

**Village of Bible Hill
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 20, 2021**



The Village of Bible Hill regular monthly meeting was held on July 20, 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 9:50pm.

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

Review and approval of the minutes of June 15, 2021

Moved by Burke and seconded by Van Kroonenburg, that the meeting minutes of June 15, 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 *ditch clearing* and *day care property tax reduction* to new business, and *personnel* under closed session. Commissioner Van Kroonenburg requested to add *Meadowland* to miscellaneous business including delegations. Commissioner Burke requested to add *looking ahead* to new business.

Moved by Shea and seconded by Van Kroonenburg, 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

Budget update

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a budget update, as of June 30, 2021. Bell provided updates on operating, capital, and reserve accounts. The Commission discussed.

Village Line Avenue traffic survey and correspondence

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented the results of a Village Line Avenue traffic survey conducted by the Village. Bell noted that, overall, opinions of residents submitted indicate that residents are not happy with the Department of Transportation and Active Transit's (NSTAT) decision to remove stop signs along Village Line Avenue at the intersection of Forest Hill Drive. Bell summarized the survey results and presented a letter from

Mr. David Arenburg, commending the Commission for pursuing the topic of traffic on Village Line Avenue. Bell added that he has shared the survey results with the County of Colchester, as indicated in the original survey invitation that was distributed to residents in the mail. The Commission discussed.

Wooden storm drains

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided information regarding wooden catch basins around the Village within NSTAT right-of-way, including the general purpose, an inventory estimate of how many of these catch basins are known to exist and how many are thought to be in disrepair. Bell further explained how, in his opinion, such storm drains within NSTAT right-of-way should fall under the jurisdiction of NSTAT according to their own policy on maintaining curbs and storm drains. Bell informed the Commission that he has provided the information to NSTAT with a request to understand their stance on the subject and whether they will perform maintenance. The Commission discussed.

Attendance at ANSV AGM - September 17 & 18, Village of New Minas

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided information regarding the Association of Nova Scotia Villages' (ANSV) Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is scheduled for September 17 and 18 in the Village of New Minas. The Commission discussed. It was determined by consensus that all Commissioners and the Clerk and Treasurer will plan to attend the ANSV AGM.

Commissioner Van Kroonenburg was disconnected from the meeting at 7:20pm.

Proposed Colchester Nuisance By-law

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a summary of a proposed County of Colchester Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law for information. The Commission discussed.

Commissioner Van Kroonenburg reconnected to the meeting at 7:26pm.

Meadowland

Van Kroonenburg requested an update regarding Meadowland flooding issues. Bell summarized information from a prior year that the Village had an engineering study conducted to understand storm water flows in the area and that the Village requested that NSTAT undertake ditching of a small area on Meadowland Avenue in order to better establish a ditch and prevent water from spilling out onto the sidewalk and street, however at the time NSTAT did not consider it to be a priority project. Bell suggested that on NSTAT owned Meadowland Avenue, ditching would be a responsibility of NSTAT to undertake, but where not a priority of NSTAT, the Village may need to consider undertaking the work if it is desired to be completed. Bell offered to obtain pricing on ditching work to bring to the Commission and cautioned that no funding was budgeted for such work in the current year. The Commission discussed.

Business arising out of the minutes

Procurement: Banners

Clerk and Treasurer presented a quote for street banners from Flags Unlimited. Three sets of sixty seasonal (180) banners were quoted at \$6,405.09 plus HST. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher, that Village of Bible Hill purchase three sets of sixty seasonal banners from Flags Unlimited for the cost of \$6,405.09 plus HST. Motion carried.

Review of Correspondence

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Brendan Maguire – Gas Tax Fund

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented correspondence received from Brendan Maguire, Minister of Municipal Affairs, thanking the Village for their letter regarding Gas Tax Funding in April, 2021. The Commission discussed.

Peter McCracken – Retson Drive

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented correspondence received from Peter McCracken, regarding active transportation on Retson Drive and area, and the importance of safe and accessible active transportation within the Village. The Commission discussed.

By consensus, the Commission instructed Clerk and Treasurer Bell to inquire with NSTAT about safety signage.

Reports of Commissioners and Clerk and Treasurer

Commissioner Burke

Commissioner Burke spoke about his recent Village activity. He noted the College Road sidewalk project, highlighting project components. Burke provided updates from his observance of NSTAT work around the Village, including crosswalk lines, potholes, etc. Burke closed his report by stating that he believes the survey results from Village Line Avenue should be shared with NSTAT. The Commission discussed.

Commissioner Shea

Commissioner Shea discussed his recent Village activity. He noted that the Fire Brigade deferred their July Chief's Report, as the Brigade deferred their July meeting. Shea added that the Brigade's Facebook page has been providing many updates regarding their recent calls and work, including their participation of the Cobequid Education Centre (CEC) prom, which highlighted one of their junior members. Shea closed his report by stating that he attended the raising of the Pride Flag at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, marking the commencement of Pride Week. The Commission discussed.

Commissioner Pitcher

Commissioner Pitcher noted her recent Village activities. She then presented the July 2021 Recreation report – as attached. The Commission discussed.

Van Kroonenburg was disconnected from the meeting at 7:43pm.

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg's report was deferred, due to technical difficulties.

Chair Kennedy

Chair Kennedy reported that he recently reviewed the accessibility improvements completed by B. D. Clifton. The Commission discussed.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell

Clerk and Treasurer Bell opened his report by informing the Commission that the Village's application for summer student grant funding was awarded \$13,595. Bell noted how the Village was unsuccessful in the round

one application to the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, a Federal Grant Funding Program, which was aimed for a Community Garden project. Bell noted that the Village has since submitted a round two application for installing numerous garbage and recycling centres throughout parks and trails.

Bell informed that the Mass Casualty Commission will join the Commission's August meeting as a delegation. Bell then discussed the Village's recent receipt of a new speed radar sign, which is scheduled to be installed throughout the Village from time to time at locations developed with and approved by NSTAT.

Bell explained how engineering design for windows and doors at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall is ongoing, and that a special meeting may be required to make decisions to advance this project. Bell added that he is working on a grant application through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund to hopefully support this project.

Bell discussed that with the support of a Provincial grant, programmable controls have been installed to provide better heating and cooling controls within the hall, and that these controls can be programmed to provide better comfort for varying renters, and with the hope of improving energy efficiency of the building.

Bell informed the Commission that upcoming provincial elections will not be utilizing the village hall due the ongoing day camps. Bell then closed his report by noting that he attended the first Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting in July. 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

Commissioner Pitcher

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided information regarding Village commissioner attendance requirements, per the request of Commissioner Pitcher. The Commission discussed.

Van Kroonenburg reconnected to the meeting at 8:00pm.

Procurement: Trail maintenance

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented two quotes for trail maintenance along the Farnham Brook trail. One quote from Atlantic Tree Solutions was at \$7,850.00 plus HST, and another quote from Colchester Tree Service was at \$10,950.00 plus HST. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea, that Village of Bible Hill award the trail maintenance along Farnham Brook Trail to Atlantic Tree Services at the cost of \$7,850.00 plus HST. Motion carried.

Procurement: Miscellaneous sidewalk repair

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a quote from Stew's Construction for conducting repairs to two sidewalk panels on Pictou Road. The quote was presented at \$3,795.00 plus HST. Bell explained that this issue was before the Commission as the sidewalk repair budget has been exhausted for the year. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea, that Village of Bible Hill award the sidewalk repair on Pictou Road to Stew's Construction at the price of \$3,795.00 plus HST. Motion carried.

Procurement: Bible Hill Recreation Park power door operators

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented two quotes for the installation of power door operators for two washroom doors at Bible Hill Recreation Park. Bell noted that, as mentioned in the Recreation report, the Village was granted \$4,000 in funding from the Community Access-Ability grant program to aid with this project. A quote from Pop-A-Lock Maritimes for the work was presented at \$2,799.59 plus HST, along with an accompanying quote from S. Sorensen Electric Co. Ltd. for the electrical work required at \$825.00 plus HST, for a total of \$3,624.59 plus HST per door. A quote from Fowler Construction Services Ltd. for the work was presented at \$5,500.00 each plus HST. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Pitcher, that Village of Bible Hill award the electrical work for two power door operators at Bible Hill Recreation Park to S. Sorensen Electric Co. Ltd. at the price of \$825.00 each plus HST; and award the door systems work to Pop-A-Lock Maritimes at the price of \$2,799.59 each plus HST, for a grand total of \$7,559.88 including HST. Motion carried.

Ditch Clearing

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided information regarding ditch clearing work proposed by Colchester at a watercourse between Farnham Road and the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission (NSPEC) property. Bell information from the County of Colchester regarding the desire to cost share this project, at an estimated cost of \$13,000. Bell added that the County of looking to cost share this project with the Village and the NSPEC, and noted that the Village has not budgeted for this line of work in the current year. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Van Kroonenburg, that Village of Bible Hill instruct Clerk and Treasurer send a reply to the County of Colchester expressing interest in cost sharing the ditch clearing work along Farnham Brook Road. Motion carried.

Commissioner Burke requested Clerk and Treasurer Bell adjust the multi-year budgeting plan to reflect this project by reducing next year's budget plan for this line of work.

Day Care Property Tax Reduction

Clerk and Treasurer Bell provided information from the County of Colchester regarding Property Valuation Services Corporation's re-classification of a day care property rate to commercial, from residential. Bell noted that while the County has a day-care tax reduction by-law, the Village does not have such a by-law and therefore cannot address this situation by providing a reduction. Clerk and Treasurer Bell read aloud relevant sections of the MGA on the subject and recommended the Village enact a similar by-law. Bell noted that the day-care property in question was, previous to the re-classification, charged residential tax rates. The Commission discussed the status of another known day-care property. With the consensus of the Commission, read the first reading of the draft Day Care Commercial Tax Reduction By-Law. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Van Kroonenburg, that Village of Bible Hill pass the first reading of the presented Day Care Commercial Tax Reduction By-Law. Motion carried.

Looking ahead

Commissioner Burke requested the Village discuss looking ahead, as inflation rates are growing at considerable rates, and suggested a tax rate increase will be required in the future to cover increased costs. Burke provided

information regarding the rising costs of living, and that the Village must be diligent regarding future spending, so as to best serve residents. He added that the Commission should perhaps not consider unbudgeted items. The Commission discussed.

Closed Session - Contract negotiation (1); Solicitor client privilege (1); Personnel (1); Public security (1)

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

The Commission meeting entered closed session at 8:44pm. Recording Secretary Chandler left the meeting at 8:45pm.

The Commission meeting returned to open session at 9:42pm.

Policy introduction - Security Camera Policy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell presented a draft Security Camera Policy. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea, that Village of Bible Hill adopt the Security Camera Policy. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Pitcher that the July 20, 2021 regular monthly meeting of Village of Bible Hill be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

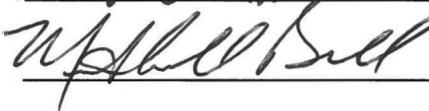
Chair Kennedy



Recording Secretary Chandler



Clerk and Treasurer Bell



July Recreation Report

Summer day camps are now permitted to continue as one group of 30 children instead of two smaller cohorts of 15. Our camps are now operating at full capacity for the remainder of the summer. The camps are utilizing outdoor spaces to help keep kids distanced while having fun. The camps are using the Farnham Road Park, Bible Hill Recreation Park, Bible Hill Consolidated Elementary School playground, the Village Hall and a marked area on the parking lot outside the Village Hall.

In June, the Village promoted a “Canada Day Contest” where residents could decorate their house and submit a photo for a chance to win one of three Canada Day prize packs. A number of residents participated in the event. While our intention for this contest was to promote community pride and individual celebrations across the Village since traditional Canada Day events were not possible due to the pandemic, the decision was made to end the contest early in light of a request from our neighboring community, Millbrook First Nation.

The Village was awarded \$4,000 of funding from the Provincial Community Access-Ability grant program to install power door operators on two of the washroom doors at the Bible Hill Recreation Park. The operators are proposed to be installed on the rooms with change tables inside, providing easier access to these washrooms for all persons.

With the start of baseball and soccer during Phase 3, all six baseball fields and the multipurpose field are being used 3-4 nights each week. Bible Hill-Truro Minor Baseball, Slo-Pitch and CC Riders Soccer Club are utilizing the fields for the remainder of the summer months.

I am currently planning the Back-to-School Bash in hopes that everything continues to go well with Provincial public health restrictions and we can hold this event once again this year. The event will take place in late August and will be advertised starting the first week of August.

Josh Kennedy
Parks and Recreation Director