

Rural Municipality of Wellington

Council Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2023

Present: Irene MacCaull, Mayor Albert Arsenault, Jason Maddix, Moira McGuire, Jeannette Gallant, Mya Cole, outgoing CAO Imelda Arsenault, and Jean-Pierre Arsenault, new CAO.

Regrets: None

1. Call meeting to order

Irene MacCaull welcomes all to the meeting.

2. Wellington Fire Department Report

Fire chief Leon Perry presented a report to the members of council. The Santa Claus parade by the fire department received good feedback from the public. The firemen suggest doing the same route for next year's parade. They also suggested to have an event before and after the parade (i.e., hot chocolate) or a photo op at Barlow's Mill and Centre Expo in Abram's Village. Fire chief Perry commented on the fire department smart program where a project consisting of clearing trees around homes to protect them in case of forest fires. WFD will talk to the department of Forestry.

The WFD responded to five (5) calls in November 2023 (i.e., tree fire, locked door with stove on).

Fire chief Perry said that the WFD is in good shape compared to other communities who are having problems in recruiting new members. Leon Perry said that four (4) members have joined the department (34 members now) and one (1) more application has come in. The maximum number of firemen that the WFD can have is 35.

Fire chief Perry informed council that the new fire truck is ready to go into service.

3. Approval of agenda

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

Motion carried.

4. Conflict of interest declaration

None declared.

5. Approval of minutes – November 16, 2023

It is moved and seconded that the November 16th minutes be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

6. Business arising from the minutes

a. Affordable housing

Travis from REM approached Imelda Arsenault informing her that they had purchased land from CountryView Holdings ~~Robert Arsenault~~ for the purpose of developing and building houses. No development permit was submitted to the RMW as of today.

b. PEI Department of Transportation work updates

Pondside drive – no update

Storm sewer – Sunset Drive – no update

c. Pollinators Park – The ground is not frozen enough yet to move the shed to the park. The WFD is thinking about storing the ATV in the shed. Further updates will be provided at the next council meeting.

d. Subdivision applications

Wellington Estates - no update

Countryview Holdings – no update

AJL – WSP provided AJL with a preliminary update on the delineation plan. A written report will be ready and made available during the 2nd week of January 2024. WSP emailed AJL a drawing indicating where wetlands A, B, and C are situated on the proposed project. CAO presented council with a diagram showing where the wetlands are situated on the property and what areas of the wetlands need to be removed in order for the project to go ahead. An area of 100 square meters of right of way (4% of total area) for wetland “A” and an area of 200 square meters of right of way (8% of total area) for wetland “B” have to be removed in order for the project to go ahead. A meeting between the RMW and the Department of Environment will be set up sometime in January 2024 to discuss the wetlands issue. JP Arsenault can’t participate in this meeting because of conflict of interest. It is moved and seconded that Imelda Arsenault, Jason Maddix, and Albert Arsenault will represent the RMW at the meeting.

Motion carried.

e. Traffic situation

Imelda Arsenault tried to contact the municipality of Tignish three (3) times with Tignish not returning the calls. Imelda will try again to reach them and talk to someone.

f. Childcare agreement

Imelda Arsenault and JP Arsenault met with director Kathleen Couture to discuss the rent between the Vanier Centre and the Centre Académie d’Exploration (CAE-CPE). The CPE agreed to pay \$1,700 per month in rental payments from September 2023 to March 31, 2025.

It is moved and seconded that the Rural Municipality of Wellington charge CPE pay \$1,700 per month in rent from September 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Motion carried.

It is moved and seconded that the Rural Municipality of Wellington charge (CAE-CPE) \$1,700 per month in rent from April 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Motion carried.

The CPE expressed a safety concern about the mound of snow collected in the Vanier Centre parking lot. CAO consulted with AJL and the only solution to this is to have the snow hauled out by trucks. The cost for the hauling out of the snow would be \$450 per hour (1 loader, 2 trucks, and a dozer at the pit to push the snow). Outgoing CAO will speak with representatives of the Wellington Co-op and the credit union to see if they are willing to split the costs based on their share of the contract with AJL.

g. Confederation trail

The government of P.E.I. decided that no ATV will be allowed on the Confederation trail.

7. Finance

CAO informed council that the CPE deferred revenue is not in rental income yet and will be adjusted for the next council meeting.

Imelda Arsenault is doing the admin work and JP Arsenault is doing the accounting until chemo treatments are done.

8. Committee reports

1. Sewer and municipal services.

a) Sidewalk on Sunset Drive – Issue with crack on sidewalk. Imelda Arsenault will contact Stephen Arsenault of AJL regarding this. Imelda Arsenault will contact Department of Highways regarding the water that is collecting at 68 Sunset Drive. Prior to the building of the new sidewalk, no water was collecting here.

b) RMW received a quote from MacAusland for the replacement of the sidewalk around the pond area. Quote price is \$89,000.

Imelda Arsenault will contact JC Drilling and AJL for quote on the replacement of the sidewalk.

2. New Trails Committee Report – No news.

3. Tourism and recreation

Cameras from Cudmore at the fire hall.

CAO informed council that MacLellan Electrical is expanding his business in the camera security systems. I Arsenault will contact MacLellan Electrical to inquire about cameras.

4. Bingo and Social Services

Irene MacCaull informed council that attendance at weekly bingo average about 29 people.

5. EMO, Fire and Police

Irene MacCaull will provide the names of two (2) boys to the RCMP that go around the municipality on green and black ATVs.

6. Technology & Communications

Mya Cole informed council that the French version has been uploaded on the municipality's website.

7. Planning Board, Policies and Bylaws – No news.

8. Bienvenue/Welcome & immigration Évangéline

No notice of meetings.

There is an event at Le Centre Goéland tonight.

9. Health Center update

I Arsenault to contact Wellington Construction, Urbainville Farms, and the daycare to get letters of support from them.

9. New Business

a) Development permits

Pierre Arsenault has withdrawn his application of a development permit.

Resident at 6 Barlow Road is in talks with of AJL as to what are his options on his lot to build a garage. No permit has been submitted yet.

b) IRAC report – Sewer rate increase

I Arsenault informed council that MSRB quoted a price of \$4,500 to 5,500 to prepare report to IRAC.

Report has to be submitted to IRAC by March 31, 2024.

Can we put costs of MSRB into rate increase?

Imelda Arsenault to contact Philippe Leblanc of Abram's Village for his input on report to IRAC.

JP Arsenault informed council that he would be interested in preparing report to IRAC.

Alcide Bernard would be another contact for the IRAC report.

c) Canada Student Employment Program

I Arsenault spoke to the two (2) students who were employed by the municipality during the 2023 summer.

There were 210 visitors at the centre during the past summer.

75% of the visitors come for washrooms.

Student's salaries are paid 50% by the province and 50% by the Federal.

It was decided that Imelda Arsenault go ahead and apply under the Canada Student Employment Program to have two (2) students for the 2024 summer season.

d) Funding possibilities

Imelda Arsenault informed council that new funding came out today.

There is funding to install a generator for the Vanier Centre, more energy efficiency projects (i.e., change from oil to propane), solar panels (i.e., park, fire hall).

Municipality would have to pay 40% of the costs through the funding announced today.

Regarding asphalt sidewalks, new funding would pay 50% of the costs.

Council is opened to having asphalt sidewalks on Mill Road, Wellington Road, and Mont Carmel Road.

No word yet on program to replace the gas tax funding.

10. Correspondence

Municipality received Christmas cards from PEI MLA Gilles Arsenault, member of parliament for Egmont Bob Morrissey and PEI Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry.

11. Other items

Lights on boardwalk, bridge. The lights should be looked at before the skating season starts since the electricity was removed earlier in the fall. CAO to speak to Ernest.

12. Next meeting – January 18, 2024

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.