

The Village of Bible Hill Commission in Committee Meeting was held on November 12, 2014 in the Village Office, 67 Pictou Road. Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Call to Order: Chair Burke
Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg
Commissioner MacCormick
Commissioner McLean
Commissioner McLeod

Staff: Clerk and Treasurer Christianson
Recording Secretary Ogden

In Attendance: Recreation Director Smithson
Resident N. Loomer

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 2014

*Moved by McLean
Seconded by McLeod*

That the minutes of October 14, 2014 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

Review and Approval of the Agenda, call for new or other business

*Moved by McLeod
Seconded by McLean*

That the agenda be approved with the addition of Streetlight request for Allison Avenue/Pictou Road, Update on TIR requests, Update on BH Elementary School under the New Business section of the agenda.

Motion carried.

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg welcomed Recreation Director Smithson and resident N. Loomer to the meeting.

New Business

- Update on Bible Hill Elementary School

Commissioner MacCormick reported on the recent Steering Committee meeting the Recreation Director attended on behalf of the Village for the new P-4 Elementary School in Bible Hill. She reviewed the space allocation sheet from the SST meeting, reviewing sizing for classrooms, group workrooms, gym, library and cafeteria. Discussions at the SST meeting identified the cafeteria area as being small, and that variable options should be looked into for making this space larger. The committee reviewed the space allocation of the library and reviewed the new

trend of installing age appropriate libraries in each class rather than allocating space for a separate room. The Province is also looking into an entrance location that would be coming from Vimy Road and used as a main entrance.

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for December, if the commission has any input please pass along to Brendon to share on behalf of the Village.

- Natural Playground- Bible Hill Recreation Park

Recreation Director Smithson made a presentation to the Village Commission on the concept of installing a natural playground at our Bible Hill Recreation Park. He provided background history on the play structure that requires replacement. The play structure was damaged a few years ago and more issues are becoming apparent with the 11-year structure. Play structures life spans are usually 12-15 years.

The Village has two options, to replace the structure with a play structure of similar style or to install the new style of play structures, which are natural playgrounds. These playgrounds utilize natural elements within the play area such as trees, rocks, hills etc. The lifespan of natural playgrounds are estimated at 30 to 40 years but does require different and ongoing maintenance to ensure it meets CSA standards. The P&R Committee has agreed that this new style would connect the kids to the outdoors and allow them to explore and experience the outdoors.

The first step in the replacement process is to hire a landscape architect to design the play area. Recreation Director Smithson has investigated funding options through the Department of Health and Wellness for planning that would match 50% up to \$5,000. Both the Clerk and Recreation Director has developed an RFP and requested permission from the commission to proceed with the RFP. The RFP made it mandatory for the consultant to meet with the public for input and the maintenance staff to ensure they are able to meet the maintenance needs of the natural playground.

*Moved by McLeod
Seconded by MacCormick*

That the Village of Bible Hill staff proceeds with advertising the RFP for Design Services for our Natural Playground Project at the Bible Hill Recreation park, not to exceed \$10,000.

Motion carried.

- Access Control System

The Access control system is to be installed at the Village Office. The quotations include software, hardware, installation and setup.

*Moved by MacCormick
Seconded by McLeod*

That the Village of Bible Hill award the quotation for the access control system for the Village Office at 67 Pictou Road to Pop-A-Lock Maritimes at a cost of \$2,965.56 including HST.

Motion carried.

- Unightly Property Pictou

The Clerk received three complaint calls regarding an unsightly property on Pictou Road. The Village Commission reviewed the photos that were submitted by one area resident. The Clerk has spoke to the Development Officer for the County and a dangerous and unsightly form has been filed. The unsightly property owner was given till Monday to clean up the property but as of today the debris remained. The Clerk informed the commission that he contacted the County today to obtain an update. The Building Inspector will be going out to the site to review the property. The Clerk recommended that if no movement has been accomplished by next Tuesday the Village should also file a dangerous and unsightly complaint. This issue is also a fire hazard and the information has been forwarded to the Fire Chief.

- New Building Canada Fund

The Clerk reviewed the correspondence received from Municipal Affairs regarding the call for applications to the New Building Canada Fund- Small Communities Fund. Only one application will be accepted from each eligible applicant and the priority project must be initiated within the next 3 fiscal years, 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. The application deadline is December 19th, 2014. A discussion took place on eligible projects.

*Moved by McLean
Seconded by McLeod*

That the Village of Bible Hill permit the Clerk and Treasurer to submit the Village application for the Storm Water Upgrades at the Bible Hill Recreation Park for the fiscal year 2017/2018 under the New Building Canada Fund- Small Communities Fund.

Motion carried.

- Financial Statement to October 31, 2014

The Clerk reviewed the financial statement and answered a few questions on the revenue section.

- Residential and Commercial Tax Rates

The Clerk reviewed the spreadsheet containing the yearly residential and commercial tax rate from 2000 to 2014. The Clerk recommended that a 1% increase be applied for next year's residential and commercial tax rate. A discussion took place. The commission agreed to use a 1% increase during the budget process.

- Streetlight Request- Allison Avenue/Pictou Road

Moved by McLean

Seconded by McLeod

That the Village of Bible Hill install a LED streetlight across the street from the corner of Allison Avenue and Pictou Road.

Motion carried.

The Clerk informed the commission that with the new LED streetlights, these fixtures could be adjusted to provide certain wattage of light. The amount of wattage is determined when NS Power scopes the light out prior to installation. If the Village disagrees with the wattage, a report can be filed and they would reinvestigate.

- Update TIR Request

The Chair inquired if the Village heard anything back from TIR on concerns submitted to them relating to Teakwood, East Court, Meadowland and Saywood Estates. He was concerned that the Village was not getting quick responses on these issues. The Clerk outlined that we have not received any updates from these issues addressed with TIR.

- Provincial- Municipal Fiscal Review

Commissioner MacCormick reported on the recent meetings held regarding the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review. The review had two recommendations, number 13 and 14 that affected villages. The Chair attended a session in Truro, while Commissioner MacCormick and the Clerk attended the session in New Minas; it was well attended by villages. She expressed her disappointment with the meeting and felt the Villages were unable to speak at this meeting.

Following the Provincial meeting, villages met in Port Willams to reconvene the ANSV meeting and much discussion took place on each village's own uniqueness. A decision emerged from the meeting to hold an emergency meeting for all villages on November 8th. There was an excellent turnout, with 11 villages and written responses from 4 who were unable to attend. Each village was given an opportunity to speak. A draft media release was developed from the meeting and distributed to all villages; a letter is currently being drafted to Premier MacNeil from the ANSV.

Commissioner MacCormick reiterated the importance of having a strong presentation from our village opposing the two recommendations that would affect villages and suggested that we should be in the process of putting together a presentation of our uniqueness as a village. The Chair stated that all villages need to fight as a group and show the unity among villages.

A discussion took place regarding drafting a media release, informing the community and contacting our local MLA with our concerns. The Clerk will have a draft media release for the Village at the next Tuesday's meeting.

Adjournment

*Moved by Burke
Seconded by McLeod*

That the November 12, 2014 Commission in Committee Meeting of the Village of Bible Hill be adjourned.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg _____

Clerk and Treasurer Christianson _____

Recording Secretary Ogden _____