction (20-008) repeal and replace the Direction regarding municipal meetings issued on March 22, 2020.

During the Provincial State of Emergency declared on March 22, 2020, and under the authority provided to me in Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*, in addition to any other directives I have issued and not repealed or otherwise terminated, I direct that all municipalities and villages in the Province:

1. **Effective at 8am on July 29, 2020**, may hold meetings exclusively in person if all the following conditions are met:
 - i) the total number of persons present does not exceed a gathering limitation imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order;
 - ii) all physical distancing requirements or other requirements imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order are met.
2. If the conditions set out in (1) cannot be met, the municipality or village must not hold meetings exclusively in person and must instead hold the meeting partly or wholly as a virtual meeting by video or telephone, and ensure that all of the following conditions are met:
 - i) the total number of persons present for any in person portion of the meeting does not exceed a gathering limitation imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order; and
 - ii) for any in person portion of the meeting, all physical distancing requirements or other requirements imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order are met.

For clarity, this direction does not apply to statutorily required meetings of electors for a village commission which are covered under Direction 20-007 issued on May 20, 2020.

Despite this direction, municipalities and villages are still authorized to continue making other operational decisions especially those required for service delivery.

Please note that these directions are in addition to any requirements established in a Medical Officer's order under the *Health Protection Act*.

A failure to comply with this direction could result in a summary conviction with fines between \$500 to \$10,000 for individuals and up to \$100,000 for a corporation per incident.

This direction will remain in place for the duration of the Provincial State of Emergency unless it is terminated in writing by me earlier.

Dated July 29, 2020.

Original signed by

Hon. Chuck Porter
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing