

**Village of Bible Hill  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 16, 2021**



The Village of Bible Hill regular monthly meeting was held on March 16, 2021 in Commission Chambers, at the Village Office, 67 Pictou Road. Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm; the meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

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

**Guests:** Wade Parker, Councillor of the County of Colchester

**Regrets:** Solicitor Roper, Burchell MacDougall

**Review and approval of the minutes of February 16, 2021 and March 9, 2021**

*Moved by Burke and seconded by Pitcher, that the meeting minutes of February 16, 2021 and March 9, 2021 be approved. Motion carried.*

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

Chair Kennedy called for new or other business. Clerk and Treasurer Bell requested to add College Road Sidewalk project review, Sanitary Sewer Study extra fees to the agenda, and one litigation, and security to the closed session.

Commissioner Shea requested to add Security at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Brigade to the agenda.

*Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea, that the agenda be approved with additions. Motion carried.*

**Call for declaration of conflict of interests**

Chair Kennedy called for any declaration of conflict of interest and no conflict was declared.

**Miscellaneous business including delegations**

**Councillor Wade Parker**

Chair Kennedy welcomed Councillor Parker to the meeting. Parker noted that the noise by-law is still being assessed, as some noises are conflicting amongst residents. Parker also noted that regarding the issue of crows, this has been resolved as the crows have mostly departed, being no longer an issue. Parker further

explained how many J-class roads are not getting paved as per the property frontage costs associated, of which residents do not wish to pay. He noted that the Council is looking at initiating a different approach of budgeting such projects accordingly. Parker discussed that the gas tax funding should be accessible to the Village accordingly, and that he is willing to support the Village with obtaining this funding accordingly.

Councillor Parker explained how he was able to aid 902 Proud Ice Cream Store in obtaining their new location on Pictou Road, and that he is hoping that all goes well for that business moving forward. The Commission discussed. He then closed his remarks by welcoming the Commission to approach him with anything they need support with.

### **Budget update – February 28**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a budget update as of February 28, 2021. He informed the Commission of information on revenues, expenses, and bank balances for the operating fund, capital fund and reserve funds. The Commission discussed.

### **Review of draft operating, capital, and reserve budgets**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided an overall review of the draft budget for the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year, discussing operating, capital and reserve budgets of the revenues, expenditures, general government services, protective services, transportation, recreation and cultural services, environmental health services, and transfers. Bell added that the draft budget for the next five years was also provided to the Commission and requested for them to bring any further recommendations to the April Commission in Committee meeting before budget adoption at the April Regular Monthly meeting. The Commission discussed.

### **Business arising out of the minutes**

#### **Commission in Committee Report**

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Shea that Village of Bible Hill approve the twenty nominees for a 2021 volunteer award. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill authorize the Clerk and Treasurer to extend an offer of employment for a temporary maintenance worker for a one-year term. Motion carried.*

#### **Accessibility Advisory Committee Report**

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill change the Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy to modify the meeting times from the third Wednesday in June and November at 2:00pm to the third Thursday of June and November at 3:30pm. Motion carried.*

### **Review of Correspondence**

There were two pieces of correspondence to review.

## **Deputy Minister Paul LaFleche – Roadway improvements in Bible Hill**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a letter from Honourable Paul LeFleche, Deputy Minister with Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR). Bell summarized the letter aloud, which informed the Commission that the projects recently requested by the Village will not be considered as they were not included on the 2021-2021 edition of the Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan. The Commission discussed.

## **Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor – Community Spirit Award**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a letter from Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor, which was received with a Community Spirit Plaque. Bell summarized the letter aloud and presented the plaque accordingly, which recognizes the resilience of Nova Scotians over the last year. Bell questioned the Commission whether they had recommendations for placement of the plaque, and noted that the Lieutenant Governor requested photos of the plaques be sent in for the creation of a collage. The Commission discussed.

*Commissioners agreed by consensus to have the Community Spirit Award plaque installed in H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall.*

## **Minister Brendan Maguire**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a letter received from Municipal Affairs Minister Brendan Maguire, which invites the Village to connect with him, noting that he looks forward to working with the Village. The Commission discussed.

## **Reports of Commissioners and Clerk and Treasurer**

### **Commissioner Burke, Transportation Services**

Commissioner Burke spoke about the ongoing snow plowing and conditions of residents' properties accordingly. Burke noted that many residents have been complaining about curbs, sidewalks and yards being damaged with this winter's snow removal, both of the roads and of the sidewalks. He noted that it will take time to rectify these damages. He added that Nova Scotia Transportation Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) has been out filling in a select few potholes, though not with a permanent fix. He talked about patching that has been conducted at Osprey Court.

Burke added that he has been hearing concerns from residents surrounding the recent call for expression of interests for future winter sidewalk snow removal, noting that he informed residents that we are not looking to replace our current contractor, but that the Village is simply looking to have a list of capable companies in the future. The Commission discussed.

### **Commissioner Shea, Protective Services**

Commissioner Shea presented the March 2021 Fire Chief's report – as attached. Shea added that the Brigade membership is quite solid, with about 35 members, and more applications to process. The Commission discussed.

## **Commissioner Pitcher, Recreation and Cultural Services**

Commissioner Pitcher noted that she attended the virtual version of the February 25, 2021 Municipality of the County of Colchester Council, which proved informative. She noted that she also attended the March Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, where the Committee reviewed the Volunteer Awards nominations, of which twenty Village residents were nominated. Commissioner Pitcher then presented the March 2021 Recreation report – as attached. The Commission discussed.

## **Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg, Environmental Health Services**

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg noted that she attended the County of Colchester's recent virtual meeting, and that the meeting proved informative. She then discussed the recent Sanitary Sewer Study presentation from R.V. Anderson Associates Limited, noting that the study forecasts some hefty financial needs in the coming years, and that as per the presentation, funding needs to be allocated accordingly over future budgets. The Commission discussed.

## **Chair Kennedy**

Chair Kennedy reported that he recently attended recent the County of Colchester's virtual meeting, noting that it was eye opening. He also commented on the report from R.V. Anderson Associated Limited. He added that on February 25<sup>th</sup>, alongside Clerk and Treasurer Bell, he met with local MLA Dave Ritcey to discuss Village business and that the meeting proved productive and efficient. The Commission discussed.

## **Clerk and Treasurer Bell**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell opened his report by noting that over the past month, he attended the recent County of Colchester virtual meetings, where Village issues were discussed, including crows, noise, fireworks, J-class road funding, etc. He noted that he has approved a small amount of flooring, and some bathroom fixtures to be renewed in the maintenance shop before year end, as there was some unused capital fund budget. He added that he has also approved purchase of a "Billy Goat" walk behind utility mower for maintenance to help with more efficient trail maintenance. Bell noted that he has applied on behalf of the Village for Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, applying for construction of the proposed community gardens, also adding that another property needs to be determined as the previous properties, which were to be leased from the Dalhousie Agriculture College, are no longer available. He further explained the progress of funding opportunities for this community garden project.

Bell explained how he has applied on behalf of the Village for the Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit funding, for \$25,000, in hopes of replacing windows and HVAC controls at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall. Bell noted that this funding will contact recipients in the fall of 2021 accordingly.

Bell discussed the meeting he had on February 25<sup>th</sup>, with MLA Dave Ritcey, and Chair Kennedy, discussing Village priorities.

Bell added an update regarding quotes for the planned accessibility improvements at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall. He then discussed a recent meeting, on March 8, 2021, with the County of Colchester, Town of Truro, and Town of Stewiacke, with the plan to develop a regional approach to accessibility. He noted that there was an informal consensus to develop a Regional Accessibility Committee, with six to eight citizen members, and one

elected official from each body. He closed his report by announcing that at this stage, names of potential committee members for the Regional Accessibility Committee are being compiled, and will need to be approved accordingly. The Commission discussed.

## **Accounts**

*Moved by Burke and seconded by Van Kroonenburg, that Village of Bible Hill approve the accounts for payment. Motion carried.*

## **New Business**

### **Gas Tax Funding request – priorities**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell discussed gas tax funding with the Commission, highlighting the background of the funding, eligible projects, municipal allocations, recommendations regarding obtaining this funding, and priority projects that could be funded accordingly. He recommended the Commission work to ponder and develop a list of eligible projects, in prioritization, for gas tax funding, to submit to the County of Colchester accordingly. Bell presented a gas tax funding sharing model from the Municipality of Kings County in Nova Scotia, in which several Villages are provided adequate gas tax funding, which is allocated according to infrastructure provided. The Commission, and delegations discussed.

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill direct Clerk and Treasurer Bell write a draft letter to the County of Colchester requesting the Village's portion of the gas tax funding, percentage based and noting requested projects, in the care of Councilors Wade Parker and Eric Boutilier. Motion carried.*

### **Inter-account fund transfer – operating surplus to capital reserve**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell discussed a request to transfer \$300,000.00 from the operating fund (surplus) to capital reserve fund, as the operating fund surplus increased at the end of the last fiscal year / opening of current fiscal year, which was primarily due to the delay in the Pictou Road sidewalk project, which was originally budgeted for 2020, but did not occur until 2021. The Committee discussed.

*Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Burke that the Village of Bible Hill transfer \$300,000.00 from the balance of general operating fund surplus to capital reserve. Motion carried.*

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee membership nominations (3)**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented the nominations for three committee members; Judy Joy, Karen MacQuarrie, and Foster Stewart to the Commission. Bell noted that the Village is looking for four members. The Commission discussed.

*Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Van Kroonenburg that the Village of Bible Hill approve Judy Joy, Karen MacQuarrie and Foster Stewart as Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members, each for two-year terms. Motion carried.*

### **College Road Sidewalk Project Update**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented information regarding the College Road sidewalk project engineering drawing, which is currently ninety percent complete. Bell noted that this topic was added just this evening, and that the information is provided on Commissioner tables, including maps and graphics of the sidewalk construction project from Vimy Avenue to Johnson Avenue. Bell explained the proposed sidewalk construction plans, noting some recommendations and suggestions, as for accessibility, consistency, and overall safety. The Commission discussed.

### **Sewer study budget fee**

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented information received from R.V. Anderson Associates Limited (RVA), regarding extra fees requested for the Sanitary Sewer Study of \$8,000.00. Bell informed the Commission that as per the email received from RVA, their original quote did not include the third pumping station. The Commission discussed.

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that the Village of Bible Hill approve the extra cost of \$8,010.00 plus HST for the sanitary sewer study, as requested by the engineering firm, R.V. Anderson Associated Limited. Motion carried.*

### **Security at Bible Hill Fire Hall**

Commissioner Shea presented information regarding security at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall, and concerns installing a security system in the facility, with concerns of building access. Bell noted that the Village still sits in budget discussions regarding a security system, and that any such system would not impede Brigade access. The Commission discussed.

### **Bible Hill Fire Brigade 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Commissioner Shea informed the Commission that as per the brigade's meetings, they would normally hold their anniversary celebrations in April, and that the Brigade is looking to know what is permitted. Shea added that the Brigade has requested the installation of a flagpole with a plaque. The Commission discussed.

### **Closed Session – Potential litigation, litigation, security (3)**

*Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher to enter closed session. Motion carried.*

The Commission meeting entered closed session at 9:01pm.

Recording Secretary Chandler and Councillor Wade Parker left the meeting at 9:02pm.

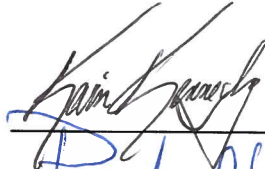
The Commission meeting returned to open session at 9:24pm.

### **Adjournment**

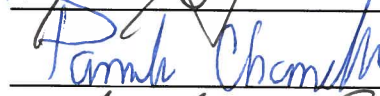
*Moved by Pitcher that the March 16, 2021 regular monthly meeting of Village of Bible Hill be adjourned. Motion carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

Chair Kennedy

Handwritten signature of Chair Kennedy in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary Chandler

Handwritten signature of Recording Secretary Chandler in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell

Handwritten signature of Clerk and Treasurer Bell in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature includes the text "W. Lee Bell, CA, CA.".

Member of

N.F.P.A.  
C.F.F.A.  
M.F.C.A.  
M.F.F.A.

**BIBLE HILL**



**FIRE BRIGADE**



69 Pictou Rd., Bible Hill, NS B2N 2R9 ♦ TEL: 902-895-8822 ♦ FAX: 902-895-1498 ♦ bhfire@biblehill.ca

## Fire Chief Report – March 2021

The brigade responded to seven emergency calls during the period of February 10 to March 10, as follows:

1. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 07:10, 40 Old Courthouse Road. Chimney Fire. Nothing visible. Provided some ventilation and returned to the station at 08:15. 15 members responded.
2. February 14<sup>th</sup>, 05:36, 20 Cumming Drive. Fire alarm sounding. Nothing found. Returned to the station at 06:26. 11 members responded.
3. February 14<sup>th</sup>, 15:50, 20 Cumming Drive. Fire alarm sounding. Stood down upon arrival. Returned to the station at 16:05. 12 members responded.
4. February 17<sup>th</sup>, 19:06, 73 Ryland Avenue. Report of building collapse. Upon arrival found a piece of tarp blowing in the wind. Returned to the station at 19:28. 21 members responded.
5. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 22:55, Main Street. Single vehicle rollover. Stood down by RCMP upon arrival. Returned to the station at 23:15. 14 members responded.
6. March 6<sup>th</sup>, 07:11, 1594 Truro Road, Hilden. Mutual Aid requesting RIT to the scene of an apartment fire. Returned to the station at 08:33. 11 members responded.
7. March 8<sup>th</sup>, 07:15, 26 Bridgeview Drive. Mutual Aid to Salmon River to the scene of a structure fire. Returned to the station at 08:01. 11 members responded.

Total Calls: 15

College Rd. kitchen fire - estimated at \$1,000.00

Total fire loss: estimated at \$1,000.00

Still awaiting report on a garage fire.

### Notes:

- COVID-19 high alert protocols have been relaxed for the time being, while COVID-19 regular response protocols remain in place for all calls. Updates will come as required.



- In lieu of the traditional banquet, the Bridge will be presenting awards for the past two years at its April meeting. Brigade members will be in dress uniform or station wear.
- The Brigade would like to welcome Scott Smith, Josh Killam, and Jordan Godfrey to the brigade membership. Currently the Brigade has 3 more applications out to be processed that we will hopefully have join the ranks within the next couple of weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Bisson

Fire Chief

## March Recreation Report

March Break events are filling up quickly, with many events at full capacity, with a waitlist. We have had a great response to the planned events, and residents of Bible Hill seem excited to get out and enjoy some activities during March break. All events require pre-registration and will follow COVID-19 regulations.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 11:00am-1:00pm there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Bible Hill Recreation Park. All children must pre-register and pick up a ticket at the Village office. Designated time slots will be available to people registering, this will limit the number of people taking part at one time. Children will be encouraged to find eggs that are spread out on the multipurpose field and trail surrounding the field, and then turn them in for a chocolate prize. There will be four time slots during the 2-hour event to allow for children to hunt for the eggs, collect their prize, and vacate the egg hunt area before the next group is set to begin. All eggs will be sanitized and cleaned prior to going back out on the field for another group.

Step into Spring is back for 2021. Simple and fun, the Step into Spring 10,000 step program is a great way to boost your current physical activity level and motivate you to get moving and Step into Spring! The program begins March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and packets will be available for purchase from the Village of Bible Hill office beginning the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The program works by having participants register for the program, wear a pedometer or fitness tracker, recording their daily steps achieved, and then submitting those steps to the Colchester Recreation Department for a chance to win weekly prizes.

Finally, our Volunteer Awards are fast approaching. We will be giving out 20 awards this year. We have received nominations for four of the categories of awards, which is great. The event

itself will look different than previous years, with pictures and biographies being released online throughout the month of April, leading up to the provincial volunteer week of April 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2021. In the past there was a banquet to celebrate the wonderful volunteers we have in the Village of Bible Hill, but due to Covid-19, this year's event will be entirely virtual.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Kennedy

*Parks and Recreation Director*