

Rural Municipality of Wellington

Council Meeting– May 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Present: Alcide Bernard, Mayor, Council Members: Albert Arsenault, Shawn Bernard, Jeannette Gallant, Moira McGuire, Kelly Richard and CAO Imelda Arsenault

Regrets: Irene MacCaul

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Bernard called the meeting to order.

2. Fire Department Report – no report for this meeting.

3. Presentation by the ATV Club (8:00 pm)

Jennifer Gallant, President of the PEI ATV Federation and JP Gallant, president of the local organization made a presentation to Council on the ATV Club request to have access to use the main road from Barlow Road up Sunset Drive to Rte 124 up to Urbainville. This project is called *Share the Road*. This request follows a plan the Club is working on to get more access using streets through municipalities in PEI to allow the Club to have tip to tip access within the province. The ATV's want access to businesses within these areas. The group presented all the benefits this would have to local businesses as well as the tourism draw for PEI. New Brunswick is allowing this in many communities and are experiencing success with the ATV owners across the province. The ATV members across the Maritimes believe that PEI is missing out on attracting ATV events because of the lack of community access.

The presenters also explained the work that is taking place with government and other organizations in PEI to recommend changes to the Off Highway Traffic Act to connect trails provincially from tip to tip. They also feel that if the request is approved, it may deter the present issues with ATV vehicles causing disturbances in the municipalities.

Questions raised by Council:

- Age for drivers: 16 years of age
- Is the use on the main road or the shoulders? it would be with existing traffic on the main road.
- It was noted that the roads belong to the provincial government so the municipality cannot give the authority to use the roads
- Which other PEI municipalities are looking at this? Abram-Village, Kinkora, Kensington, Montague, O'Leary and Tignish.
- What is the progress in Kensington? No movement yet

- The presenters noted that residents would not see a major difference in the traffic. However, it is evident that the traffic will increase in the summer months on Sunset Drive
- Is the request just for Sunset Drive and part of Mill Road - the Club is also interested in having access to place du Village on Commercial St.

Following the presentation, Council discussed the matter. One Councillor noted that having ATV's gain more access on the road does not improve the quality of life for Wellington residents. Policing is a challenge presently so how will this be monitored in the future. It will be important to consult with residents before any decision is considered. The decision was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Approval of agenda

It is moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of the mini home issue on Barlow Road.

Motion carried (5/6)-(2022-16)

5. Declaration of conflict of interest

Jeannette Gallant and Imelda Arsenault have declared conflict with item 12.

6. Approval of meeting minutes – April 21, 2022

It is moved and seconded that the April 21 minutes be approved.

Motion carried (5/6)-(2022-17)

7. Business arising from the minutes

- a. Speed Controls** – No new information since the latest reports are similar to the previous ones.

- b. Requests to Minister Aylward**

No response received on the letter which includes to the following matters:

- Shoulder on Mill Road
- Sunset Drive ditch fill
- Erosion on Ellis River
- Speed sign on Sunset Drive
- Right of way on Pondsider Drive (Dept of Transportation is addressing this matter)

Mayor to speak to Sonny on the sign on Sunset Drive.

The Mayor met with Minister Fox on May 17. The discussion regarding the reduced Equalization Grant was discussed. Minister Fox was surprised to see the various initiatives the municipality has undertaken and acknowledged that the Census survey is used extensively to identify the funding formula for the grant.

There was also discussion on the criteria for the new funding program and he stated that the municipality should check with Municipal Affairs and he had no further details.

As to allocating funds to compensate for the reduction in Equalization grant, Minister Fox said he would talk with the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

M. Fox indicated that his Department plans on organizing a major information campaign to promote upcoming municipal elections.

He indicated that municipality should keep in touch with FPEIM in order to access the new fund created to facilitate development of residential lots.

c. Full-time CAO - agreement

Council discussed the latest changes on the following agreements revised by Derek Key:

Document 1 – bylaw–Inter-Municipal Shared Services Bylaw

Document 2 – Inter-Municipal Shared Services Agreement (Appendix A)

It is moved and seconded that the revised document, Appendix A be approved with the identified changes.

Motion carried (5/6)-(2022-18)

It is moved and seconded that Shared Services Bylaw be approved with the identified changes.

Motion carried (5/6)-(2022-19)

There is funding available from Skills PEI to assist with the new CAO salary being a recent graduate from a postsecondary program which covers a maximum of 50% of the hourly wage up to \$ 20.00 per hour. The program officer will look at the job description before allocating the final number for the hourly wage to be covered. As well, CAO will contact D Jenkins at Municipal Affairs to get an update on the funding program available for the municipality following the reduction in the Equalization Grant.

d. Pollinator's Park

A project will be submitted within the Community Revitalization Project for the Fire Department Equipment project for \$ 50 000 and the Pollinator's park for \$ 18 000 which includes the \$9000.00 for the park allocated in the 2022-2023 budget. The project funds 50% of these projects if approved. A motion was done at the last meeting.

e. Mental Health Project

Quotes were received and work is moving forward on the artwork.

f. Green space on Barlow Road

Matthew sent a response following the registered letter sent from the Municipality for the legal transfer of the land. He acknowledged that he is having a challenge with his legal representation so hope to get it done this time. If it does not occur, he will change go to another lawyer. If no action is done within 30 days, the Municipality will take action with its lawyer.

- g. **Official Plan**– the documents are with Municipal Affairs and we are awaiting final approval.

8. **Financials**

CAO presented the Year- to- date report.

9. **Committee Reports**

a) **Sewer& Municipal services:**

Sewer on Maple Street – No new information on funding request for replacement of sewer line.

Sewer Account request – The home on 90 Sunset Drive is gutted out and no sewer connection is used. The owner is asking to waive the sewer dues for this property since it is not in used. Council discussed the matter and decided to keep the account for this property and request regular payments for the annual dues.

Generator – No word on the testing of the generator. Albert to check with Preston.

ACOA Energy Project -Needs more work before the final numbers are approved.

Trail Upgrade – no update on the gravel yet.

- b) **New trail** –The meeting to be held on May 18 was rescheduled to May 25. Some discussion was held as to the location of the trail and would include approximately 3 km of new trail. More information will be discussed after the next Trail Committee Meeting with consultant Don Maynard.

c) **Finances –**

The Wellington Fire Department requested an increase in the reimbursement for travel due to the increase in gas prices.

It is moved and seconded that the travel reimbursement to attend meetings or for business purposes for firefighters, Council members, new CAO and maintenance staff to be \$.50 per km.

a) Motion carried (5/6)-(2022-19)

BDO has increased its prices for 2022 by 13% which is quite high compared to last year. It is noted that we will ask for new quotes before making a decision for next year and request an explanation from BDO on the reasons for the increase.

- d) **Tourism and Recreation** –The Welcome sign on Mill Road needs to be fixed. CAO to talk to Ernest.

- e) **Bingo and Social Services**– All good.
- f) **EMO, Fire and Police** – No new information.
- g) **Technology and Communication** – no new information.
- h) **Welcome/Bienvenue**

A meeting is planned for May 30 to discuss the Operational Plan. The Municipalities of Abram-Village and Wellington will send a letter to the president of la CIF expressing their concerns with the allocated funds and the expenses related to these funds.

Since the opening of the new offices at Place du Village on March 30th, there has only been an employee in the office for a day or two. A phone number is identified on the door when no one is there.

i) Planning Board, Policies and Bylaws –

- Sewer Utility – CAO noted that the word department is a matter of one option for municipalities. They can opt for a corporation or a department. The revisions will be made and brought to the next meeting.
- Municipal Elections – The proposed changes were made to the Municipal Elections Bylaw.

It is moved and seconded that Bylaw 2022-04 be read a second time.

Motion carried 5/6 (2022-20)

It is moved and seconded that Bylaw 2022-04 be adopted.

Motion carried 5/6 (2022-21)

- j) **Asset Management** — Mayor will speak with Tjartt regarding the options for the new CAO as the funds are limited for 2022.
- k) **Health Services & Government Health Homes:**
 - Doctor's office** – no new information
 - Crescent Court** -Another incident took place at Crescent Court and issues are still present.
- l) **Municipal Elections** - The Municipal Election website is up and running but no details added for candidates who are interested in running for the election. Gilles Painchaud will be contacted to see if he will be Deputy Election Officer.
- m) **Canada Torch Relay Information** – Moira and Kelly presented the plans setup for the Torch Relay. An announcement will be made to invite people to nominate approximately 10 to 15 people from the area to participate in the relay which will be 5 km on November 18, 2022. Information will be available very soon to inform the public. Wellington, being one of the 18 selected communities, is to host an event following the relay. There is a possibility that the announcement will be made during le Festival acadien et l'Exposition Agricole.

10. New Business

a. **Development Permits** – no new permits.

b. **Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF) -National Infrastructure Project**

The preliminary work has begun with the setup of a committee including the following organizations: Le Chez Nous, both municipalities, Abram-Village and Wellington, Le CSCE and la Commission scolaire de langue française and Rural Action Centre. This group will meet to develop the Terms of Reference for the project. One of the main goals is how to better serve the transportation needs of the Evangeline area.

c. **Requests from Leonce Arsenault:** Leonce Arsenault met with Mayor Bernard to discuss two issues:

- **Lots of Sunset Drive** – he is requesting to add a mini-home on the property at 130 Sunset Drive but this does not follow the Zoning bylaws due to the identified mini-home zones on Barlow Road. He is also asking if this land could be rezoned as a commercial zone to add storage containers. Council is asking for more information on the storage container matter before making any decision on the changes needed for a commercial zone.

i. **Two lots on Mt Carmel Road** - He believes that the cost of the lots should be reimbursed to P Arsenault since they have been decommissioned for residential development. Mayor spoke to Derek Key and he advises that if there is cause, it should be discussed and or negotiated with government. One councillor mentioned if there was a possibility to donate his land to Ducks Unlimited or other similar groups.

CAO will prepare a letter using the communication done for these lots in 2006 by the Department of Environment as it was approved for development at that time. The letter should include possible future actions to be taken into consideration to address the decision made in 2006 if there is an issue. A request will be made to P Arsenault if he agrees that the municipality send a letter regarding this matter.

d. **Park Preparation** - Councillors available to meet on Monday, May 23 at 6:30.

Ernest Gallant Maintenance requested an increase for the grass cutting in light of the increased gas prices. It is suggested that the weed eating be reduced to 3 times during the grass cutting season. It is suggested to go to an RFP for 2023.

It is moved and seconded to increase the grass cutting hourly rate to \$ 45.00.

Motion carried 5/6 (2022-22)

e. **EV Charging Stations**

The provincial government is requesting interested communities who may be interested in placing Electric Vehicles charging stations in the area to submit funding applications. It is suggested to add the following:

- 1 station at Barlow's Park
- 2 stations at the Royal Canadian Legion
- 2 stations at the Wellington Coop
- 1 station at Access PEI.

f. Message to residents:

The next newsletter will include:

Pool requirements – Since the implementation of the National Building Code, fencing around pools are required for any depth over 1.5 feet, Dog Bylaws, wipes in sewers, torch relay, new CAO appointment and new office hours. and the changes identified to the minimum length of a mini home to be changed from 75 ft to a minimum of 72ft. A newsletter will be sent later in June.

11. Correspondance

12. Subdivision Application Updates— Imelda Arsenault and Jeannette Gallant left the meeting due to the declaration of conflict of interest.

Public information meeting that is planned will also include the consultation on rezoning Wellington Estates property from Recreational Zone to Residential Zone.

A discussion was held on how to prioritize the three projects. It is clear that Riverside Subdivision will remain the number one property as funding to install sewer lines has already been approved.

Subdivision requests would normally be prioritize based on date of application but in certain cases this may not be possible due to funding criteria or requirements pertaining to installations of sewer lines. Each case will receive funding as sources are identified.

13. Next meeting: June 18, 2022.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.