

Rural Municipality of Wellington

Council Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024

Present: Mayor Irene MacCaull, Jason Maddix, Moira McGuire, Jeannette Gallant, Albert Arsenault, Kelly Richard, and Jean-Pierre Arsenault, CAO.

Regrets: none

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor MacCaull welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Wellington Fire Department Report

Fire chief Perry presented his report: 6 calls from mid November to mid December.

Firefighter of the year went to Gerard Gallant.

Three members attended the Mutual Aid meeting in Miscouche.

Firefighters from the WFD picked up used equipment at the East River Fire Company at a cost of \$30,000.

Four (4) firefighters to attend ICS in Miscouche in January 2025.

Four (4) firefighters attended Summerside parade.

For retired firefighters with 30 years of service, paperwork is ready so they won't have to pay for motor vehicle registration.

Cost for medals for 30 years of service is between \$75 and \$100 plus shipping.

3. Approval of agenda

It is moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Conflict of interest declaration

CAO will reclude himself from the meeting when council discusses the two (2) quotes received for the supply and installation of 1 heat pump at the Vanier Centre (item 9e).

5. Approval of minutes – November 21, 2024

It is moved and seconded that the November 21st minutes be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

6. Business arising from the minutes

a. Affordable housing – Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

CAO informed council that he had a meeting with Jean-Francois Thibault from CMHC regarding the HAF. After discussion, council decided to hold a special meeting on January 13, 2025, to discuss how to proceed with the distribution of funds on various housing projects.

b. PEI Department of Transportation work updates

No update.

c. Subdivision applications

Wellington Estates – CAO met with Jocelyn Arsenault to discuss the delineation report. Jocelyn Arsenault will contact the department of Environment to discuss the findings outlined in the report. The CAO also discussed the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) that the municipality received from the federal government and how the municipality can help financially for his subdivision. Jocelyn Arsenault is open to the idea of selling lots for missing middle housing (i.e., duplex, triplex, fourplexes) as the HAF emphasizes on this type of development.

Country view Holdings – no update

AJL subdivision – The CAO informed council that the wood clearing has been done on both streets and the cul-de-sac. With all the rain that came down lately, no more work will be done in the subdivision until the spring of 2025. The Federal Government, through ICIP, wants the municipality to install a sign at the entrance of the subdivision. The CAO received specs for the sign and will get two (2) quotes for the sign for the next council meeting.

REM – The CAO spoke with Travis of REM and informed him that the municipality will not give REM \$170,000 to help build the 4 fourplexes off Mill Road. The municipality is interested in helping REM and will hold a special meeting in January 2025 to further discuss the matter.

d. IRAC report (permit)

CAO informed the meeting that the sewer utility must apply for a wastewater treatment and wastewater collection permit at a cost of \$500. The permit application is mandatory.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the sewer utility apply for the permit and pay the required \$500 fee.

Motion carried

e. EMO meeting

Nothing to report.

f. New provincial funding program (MIF)

CAO informed council that no signing has been done yet on the \$240,000 funding that will be provided by the MIF funding group for the storm sewer in the AJL subdivision.

g. Building on 77 Mill Road (1 or 2 appts?)

The sewer utility is presently charging \$200 for the property situated on 77 Mill Road.

7. Finance

CAO presented a financial report to the council meeting. The financial report included amounts up to the end of November 2024. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the financial report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried

8. Committee reports

1. Sewer and municipal services a) New sidewalk – Sunset Drive b) Park repairs c) Pondside Drive water.

The municipality received the final report from WSP regarding the lagoon capacity study. Councillor Albert Arsenault gave councillors a summary of the items discussed in the report along with the two (2) options outlined in the report.

a) Nothing to report on the new sidewalk.

b) Park repairs (i.e., new railing on bridge, raise gazebo and make repairs, etc.) will be added to the capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

2. New Trails Committee Report

CAO will contact Alcide Bernard and Imelda Arsenault to see if they would be interested in being on the committee.

3. Tourism and recreation

CAO informed council that the municipality has sent an application to the federal government to hire a summer student for 2025.

4. Bingo and Social Services

Bingos are going well per mayor.

5. EMO, Fire and Police

Nothing to report

6. Technology & Communications, Planning Board, Policies and Bylaws

Councillor Kelly Richard will reach out to Sean Bernard to see if he knows the password for the municipality's Facebook page.

Councillor Richard will reach out to see how to improve our website.

7. Bienvenue/Welcome & immigration Évangéline

Karine Gallant, the director of CSCE attended the monthly meeting and gave the meeting a summary of the following items:

Bienvenue Evangeline

Program funded by Immigration Canada.

Project coordinator is Julian Henry

Councillor Moira McGuire is on the committee.

Funding has been approved for the next three (3) years at a cost of \$210,000 per year.

The committee is focused on preparing an action plan for the next 3 years.

One of the activities of the committee is to help new arrivals integrate with employers of the Evangeline region.

Bienvenue Evangeline has a new website.

It was mentioned at the meeting that when you go on the website searching for jobs, the website takes you to the Summerside job bank.

With the lack of housing in the local area, Bienvenue Evangeline can't attract and bring in new families. The Rural Municipality of Wellington is trying hard to have more housing available in the community.

Transportation project

Miss Gallant informed council members that nothing is happening right now regarding the transportation project.

Miss Gallant said that our MLA Gilles Arsenault, wants that project to go ahead.

It was mentioned that the transportation is not on their website and it should be.

Karine Gallant said that more awareness needs to be done to the local population.

Projects for the new year

New bilingual website.

Work on a community calendar.

Work on a library.

Do a mail out to educate people about the website.

Have a billboard to inform population on places to rent.

Work in collaboration with the RDEE.

There is a map of the area coming this winter.

More help to employers to integrate new employees.

Work on bon Voisin (good neighbour).

Work with Village des Sources.

Have flags in school.

Work to have the Evangeline region on the map with Destination Canada.

CSCE to work on housing project committee with Paul D. Gallant and Albert Arsenault regarding the community housing in Mont Carmel. The committee is working on phase 2 of project that includes the work on designs. Phase 3 is to get the funding to build townhomes.

Work on the integration in communications between the various organizations of the Evangeline region.

8. Health Center update

Mayor MacCaull informed council that Premier King visited the Health Center and was impressed with the facility. Other than that, no news to report.

9. New Business

a) Development permits

No development permit(s) were issued in November.

b) Wellington Construction

CAO spoke to David Arsenault of Wellington Construction to see if they were interested in building more fourplexes in the municipality. David Arsenault said that they are thinking of building more units in the municipality. Work in progress.

c) Publicity to ratepayers, re: HAF

After discussion, it was decided not to advertise the HAF.

d) Discussion on capital budget (Active Transportation Fund)

The discussion on capital budget will be dealt with at the next monthly council meeting in January 2025.

e) Heating at Vanier Centre (2 quotes)

CAO informed council that the municipality received two quotes for the supply and installation of a heat pump in the hallway outside the washrooms at the Vanier Centre.

After reviewing the quotes, it was moved and seconded that the municipality accept the quote provided by Tradewinds in Charlottetown.

Motion carried

f) Lagoon capacity study report

The CAO informed council that the municipality received the final report from WSP regarding the lagoon capacity study. Councillor Albert Arsenault gave a summary of the report and explained the two (2) options outlined in the report on how to increase the capacity of the lagoon.

g) New names for the 2 streets in the AJL subdivision

At the request of AJL Limited, the proposed names for the 2 new streets be the following: Dominique Street and Yvette Court. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that council accept the two proposed names.

Motion carried

h) Sign for AJL subdivision

The CAO informed council that at the request of government funding received through ICIP, the municipality needs to install a sign at the entrance of the new subdivision. The CAO will get two (2) quotes for the next council meeting.

i) Winter activities in the park

Mayor MacCaull informed council that she received a request from a citizen of the municipality to see if activities could be held at the park during the winter season. After discussion, it was decided not to hold activities in the park during the winter months.

j) Heritage Museum

A member of the municipality approached Mayor MacCaull on the possibility of the municipality buying the old church on Mill Road and transforming it into a heritage museum. After discussion, it was decided not to go ahead in buying the building and transforming it into a heritage museum.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. Other items:

None

12. Next meeting – January 16, 2025

13. Adjournment - Moved that the meeting be adjourned.