

Village of Bible Hill
Commission in Committee Meeting
April 12, 2022



The Village of Bible Hill Commission in Committee meeting was held on April 12, 2022 in the Commission Chambers, at the Village Office, 67 Pictou Road. Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM; the meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

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

Regrets: Commissioner Kennedy – observed via Microsoft Teams

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

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called for new or other business, and none was called.

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

Call for declaration of conflict of interests

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg called for any declarations of conflict of interest, and none were declared.

Miscellaneous business including delegations

There is no miscellaneous business or delegations.

New business

Bible Hill Recreation Park (BHRP) environmental monitoring

Bell reviewed a work plan and cost estimate from Dillon Consulting for environmental monitoring at the BHRP former landfill site. He noted that Dillon Consulting has completed the monitoring in the past and it is to take place every 5 years, and will include groundwater and surface water monitoring, monitoring of private wells near the site, as well as a site walkover. The work will be scheduled to take place in September or October of 2022 and is estimated to cost \$10,403.00 plus HST.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill award the 2022 Bible Hill Recreation Park monitoring program to Dillon Consulting for \$10,403.00 plus HST. Motion carried.

Adoption of Regional Accessibility Plan

Bell presented a Regional Accessibility Plan recommended by the Regional Accessibility Committee that was developed by reachAbility. He reviewed the document, highlighting the recommendations moving forward,

noting numerous ways for the involved bodies to become more accessible and inclusive in terms of built environment, transportation, employment, information and communication, goods and services as well as awareness and capacity, and the timeline in which these recommendations will be put in place under the plan. He noted the plan is a living document that will be monitored on a quarterly basis and reviewed in 2025. The Commission discussed.

Moved by Pitcher and seconded by Shea that the Commission in Committee recommend Village of Bible Hill adopt the Regional Accessibility Plan. Motion carried.

Land Acknowledgement

Bell opened by noting a brief explanation of what a land acknowledgement is and questioned if the Committee would like a land acknowledgement to be given at Commission meetings, other public Village events. He requested the Commission reflect on why a land acknowledgement is powerful and important, and what giving a land acknowledgement means to them and others.

The Committee then discussed various ways in which the Village could work towards becoming more inclusive.

The Committee determined by consensus to defer this topic until accuracy and respectfulness can be confirmed by reaching out to members of Millbrook First Nations Community.

Policy review – Employee Retirement Recognition Policy

Bell reviewed the Employee Retirement Recognition Policy and asked the Committee if there was anything specific they would like to update in the policy. The Committee discussed changing that an employee having five or more years of service shall be eligible for a luncheon, instead of ten years, as previously stated in the policy.

Budget Items

Bible Hill Recreation Park – funding, timing

Bell presented a summary of estimated costs and potential revenue for the Bible Hill Recreation Park playground renewal. He outlined construction cost being \$737,853.00 including HST and noted that the deadline has passed for provincial grant funding but will be available for application again next year. The Committee discussed and agreed by consensus to defer the project until next year and instructed the Clerk and Treasurer to draft correspondence requesting donations from local community groups.

Wages

Bell noted that the collective union agreement is expired, which means the wages presented in the budget will be estimates.

Fuel

Bell noted that fuel prices are higher than ever and presented a summary of average fuel costs over the previous two years. He noted that if the fuel prices stay high, the Village's annual fuel cost would be significantly increased. Bell recommended adding to the operating budget expecting higher fuel costs.

Nova Scotia property tax

Bell noted that the Province has introduced a non-resident deed transfer tax on residential properties, at 5% of the greater of purchase price and assessment owed to the provincial government. He then noted the Province

has also introduced a non-resident property tax, which will have non-resident residential property owners paying the province an additional two dollars per one hundred dollars on property assessments, in addition to municipal property tax.

Closed Session – Litigation

Moved by Burke and seconded by Shea, that the Commission in Committee enter closed session. Motion carried.

The meeting entered closed session at 8:38 PM and Recording Secretary Chaplin left the meeting.

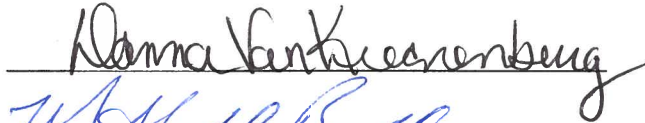
The meeting returned to open session at 8:44 PM.

Adjournment

Moved by Pitcher that the April 12, 2022 Commission in Committee meeting of Village of Bible Hill be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg



Clerk and Treasurer Bell



Recording Secretary Chaplin

