

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2007**

Present were: Mayor Sam Synard
Deputy Mayor Julie Mitchell
Councillor Dave Brenton
Councillor Keith Keating
Councillor Albert Stacey
Councillor Phonse Ward
Councillor Charles Wiscombe

Also present: Dennis Kelly, Town Clerk/Manager
Shirley Labour, Treasurer
Mike Mallay, Recreation Director (Acting)
Gerard Kelly, Fire/Building Inspector
Petrina Power, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Daisy Senior, Operations Director

Also present: Paul Herridge, The Southern Gazette

1. Call to Order

Mayor Synard called the meeting to order at 7:16 P.M. and welcomed those present.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/001R

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Wiscombe

“BE IT RESOLVED the agenda be adopted as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/002R

Moved by Councillor Stacey, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on December 4, 2007 be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Special Council Meeting, December 5, 2007

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/003R

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Stacey

“BE IT RESOLVED the minutes of the special Council meeting held on December 5, 2007 be adopted.”

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Business Arising from Regular Meeting of December 4, 2007

Mayor Wayde Rowsell, Town of St. Lawrence, was heard on the radio recently responding to the reduced hours for the hospital in St. Lawrence due to the shortage of nurses and other positions. Any services required outside the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. will require a patient to travel 30 km to the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre in Salt Pond. The BPHCC itself is currently without internal medical coverage until January 7, 2008.

The deteriorating health care system is of great concern for Council. Mayor Synard spoke to Chief Operating Officer Pat Coish-Snow on the situation Eastern Health is facing. Despite signing bonuses and other benefits, there has been little success at recruiting and retaining health professionals, leaving many vacant positions. The quality of life in rural areas may be having some impact on attracting workers. Council is prepared to support Eastern Health in any way it can to assist in turning the situation around. In return, Council will approach Eastern Health about championing the need for more amenities on the Burin Peninsula in order to improve the quality of rural living and attract needed professionals.

Councillor Ward noted that rural areas can be somewhat daunting to the health care professional. Life in a rural area is often associated with longer, demanding work hours and less time with family members compared to city living where health care professionals are in a greater abundance. As well, rural areas are often only able to offer casual employment. However, the situation has reversed and there are currently a number of full-time positions available on the Burin Peninsula. Council will work together with Eastern Health to try to resolve the issue.

The Town Clerk/Manager confirmed that the \$7,500.00 for the entertainment stage at the Track & Field Complex that was approved at the last regular Council meeting is for engineering design fees only and does not include any of the construction or electrical costs.

It was noted that Council will meet with Mr. Tom Baker of the Community Pride Committee after the New Year to discuss the Tidy Towns evaluation for Marystown. Council will look at areas that can be improved such as our energy consumption, etc.

Mayor Synard, Deputy Mayor Mitchell and Councillor Ward attended the Schooner Regional Development Corporation’s Strategic Planning Forum held on December 10th and 11th. While there were some refreshing discussions, there was some cause for concern as well. Mr. Frank Smith of Peter Kiewit Sons’, Co. was a guest speaker on December 10th. While there are many potential contracts in the hopper for the company, Mr. Smith alluded to concerns with the labour union unrest. As well, Mr. Smith does not anticipate much work for the Marystown area from the Hebron-Ben Nevis MOU. The biggest portion of the contract will be bid internationally and Marystown won’t be on the same competitive level. In fact, this is bigger than Marystown – this

impacts Newfoundland as a whole. This contract should be kept in Newfoundland, regardless of the location, be it Marystown or elsewhere. As the union dispute could affect this contract and cause modules to be built elsewhere in Canada, it's time for government to sit with the unions and resolve the issues at hand.

Mayor Synard is pleased to hear Mr. Smith speak so publicly about the MOU and the labour dispute as it gives Council the opportunity to approach government and continue the conversation. Council will work towards lining up another meeting with Minister Clyde Jackman, MHA to discuss this and other outstanding issues.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/004R

Moved by Councillor Wiscombe, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mitchell

“BE IT RESOLVED Council contact Minister Clyde Jackman, MHA, in the New Year and set up a meeting for January 2008 to discuss the Hebron-Ben Nevis MOU, the continuing labour dispute and other issues of concern for Council and the residents of Marystown.”

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Committee Reports

Recreation Committee

Councillor Stacey noted his committee did not meet since the last regular Council meeting of December 4, 2007.

Councillor Stacey thanked those who assisted with the 2007 Christmas Tree Light-up on December 7th. There was a huge turnout, resulting in another successful event. During the light-up, approximately 400 sets of old, traditional Christmas lights were exchanged for energy-efficient LED lights, compliments of NL Power/NL Hydro.

Councillor Ward questioned whether or not it would be possible to switch out our streetlights for energy efficient lights.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/005R

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Brenton

“BE IT RESOLVED Council contact officials from NL Power/NL Hydro to inquire as to whether or not there is any intention to switch out the current streetlights for more energy-efficient, cost-saving streetlights.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Tourism/Special Events Committee

Councillor Keating advised there have been a number of Come Home Year meetings. The committee has been busy lining up entertainment for the celebrations. A contract has been signed with 8-Track Favourites and negotiations are ongoing with Blue-Eyed Blondes,

Masterless Men and Rex Goudie. A considerable amount of funds is expected to be spent on the event, which Councillor Keating hopes will be a huge success.

As well, Councillor Keating facilitated a meeting two weeks ago with the ATV Trail Association and the Heritage Run Tourism Association. It is hoped that everyone will band together to increase winter trail tourism, etc. The next meeting is slated for January 9th in the New Year.

Mayor Synard noted that in light of the recent Salmon Festival, Grand Falls-Windsor stands to lose approximately \$200,000.00 on the event. He questioned whether or not Council could view their debriefing to see what went wrong to ensure the Come Home Year 2008 event does not follow suit. Councillor Keating will follow up through UMC members for Grand Falls-Windsor. Councillor Brenton noted it might also be a good idea to look at the success rate of past Salmon Festivals as well.

Protection to Persons & Property Committee

Councillor Ward noted the Protection to Persons & Property Committee did not meet since the last regular Council meeting of December 4, 2007.

Councillor Ward advised there are some Fire Department issues to be discussed in correlation with the budget process following the meeting.

Correspondence was received from the Fire Commissioners Office advising that all volunteer firefighters would be eligible to receive a vanity license plate (without paid registration), however, there is a stipulation that in order to receive the plate, a minimum of three years volunteer firefighting service is required. It was agreed that this stipulation diminishes the service put forth by those volunteers with less than three years service.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/006R

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Wiscombe

“BE IT RESOLVED Council write a letter of support on behalf of the Marystown Volunteer Fire Department requesting that the Fire Commissioners Office drop the minimum requirement of three years volunteer firefighting service they have placed on their firefighter vanity license plate so that those firefighters who do not have three years service, but are nonetheless valuable volunteers, are eligible to receive the plate.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Ward, who attended the SRDC Strategic Planning Forum on December 10th and 11th, noted that it was refreshing to hear input on such topics as oil and gas, aquaculture, the fishery, etc., from those who work directly in those fields more so than government officials.

Public Works Committee

Councillor Wiscombe noted the Public Works Committee did not meet since the last regular Council meeting of December 4, 2007.

Councillor Wiscombe did not have any items to bring forward.

Finance Committee

Councillor Brenton noted the Finance Committee did not meet since the last regular Council meeting of December 4, 2007.

Councillor Brenton had several motions to bring forward on behalf of the committee.

The Town's audited statements for the year ending December 31, 2006 were received from Grant Thornton LLP. The statements show the Town to be in a good financial position and also show the Town operated with a surplus of approximately \$89,000.00 last year, which will go towards future projects. Councillor Brenton congratulated the Town Clerk/Manager, the Town Treasurer and all Department Heads and staff for their hard work in bringing back another successful audit.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/007R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to approve and sign the 2006 audited financial statements received from Grant Thornton LLP for the Town of Marystown for the year ending December 31, 2006.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/008R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mitchell

“BE IT RESOLVED Council sign off Grant Thornton LLP's *Management Representation* letter outlining the Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles under which the audit was completed.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence was received from the Marystown Volunteer Fire Department dated December 14, 2007, requesting a donation in the amount of \$75.00 to assist with a Christmas dinner for the less fortunate.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/009R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mitchell

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given for a donation to the Marystown Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$75.00 to assist with a Christmas dinner for the less fortunate of the Marystown area.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Adjustments

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/010R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED Council ratify Poll Tax Ratification for December 2007 as per policy, as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/011R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Stacey

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust 50% of the interest for business account VERA’001, as per policy.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/012R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust property taxes for St. Gabriel’s Hall in the amount of \$1,472.64 as in previous years.”

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the hall is still owned by the church. Churches are not assessed for taxes under the Assessment Act. As a result, any assessment of the hall has been written off in previous years.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/013R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mitchell

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to adjust water & sewer taxes for account BENNB001 for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 as the property owner did not lease an apartment for those years.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Brenton noted that the budget process has begun. Council met prior to the regular meeting and will meet again afterwards.

Planning & Development Committee

Deputy Mayor Mitchell presented the Development Applications from the Planning & Development Committee.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/014R

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Wiscombe

“BE IT RESOLVED the following applications be approved subject to approval of applicable government departments and/or agencies and any conditions stipulated:

- Marystown Fire Department, 97-105 McGettigan Boulevard – obtain club liquor license for social room, subject to Government Service Centre and fire inspection
- Pizza Plus, 192-200 Ville Marie Drive – operate a pizza restaurant in the former Reddy Chef location, Aylward’s building, subject to Government Service Centre and fire inspection
- Residents, 54-56 Greenwood Street West – construct 12’ x 16’ shed, subject to site inspection
- Allan Geraghty, Marystown Mall – operate fireworks store in former Gazette location, subject to fire inspection
- Resident, 9 Main Road – locate shed on property, subject to site inspection
- Darren Jackman, Marystown Mall – obtain liquor license for Pizza Delight restaurant, subject to Government Service Centre and fire inspection.”

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to bring forward for discussion or information purposes.

7. Approvals to Purchase

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/015R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Stacey

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Recreation Department for the following purchase:

- Fridge and Stove for Arena Multi-Purpose Room - \$1,048.78, HST included.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/016R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Stacey

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Fire Department for the following purchase:

- Firefighting Equipment - \$5,076.42, HST included, with funds to come from fundraising efforts.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/017R

Moved by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Stacey

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to the Public Works Department for the following purchases:

- Water & Sewer Supplies - \$2,271.12, HST included
- 14” Water Line and Fittings – approximately \$4,000.00, HST included
- Tires for Loaders and Trucks - \$2,696.72, HST included.”

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Other Business

Councillor Stacey noted Premier Danny Williams made the announcement yesterday that the go-ahead was given to Husky Energy for the White Rose expansion. This amounts to a potential 9.9 million man-days of work. Hopefully Kiewit and Marystown will get a piece of the project. Approximately \$425 million will be spent on the White Rose.

Councillor Stacey, on behalf of his family, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Councillor Keating noted he did not attend the Town’s Christmas social at the Lions Club on Saturday past. Due to snowfall earlier in the day and the lack of proper clearing, the Lions Club was not accessible for Councillor Keating’s wife, who is physically disabled, prompting Councillor Keating to decide to begin a campaign following the New Year. Councillor Keating noted the situation needs to be addressed on a Provincial level, as many others have faced similar situations accessing hotels, stores and other public buildings. Councillor Keating recommended that from this point forward, Council ensure any buildings used for Council functions are accessible.

Deputy Mayor Mitchell noted it was a lesson learned for Council and agrees that all functions need to be accessible to everyone. Councillor Brenton recommended advising the Lions Club of what happened and agreed with Deputy Mayor Mitchell that functions should only be held in accessible buildings from now on and that the access to the building should be kept clear at all times.

Councillor Keating wished Christmas Greetings to all of Council, management, staff and their families.

Councillor Ward expressed his apologies to Councillor Keating for the situation he and his wife faced with the Lions Club and hoped it did not happen again in the future.

Councillor Ward wished a safe and happy Christmas to Council, the Fire Department, Management and staff.

Councillor Wiscombe also wished everyone Christmas Greetings and thanked everyone for their hard work over the past year.

Councillor Brenton advised an announcement was made with regards to the Building Canada Fund. Though there aren't many details on the initiative, Federal Minister Loyola Hearn advised all applications for funding will go to him for final approval and signage. The infrastructure agreement amounts to \$430 million (including current Gas Tax revenue) for infrastructure improvement across the province. Councillor Brenton recommended Council work on meeting with Minister Hearn in the New Year regarding the Town's own infrastructure requirements.

Councillor Brenton passed along Christmas Greetings to Council, Management and staff.

Deputy Mayor Mitchell noted the Marystown area has seen an influx of shoppers, especially on the weekends and especially now with the Christmas season upon us. Many residents of St. Pierre et Miquelon come to the area to shop, bringing great economic benefit to the town and businesses. While the stores may become more congested, the line-ups longer and the parking lots fuller, Deputy Mayor Mitchell embraces those shoppers, as we all should, for their decision to visit the area and shop.

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/018R

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Keating

“BE IT RESOLVED approval be given to publish an advertisement in the L’Echo des Caps, the newspaper for St. Pierre et Miquelon, thanking the residents for their past patronage to the Marystown area and the Burin Peninsula over the years and their continued patronage for the future.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Mitchell wished everyone Christmas Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Synard passed along his Christmas Greetings to all of Council, Management, staff and their families as well. While it's been a challenging year, everyone has worked hard over the year. There is still a lot of hard work ahead to secure the projects on Council's Christmas wish list. Mayor Synard looks forward to 2008 and expressed thanks and appreciation to everyone for their dedication this past year and, as well, to the residents of Marystown for their continued support.

Mayor Synard noted he enjoyed the Town's Christmas social Saturday past and, despite the problems with accessibility, expressed thanks to the Lions Club. However, there is no doubt that the accessibility issue still needs to be addressed and agrees that Councillor Keating and his wife will make great ambassadors for the cause. He wished them well and hopes some good comes from their campaign.

The Town Clerk/Manager passed on his Christmas Greetings to everyone and appreciation for their support. He noted that while it's been a challenging year, even tough at times, it's not over yet and he looks forward to working with everyone to bring down a new budget for 2008 in the final days to come.

9. Adjournment

Motion

MMC 2007 12 18/019R

Moved by Councillor Keating, seconded by Councillor Stacey

“BE IT RESOLVED the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Sam Synard
Mayor

Dennis Kelly
Town Clerk/Manager