

**Village of Bible Hill
Commission in Committee Meeting
January 12, 2021**



The Village of Bible Hill Commission in Committee meeting was held on January 12, 2021 in the Commission Chambers, 67 Pictou Road. Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; the meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.

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

Guests: Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy
Dave Ritcey, MLA
Bible Hill Fire Brigade Fire Chief Bisson

Regrets: Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg

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

Chair Kennedy wished everyone present a happy new year and called for new or other business. No other business was called.

Moved by Burke and seconded by Knickolle, that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Call for declaration of conflict of interests

Chair Kennedy called for any declarations of conflict of interest and one conflict was declared.

Commissioner Shea informed the Committee that he will be presenting information regarding the street where he resides, and that he feels he may have a conflict of interest for said discussion. The Committee discussed. Clerk and Treasurer Bell indicated that, while he cannot provide legal advice as it is up to any individual Commissioner to determine potential conflicts, based on his understanding of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, living in an area involved in debate is not likely a conflict of interest under the Act. Commissioner Shea offered to leave the meeting table during the discussion of this topic.

Miscellaneous business including delegations

Chair Kennedy welcomed the MLA, Dave Ritcey to the Commission in Committee meeting, and opened the floor to the MLA. Mr. Ritcey offered a happy new year to the room. He noted that he is excited to serve the community in 2021, and is hopeful that the year will be better than 2020 for all. He added that the Province is hoping to have 75% of the population vaccinated by early fall. He informed the Committee that a new Premier will be announced February 6th, 2021. He requested that if the Village does have any issues to bring forward to the Province, that he is happy to help and support as an advocate.

New business

Community garden overview – Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy

Chair Kennedy invited Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy to join the meeting table and asked him to provide an update on how the Commission could potentially introduce a community garden to the community. Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy presented a community garden proposal prepared by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. He noted a garden project proposed to have between 25 to 30, 4 foot by 8 foot plots, with a potential location at the corner of College Road and Vimy Road. He informed the Committee that this lot is currently owned by Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus (DAL AC), and the potential of the Village leasing the lot is in discussion with DAL AC. He added that if that land parcel is not a viable option, other options are being considered. Director Kennedy noted that a community garden sub-committee could be developed to help manage and maintain the garden.

The Director added that community gardens have many benefits, highlighting that they benefit the environment, improve overall mental and physical health, support a sense of community and belonging, better connect residents with nature, etc. Director Kennedy informed the Committee that among the proposed plots, several accessible plots are proposed to make the garden accessible for those with disabilities, and a large portion of the walking areas would be paved, ensuring an inclusive garden for all. He added that existing local community gardens, it is difficult to obtain a plot, which indicates high interest within the local communities of available garden plots.

Director Kennedy further discussed the community garden proposal, providing details regarding water access, fencing, a gathering area, a community needs assessment via community survey, waste disposal, cyclical compost, soil, rain barrels, associated costs, etc.

The Committee discussed.

Bible Hill Fire Brigade Fire Chief Bisson joined the meeting at 7:30pm.

Chair Kennedy thanked Director Kennedy for the information and recommended moving this topic to the February 2021 capital budget development meeting.

Budget development: Operating budget

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a timeline for budget development, noting what needs to be completed over the next few months. Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a draft operating budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, highlighting the components of general government services, protective services, transportation services, recreation and cultural services and associated revenues from own/other sources, environmental health services, and other expenditures and transfers. Clerk and Treasurer Bell noted that COVID-19 continues to be a large factor affecting many aspects of the budget.

Mr. Ritcey left the meeting at 7:59pm. He rejoined the meeting at 8:07pm.

Chair Kennedy invited Commissioners to inquire with Fire Chief Bisson on any questions pertaining to the protective services draft budget. Chief Bisson thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting and noted that COVID-19 has greatly affected their current year activities. He then provided a summary of the Brigade's activities over the last year, noting a large increase in calls, and ongoing training. He noted that the Brigade has established a small committee, with hopes of working with the Commission and the Village staff to plan the Brigade's 75th anniversary in calendar 2021.

The Committee discussed.

Chair Kennedy thanked Chief Bisson for his information. Chief Bisson left the meeting at 8:18pm.

Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy left the meeting at 8:39pm.

The Committee discussed.

Review and re-adoption of polices: Expenditure Reimbursement Policy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented an updated draft Expenditure Reimbursement Policy, noting recommended changes. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill re-adopt the Expenditure Reimbursement Policy, with amendments. Motion carried.

Review and re-adoption of polices: Hospitality Policy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented an updated draft Hospitality Policy, noting recommended changes. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill re-adopt the Hospitality Policy, with amendments. Motion carried.

Retson Drive – Commissioner Shea

Chair Kennedy invited Commissioner Shea to speak about Retson Drive. Commissioner Shea commenced by informing the Committee that this was an issue brought to Commissioner Shea by a resident. Commissioner Shea explained how Retson Drive currently has no sidewalk, and proposed installation as a future capital project. He further noted that the street has three bus stops, serves as a connector between Meadowland Ave and Village Line Ave, and is in close proximity to the nearby trails. It was further noted that sidewalks promote healthy lifestyles by providing safe walking areas. Commissioner Shea left the meeting table at 9:09pm for the Committee to discuss.

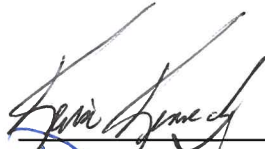
The Committee discussed.

Adjournment

Moved by Pitcher that the January 12, 2021 Commission in Committee meeting of Village of Bible Hill be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.

Chair Kennedy

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Recording Secretary Chandler

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

Clerk and Treasurer Bell

Handwritten signature of Clerk and Treasurer Bell in blue ink, written above a horizontal line.