

Village of Bible Hill
Regular Commission Meeting
March 21, 2023



The meeting was held in Commission Chambers, at the Village Office, 67 Pictou Road. Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Call to Order: Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Van Kroonenburg
Commissioner Burke
Clerk and Treasurer Bell
Recording Secretary Chaplin
Solicitor Roper, Burchell MacDougall

Regrets: Commissioner Shea
Commissioner Pitcher

Review and approval of the minutes of February 21, and March 14, 2023.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke, that the meeting minutes of February 21, and March 14, 2023 be approved. Motion carried.

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

Kennedy called for new or other business and Bell requested to add sponsorship request under correspondence and unsightly premises under new business.

Moved by Burke and seconded by Van Kroonenburg, that the agenda be adopted with additions. Motion carried.

Call for declaration of conflict of interests

Kennedy called for any declarations of conflict of interest and none were declared.

Miscellaneous business including delegations

Budget update at February 28 and projection to year end

Bell presented a budget update as of February 28 and projection to year end. He reviewed the projected operating and capital revenue and expense, as well as bank balances.

Review of operating, capital, and reserve fund budgets

Bell presented the operating, capital, and reserve fund budget for the Commission to review before the budget is set to be adopted in April 2023.

Business arising out of the minutes

Commission in Committee Report

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that Village of Bible Hill accept the 2023 Volunteer Awards nominations as presented.

Motion amended.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that Village of Bible Hill accept the 2023 Volunteer Awards nominations 1 through 4, 6 and 7. Motion carried.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that pursuant to Village by-law 7, Village of Bible Hill accept the sanitary sewer system of 'Covington Place - Phase 3' as a contributed asset. Motion carried.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that Village of Bible Hill contribute \$5,000 to the Truro - Bible Hill off leash Dog Park Expansion project.

Motion amended.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that Village of Bible Hill budget for a \$5,000 contribution to the town of Truro in the upcoming year for the Truro - Bible Hill Off-leash Dog Park Expansion project. Motion carried.

Review of Correspondence

Condolences regarding Bob Taylor's passing

Bell presented a letter from the Honorable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding his condolences on Bob Taylor's passing.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities – Spring Conference Invitation

Bell presented an invitation from Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) for their annual Spring Conference. Van Kroonenburg expressed interest in attending.

Sponsorship Request

Bell presented a sponsorship request from Mr. Doug Schofield, Sunrise Division Manager on the Northeastern District Barbershop Harmony Society seeking support for their annual Convention and Contest, which will be taking place in Truro and Bible Hill.

Moved by Burke and seconded by Van Kroonenburg that Village of Bible Hill sponsor the Sunrise Division of the Northeastern District Barbershop Harmony Society in the amount of \$400 to help support their local convention and contest. Motion carried.

Reports of Commissioners and Clerk and Treasurer

Commissioner Burke

Burke noted an RFQ for sidewalk renewal on Main Street has been posted, closes April 6 and will be brought to the April regular meeting. He noted Justaart's snow removal contract is up at the end of snow clearing season and will need to be re-negotiated. He noted that since Covington Place crosswalk does not have permission

to be installed, the Clerk and Treasurer asked the department to review potential lighting upgrades to 4 crosswalks that have not yet been reviewed. He mentioned that Farnham Brook sidewalk bridge was closed and will be addressed and reopened soon. He then spoke on streetlights not yet installed at Covington. He noted that a request was made to Nova Scotia Power (NSP) in April of last year, and they do not have streetlights to install. Bell has requested the MLA's assistance in asking NSP whether lights can be supplied from another area. Burke noted two power poles on College Road are leaning and in need of adjustment.

Commissioner Shea

Bell read an environmental services report on Commissioner Shea's behalf. He noted that the village issued an RFQ for a sanitary sewer component renewal, the well water monitoring project at BHRP continues and that Mr. Paul Graham agreed to make his well available for testing, and that the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW) is soon expected to sign off to allow the Meadowland Avenue storm drainage project to be completed.

Commissioner Pitcher

Van Kroonenburg submitted the March 2023 Bible Hill Fire Brigade Fire Chief report on Commissioner Pitcher's behalf - as attached.

Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg

Van Kroonenburg submitted the March 2023 recreation report- as attached.

Chair Kennedy

Kennedy noted he attended and acted as the emcee for the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing's (NSDMAH) funding announcement of \$10,000 for each brigade/search and rescue organization in Nova Scotia at the Bible Hill Fire Brigade on March 14.

Clerk and Treasurer Bell

Bell noted he attended the NSDMAH funding announcement at the Bible Hill Fire Brigade on March 14, as well as a meeting with EXP for Main Street sidewalk project and Englobe regarding the sanitary sewer project. He noted that he has been seeking new pricing for group benefits. He then noted that after inquiring with the Colchester Department of Public Works if they were able to assist the Village with paid engineering services, they let him know that they do not have the staff capacity to offer their services. He spoke on the recent Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting that had low attendance and that there is a need to advertise for new members. He noted that he has been preparing the budget and for the upcoming audit. He then noted the windows and doors project as well as the Main Street south sidewalk projects are not yet completed, that the solar feasibility study is kicking off on March 22, that the new firetruck will likely be completed in the Spring of 2024, and that the hurricane relief funding application from ACOA is still awaiting evaluation.

Accounts

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

New Business

Procurement - Insurance

Bell presented a cost breakdown for insurance renewal term through Intact Insurance at a total cost of \$68,486 for the annual premium.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that the Village engage Intact Insurance through Arthur J. Gallagher at a cost of \$68,486 for the year. Motion carried.

The Commission discussed approaching the Association of Nova Scotia Villages to engage the Province on mechanisms to reduce municipal insurance costs.

Inter-account fund transfer

Bell presented an inter-account fund transfer requesting to transfer \$20,000 from the operating fund to the parks and recreation reserve, \$234,526 from the capital reserve to the operating fund, \$150,000 from the operating fund to the capital reserve and \$430,800 from the fire reserve to the operating fund.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Burke that the Village of Bible Hill approves the inter-account fund transfers as presented. Motion carried.

Unightly Premises

Bell presented a dangerous or unsightly premises complaint and the Commission supported submission of the form.

Adjournment

Moved by Van Kroonenburg that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Chair Kennedy

Clerk and Treasurer Bell

Recording Secretary Chaplin

The image shows three handwritten signatures in blue ink, each positioned above a horizontal line. The top signature is for the Chair, the middle for the Clerk and Treasurer, and the bottom for the Recording Secretary.



Fire Chief Report – March 2023

The Brigade responded to 10 emergency calls from the period of February 9 to March 8, 2023, they are as follows:

1. Feb 11, 12:47 am Mutual Aid to standby at their station. Cleared and returned at 1:57 am with 17 members responding. IC Chief Bisson
2. Feb 11, 1:30 am while on standby for Truro, responded to Windsor Way apt 104 for medical. EHS on scene stood down and returned to BH at 1:50, 17 members responded. IC Chief Bisson
3. Feb 11, 7:20 pm, 7 Main street, single vehicle MVA, nothing found and cleared at 7:30pm with 12 members responding. IC DC Pearston
4. Feb 12, 8:47 pm, Mutual Aid to Truro, stood down prior to departing station. 8 Members responded.
5. Feb 15, 1:45 pm, 20 Rock Garden Rd. Alarm ringing, boiler backfired, and smoke migrated into the building. Cleared the scene at 2:04pm with 10 members responding. IC Chief Bisson/ Lt Dykeman
6. March 1, 12:58 pm, NSAC Cumming Hall, Alarm ringing, low water, sprinkler pipe broken and running in the building. Cleared at 1:41pm with 10 members responding. IC Chief Bisson
7. March 2, 8:32 am, Alarm Ringing at BH Junior High. Stood down on route, 10 members responded. IC DC Pearston
8. March 3, 9:55 pm 90 Hillcrest, Structure fire. Caller indicated basement on fire. On arrival, no fire, wiring from baseboard heater burnt and filled basement with smoke. Cleared at 10:55 pm with 18 members responding. IC DC Pearston.
9. March 6, 9:19 am, Mutual aid to standby at Truro, standby at their station. Cleared at 9:35 am, with 6 members responded. IC Chief Bisson.
10. March 6, 5:29 pm Mutual aid to Truro, standby at their station. cleared at 6:16 pm, with 6 members responding. IC LT Currie.

Total Calls: **49**

Total Fire Loss: **\$0**

Highlights:

- I would like to welcome Blake Aucoin to the brigade. Blake comes to us with extensive experience in the fire service and is looking to serve his community here in Bible H.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Bisson

March Recreation Report

During the first bit of March, Village of Bible Hill has started a new after-school program with Bible Hill Consolidated. This program runs on Tuesday's and Thursday's accommodating 50 kids/week. The program is offered for free to children in grades 2-4 and is operated out of the H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall. The program has had a tremendous amount of interest and has a large waitlist.

Boccia Ball has wrapped up after our 9-week session with support from Parasport Nova Scotia. Over the 9 weeks, we reached just about every minor organization in the Colchester area, along with local schools. We attended Colchester Christian Academy weekly, and facilitated a 'learn to play' session for 6 weeks. The feedback regarding the sessions held with all groups was very positive and noted that it was an important learning opportunity for children especially to understand the life of Paralympian. The senior aged group took a special liking to this sport, and we hope to be successful with an application for funding to receive our own equipment to keep the program running for seniors specifically. In addition to the senior grouping that took place in the hall weekly, we also made visits to Vimy Court where we had a great turnout of participants.

Seniors craft afternoons have quickly turned into a high demanded program that will occur monthly. Our attendance has reached over 30 participants and continues to grow. Many who have attended all the afternoons so far have continued to express their love for the afternoon, and state it is a great way to socialize and meet new friends.

The adult co-ed soccer league is coming to an end, the last night for the winter session is March 23rd. It was a successful first year, with the exception of the Cougar Dome having some mechanical issues which forced a few cancellations. The program will start again in May, taking place at the multi-purpose field at the Bible Hill Recreation Park.

Haley Smith
Parks and Recreation Director