

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



The Village of Bible Hill regular monthly meeting was held on February 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 9:20pm.

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy
Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg
Commissioner Burke
Commissioner Pitcher
Commissioner Shea
Clerk and Treasurer Bell
Recording Secretary Chandler
Solicitor Roper, Burchell MacDougall, via teleconferencing

Guests: Eric Boutilier, Councillor of the County of Colchester

Review and approval of the minutes of January 19, 2021 and February 9, 2021.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher, that the meeting minutes of January 19, 2021, and February 9, 2021 be approved, with one punctuation edit to the February 9, 2021 minutes accordingly. Motion carried.

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

Chair Kennedy called for new or other business. Van Kroonenburg requested to add the Meadowland Rink, Veteran Flags, and Senior Accessibility to Services to the agenda.

Moved by Burke 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

Greetings from Councilor Boutilier

Chair Kennedy welcomed Councilor Boutilier to the meeting. Councilor Boutilier noted that the budget will be affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Boutilier also noted that the County is investigating a potential noise by-law, as there have been many residents received from residents. The Commission discussed.

Budget update – January 31

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a budget update as of January 31, 2021. He informed the Commission of information on revenues, expenses, and bank balances for the operating fund, and capital fund. The Commission discussed.

Bridge lighting update

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided an update on the Salmon River bridge lighting project. He presented a letter from Kimberly MacPherson, Professional Engineer with Nova Scotia Transportation Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR). Bell provided a draft design of the lighting project and presented the estimated quote at \$43,680.00 plus 30% contingency, equaling \$56,784.00. Bell added that NSTIR is looking for a response within one week. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Shea that Village of Bible Hill instruct Clerk and Treasurer Bell to contact Nova Scotia Transportation Infrastructure Renewal to determine if they could remove the three roadway lights, and reduce the twelve pedestrian lights to eight, for an overall cost of \$30,480 plus a contingency of thirty percent, for a total cost of \$39,624.00, and to write a letter to the Town of Truro regarding the option of cost sharing fifty percent of the Salmon River Bridge Lighting project Motion carried.

Crosswalk infrastructure

Clerk and Treasurer presented information regarding crosswalk infrastructure, noting quotes for repairs of three locations. The quote for Main Street at Riverside Avenue was presented at \$5,000.00 plus HST. The quote for Pictou Road at Hazel Drive was presented at \$5,000.00 plus HST, and the quote for Pictou Road at East Court Road was presented at \$10,000.00 plus HST, with an overall 10% admin fee from NSTIR, at a total cost of \$22,000 plus HST. The Commission discussed.

Councilor Boutilier left the meeting at 7:29pm.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill approve crosswalk infrastructure repairs at Main Street and Riverside Avenue at the estimated cost of \$5,000.00 plus HST, Pictou Road at Hazel Drive at the estimated cost of \$5,000.00 plus HST, and Pictou Road at East Court Road at the estimated cost of \$10,000 plus HST, with the administrative fee from Nova Scotia Transportation Infrastructure Renewal of ten percent, for a total of \$22,000.00 plus HST. Motion carried.

It was agreed by consensus that Village of Bible Hill set the next three priorities for crosswalk review/potential improvements as College Road at Maple Boulevard, College Road at the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus Library, and Pictou Road at Cumming Drive.

Business arising out of the minutes

Commission in Committee Report

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill rescind the motion of January 19, 2021 authorizing the purchase of signage from Conway Customz for \$11,110.51 plus HST; and authorize the purchase of signage from MinuteMan Press for \$8,305.26 plus HST. Motion carried.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill revoke the Summer Student Hiring Policy, and adopt the Summer Employment Policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher that Village of Bible Hill award the commercial lawn mower purchase and trade of 2011 John Deere X740 mower to Green Diamond Equipment Ltd for a net price of \$18,400 plus HST; authorize disposal of the 2011 John Deere X740 mower; and instruct the Clerk and Treasurer to prepare a change order modifying the specifications to those presented – with a cost impact of +\$500 plus HST. Motion carried.

Review of Correspondence

There were three pieces of correspondence to review.

Minister of Justice: Accessibility Act

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a letter from Minister Mark Furey, noting that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a one-year extension has been granted for the development of an accessibility plan, and that the Village's accessibility plan must now be completed by April 1, 2022. The Commission discussed.

Bible Hill Cemetery Company

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a letter of thanks from the Bible Hill Cemetery, acknowledging the Village for their continued cooperation and support. The Commission discussed.

Deer Population

Clerk and Treasurer presented a letter from the County of Colchester, noting that the County's Council is looking to determine the Village's interest in undertaking a joint initiative to address the local deer population. The Commission discussed.

It was agreed by consensus that the Village of Bible Hill Commission would like to continue discussion and working together on this topic of shared interest.

Reports of Commissioners and Clerk and Treasurer

Commissioner Burke, Transportation Services

Commissioner Burke spoke of CBCL noting their recently completed projects. Burke noted that regarding the Accessibility Act, handrails and tactile plates shall be installed at crosswalks and ramps for uniformity. Burke further added that Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) has been patching solely roads owned by them. Burke questioned whether the county has addressed the roads that are owned by the County and whether they have a plan as to how these J-class roads will receive the necessary repair and/or paving work. The Commission discussed.

Commissioner Shea, Protective Services

Commissioner Shea presented the February 2021 Fire Chief's report – as attached.

Commissioner Pitcher, Recreation and Cultural Services

Commissioner Pitcher noted that she attended a Zoom webinar for Mental Wellness, which proved to be a helpful, positive experience. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity of being able to attend that webinar. Commissioner Pitcher then presented the February 2021 Recreation report – as attached. The Commission discussed.

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg, Environmental Health Services

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg discussed the recent third memo of the Sanitary Sewer Study, noting that the study highlighted a ten-year capital plan. She further noted that she has recently received a call about the drainage issues at Retson Drive, therefore went to look herself, and it appears that the culvert is not fully open, and that the ditch does not appear to be deep enough along Retson Street. Van Kroonenburg noted that other properties on Meadowland Avenue and Fox Hill Drive are lacking drainage, and properties are often flooded. She questioned whether the Village or the County of Colchester could assist with this issue for those homeowners.

Chair Kennedy requested we defer this discussion until after the reports are completed.

Chair Kennedy

Chair Kennedy reported that he recently had a meeting with NSTIR which proved to be eye opening. He noted that on January 22nd, he virtually attended the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) quarterly meeting, and that the ANSV is looking to set up a Committee to meet with the Provincial government to better represent Villages. Kennedy added that on February 11th he virtually attended the County of Colchester Council meeting to listen to topics of importance to the Village.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell

Clerk and Treasurer Bell opened his report by noting that over the past month, he has been spending his time in the following areas:

- budget development
- working with R.V. Anderson Associates, for the sanitary sewer study, and communicating with Colchester Public Works to discuss ongoing study and technical memos;
- working with CBCL Limited, the Village's sidewalk design engineering firm, discussing the progress of the College Road sidewalk drawings project;
- working with ABLE Engineering Limited, the Village's accessibility improvements design engineering firm, discussing the progress of planned improvements at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall;
- working to draft the Village's Accessibility Plan with the Accessibility Advisory Committee;
- maintaining on-going items such as discussing road matters with NSTIR, including crosswalk improvements and bridge lighting options, seeking approval for the spec and installation locations for speed radar signs
- Collections regarding unpaid sewer levy by Chignecto Central Regional Centre of Education (CCRCE)

- Meeting with the Chair, Mayor of Colchester and staff, and NSTIR for the quarterly meeting – noting that NSTIR is planning to pave Avon Street in 2021, and College Road in 2022;
- Working with a security firm to determine potential costs of installing cameras on site, and potentially upgrading the Village’s access control system;
- Attending the quarterly Association of Nova Scotia Villages board meeting (virtual);
- Attending a “Meaningful and Accessible Online Public Engagement” webinar provided by the Accessibility Directorate;
- Discussions with the Village’s solicitor regarding property easement for trail construction, and other closed session topics;
- Attending a Colchester Council in Committee meeting to hear thoughts on Bible Hill topics, including
 - the lease of parkland to Bible Hill – noting that the Committee recommended council move forward with this;
 - crows in Bible Hill – noting that the Committee defeated a motion to purchase a noise producing ‘whaler’ machine;
 - and a noise/fireworks bylaw – noting that the Committee decided to send this to staff for further adjustment for the first reading.

Bell noted that this has been a busy month, and he then informed the Commission of the ‘Canada Healthy Communities Initiative’ Grant Funding program. Bell ended his report requesting the Commission consider nominating volunteers in the community for the Village’s upcoming Volunteer Awards. The Commission discussed.

Accounts

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

New Business

Meadowland Ice Rink

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg informed the Commission that over the past weekend, the rink was being used for hockey on both sides when it is meant to have hockey on one side and skating on the other side, and that the Parks and Recreation Director was called over to address this accordingly. She added that Kennedy then worked to defuse the altercation, therefore changed the rink to have hockey on the large side and skating on the smaller side, contradicting the signs at the rink which mark each side for their intended purpose. Van Kroonenburg noted that residents were rather upset as there was not ample space for residents to be skating. It was decided by consensus that in any future altercations, the local RCMP should be called in to diffuse the situation accordingly. It was further added that adding signage stating, “Use at own risk,” and/or a lock, and/or a gate would be beneficial to limit liability for any accidents. The Commission discussed.

Veteran Flags

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg noted that the Town of Truro has recently put out their Annual Review in the mail, and that the review highlighted that the Town has added the veteran flags/banners this past year. She questioned whether the Village would like to offer residents an option if they want to purchase flags in memory of their veteran family members.

Clerk and Treasurer noted that he does not have the per unit cost for such banners, and that there would be the cost incurred of installing such banners. It was added that the Town of Truro requested \$100 per banner accordingly.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell offered to further investigate such costs and prepare some information of which he would be forwarding to the Commission. The Commission discussed.

Senior Accessibility to Services

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg informed the Commission that she has recently received a phone call from a senior who stated that in the past, there existed a group of volunteers who supported seniors with various tasks, errands and chores. Commissioner Pitcher noted that in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, there was a program called Hands for the Elderly, which employed teenagers who would support seniors by painting fences, cleaning out basements, etc. She noted that it was a good program for the teenagers, and the seniors, alike.

It was suggested to bring this idea forward to the Kinsmen Club, or Knights of Columbus. It was also suggested that the Village could develop a list of volunteers to link seniors with accordingly. The Commission discussed.

It was agreed by consensus that the Village develop a call of interest for volunteers, develop a list of said volunteers, and share said list with the Commission to use as requests come in. It was added that any volunteers on the list would need to provide a valid Criminal Record Check before being added to the list.

Inter-account fund transfer

Clerk and Treasurer Bell requested two inter-account fund transfers. He requested to transfer \$5,800.00 from the operating fund to the fire reserve fund, as these funds come from the recent sale of the brigade's retired truck. Clerk and Treasurer Bell also requested to transfer \$1,108.56 from the operating fund to the capital reserve fund as these funds come from the recent sale of surplus assets. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea that Village of Bible Hill transfer \$5,800.00 from the operating fund to the fire reserve fund and \$1,108.56 from the operating fund to the capital reserve fund. Motion carried.

Closed Session – Personnel (1) & Matter eligible for solicitor-client privilege (2)

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

The Commission meeting entered closed session at 08:43pm.

The Commission meeting returned to open session at 9:09pm.

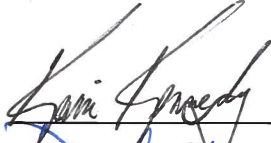
Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Van Kroonenburg that Village of Bible Hill amend the Personnel Policy, changing the parental pension contributions to match the Pension Services Corporation Plan text from 12 months to 18 months. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Van Kroonenburg that the February 16, 2021 regular monthly meeting of Village of Bible Hill be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

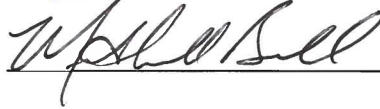
Chair Kennedy



Recording Secretary Chandler



Clerk and Treasurer Bell



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 – February 2021

The brigade responded to six emergency calls during the period of January 13, 2021 to February 10, 2021. They are as follows:

1. January 17, 14:43, 295 College Road. Stove on fire in apartment building. Fire was extinguished by a neighbor with a fire extinguisher. The Brigade provided ventilations and investigation. Returned to the station at 16:46 with 22 members responding.
2. January 26, 15:08, 267 Vimy Road. Garage on fire. Mutual aid by Valley Kemptown, Salmon River and Truro. Returned to the station at 17:25 with 21 members responding.
3. February 3, 18:18, 997 Highway 311. Mutual aid for North River, tanker and crew to a barn fire. Returned to the hall at 00:10 on February 4 with 20 members responding.
4. February 5, 11:51 am, 155 Saywood Drive. Report of carbon monoxide detector going off. Owner was soldering in his basement and set off the detector. Returned to the station at 12:20 with 8 members responding.
5. February 5, 17:39, 20 Cumming Drive. Fire alarm sounding. Nothing found. Returned the station at 18:18 with 11 members responding.
6. February 9, 18:37, 66 Vimy Road, 2 vehicle Motor Vehicle Accident. Returned to the station at 19:29 with 17 members responding.

Total Calls: 8

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

Total fire loss: estimated at \$1,000.00

Notes:

- COVID-19 protocols remain in place.
- Training programs are starting back up for the winter session. The Brigade will be joining mutual aid departments in training sessions in the coming weeks.
- The Brigade will be awarding annual awards at the April meeting this year as we are not able to hold our annual banquet.

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Bisson

Fire Chief

February Recreation Report

February has seen the Village's snowshoe lending program being well used over the past weeks with lots of people borrowing them.

An outdoor activity program led by the Bible Hill Parks and Recreation Director and two Recreation Assistants has begun once again and is popular amongst the students. We are offering an outdoor program to classroom cohorts during the day to get the students outside and enjoying nature. This program is currently offered to two grade six classes and we expect more classroom cohorts to become interested in the near future.

Senior socials are beginning again on February 18th 2021 and will take place on the third Thursday of each month. Music by local musicians, and a light snack will be provided by the Bible Hill Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary. Pre-registration is required.

March break will see a lineup of outdoor and recreation activities offered to the community at no cost. There will be a Farnham Brook Trail Hike, a shamrock scavenger hunt on the Pat Mahaney Bike Trail, and multiple free skates and swims at Deville's Rink and Scotia Pool, as well as a free bowling event at the Bible Hill Bowlcade. This will offer the community multiple opportunities to get out and be active as a family throughout the week of March Break. All events will follow Covid-19 regulations and require pre-registration.

Finally, our Volunteer Awards Banquet is fast approaching. The deadline for submission is Monday February 22nd, 2021. We have received multiple nominations to date and look forward to more in the coming days.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Kennedy

Parks and Recreation Director