

Rural Municipality of Wellington

Council & Annual Budget Meeting

Meeting Minutes March 16, 2023

Present: Irene MacCaull, Mayor; Counsellors Jeannette Gallant, Jason Maddix, Albert Arsenault, Mya Cole

Absent: Cynthia Gaudet, CAO; Counsellor Moira McGuire

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor MacCaull called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Fire Department report

Fire Chief Leon Perry was in attendance to present the report. In February there were 6 calls, one was a water and 6 calls for structure fire. The department is still waiting on new radios. Damage happened to the driver's side of a department vehicle. Effective March 1, they are back in MFR (Medical First Responder) mode, Code 1. This training cost will be covered by the government. Noted that the department has some HAZMAT training, but nearest team is in Moncton; departments are unable to take on additional training. They have 2 new applicants starting in May, 4-5 members are taking Level 1 training, and 2 new junior firefighters moving into full roles. Province has now allowed them to assist with medical calls.

3. Gilles Pinchaud – Solar panel project

Gilles presented his request for council to grant ownership of a parcel of land to the Wellington Legion for installation of solar panels. Documents presented showed cost savings, the size and scope of the panels to be installed and the portion of land requested. The cost of surveying and additional costs associated will be covered by the Legion. A buffer zone of trees will remain bordering adjacent properties to limit disruption. The timeline of completion is approximately one year. Report was uploaded to the website.

Motion Carried

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion carried.

5. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflict of interest was declared.

6. Approval of Minutes – February 27, 2023

The minutes were approved from the previous meeting with one small correction. Motion carried.

7. Business arising from the minutes

- a. **College de l'Île:** There was another meeting; no updates on this so far. Gabriel is set to meet with Bobby Morrissey.
- b. **Affordable Housing:** Irene spoke with Sonny, and reached out to Tim Banks with no response for a meeting date yet. It has been reported that Wellington is one of the choices for the apartment building. The Fire Department will have to approve a three-storey building. Irene spoke to Roger Arsenault regarding their property on Mont Carmel as a possible building site. Stephen needs to speak with David and report back. There may be the possibility of property on Mill Rd. for development. A message was also received from government official (Robbie Ashley) regarding programs for lower income development, reached out for a meeting, no reply yet.
- c. **PEI Department of Transportation work updates:** Irene met with Nick, there was a meeting with the Transportation Group. Discussion about needing a schedule for the T3 bus route with times so residents know when service can be accessed. There is another bus being discussed, for on-demand use (residents can call to request service).
- d. **Pollinators' Park:** Work could have started last fall; due to a misunderstanding, the work was to be completed by December 31 of last year as part of the grant. We now have an extension to July 1, 2023 to use this money for the park.
- e. **Subdivision application updates:** Gilles does not own the property Stephen was looking at using as part of the subdivision. When the snow melts, the environmental assessment will be done, and they will also determine if a retention pond is needed and where. There was also a note from Jocelyn about a possible development.
- f. **Culvert at Double H:** Discussion about the possibility of a gate instead, two companies were contacted for quotes. Concern was voiced about the longevity of a gate, and past damage after a gate had been installed. May return to culvert removal option.
- g. **Mya Cole to report on ATV meeting:** Meeting was attended by Mya Cole and Jeannette Gallant on March 8 in Kensington. Discussion about possibility of road use in Kensington by the ATV Federation. Riders would require license, registration, plate, insurance and to follow a designated route only. Route proposed is from trail entering Route 2 from Charlottetown into Kensington, allowing riders to go straight only through intersection. No authority currently for road use; legislation must first be amended. If council makes recommendation to request legislation change, this change would allow villages to individually decide whether use of the roads is permitted. Concerns voiced from residents about noise, congestion, safety and route proposed. Will be presented to Kensington Council April 24 to vote on issue.

8. Finance

- a. **Year to date monthly report:** Jason had questions regarding holding the money to be used to radios for fire department. Since the money was already allocated for this use, there is no issue using the money Payment received for Centre de la Petite Enfance, now up-to-date and pre-paid for 6 months.
- b. **Presentation of 2023/2024 Budget:** Municipality budget for the year 2023/2024 was presented by Irene MacCaull.

Motion passed.

9. Committee reports

- a. **Sewer & Municipal Services – New sidewalk on Sunset Drive:** Note that for sewer flushing, development on Barlow Rd. would require flushing a couple times a year. The closing for tenders for the sidewalk is approaching on March 21st.
- b. **New Trails Committee Report:** Spoke with Don Maynard about adding the loop to the trail plan, the additional cost would be \$875. Approached Tracy Brown from Bedeque Bay to gauge interest in working on the trail, wants to walk in the spring.
- c. **Tourism & Recreation:** Applied for provincial and federal funding for staff; interest in position from a prior staff member.
- d. **Bingo & Social Services:** Still waiting for Nevada and pick-your-owns, were waiting on payment; they were shipped Tuesday.
- e. **EMO, Fire & Police:** The generator box may be covered by the government, will have to wait to see new budget on April 1. Fire Department approved 2% increase on fire dues (2024), has been the normal yearly increase.
- f. **Technology & Communications:** Nothing to report.
- g. **Bienvenue/Welcome & Immigration Évangéline:** Nothing planned, Nick expressed enjoyment of Meet the Neighbours event.
- h. **Planning Board, Bylaws & Policies:** Members attended planning meeting on March 9 to discuss new AJL subdivision development plans. Once grading and environmental assessments are complete, project will go ahead.

10. New Business

- a. **Local Choice PEI:** Councillors received letters from Local Choice PEI, a group advocating for further voting freedom and additional avenues for voting.
- b. **Health office:** Currently do not have a NP in the area anymore; Irene contacted Susan Chappell, the area supervisor, no date for meeting yet. Also spoke to Sonny about possibility of becoming a medical home, giving residents the ability to call with a full-time receptionist, rather than online only booking. Residents need more information about offerings and services, create and send out brochures to inform.
- c. **Sewer rate:** Asked CAO to contact IRAC regarding raising the sewer rate, no further updates.
- d. **Other business:** Scraper purchased for ice maintenance currently missing; noted excellent use of ice this winter by residents and others living outside the village.

The food truck proposed to be parked at the Barlow Mill was hoping to be parked during the wintertime, will be in another location during summer months.

11. Correspondence

12. Next meeting: April 20, 2023

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.