

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Regular meeting #8 for 2020 of the Grand Bank Town Council was held at the Council Chambers in the Former Federal Building on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 2:07 p.m.

Mayor Rex C. Matthews, Deputy Mayor Clayton Welsh, Councillors George Bennett, Roger Brooks, Jack Burfitt, Stan Burt (via telephone) and Rick Grikis attended along with Town Manager Wayne Bolt, Town Clerk Sheila M. Dolimount, and Recreation/Operations/Maintenance Director Tom Burton. Administrative Clerk Michelle Patten is working.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION 2020-3291: R. GRIKIS/C. WELSH

Motioned that the agenda be adopted as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

3. **DELEGATION** NONE

4. **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS – AUGUST 31, 2020** NONE

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOTION 2020-3292: G. BENNETT/R. GRIKIS

Motioned that the minutes of the Regular Meeting for August 31, 2020 be approved as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 2020-3293: R. GRIKIS/S. BURT

Motioned that the minutes of the Special Meeting for August 12, 2020 be approved as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 2020-3294: C. WELSH/G. BENNETT

Motioned that the minutes of the Special Meeting for September 14, 2020 be approved as presented.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – AUGUST 31, 2020**

a. **Trees**

Councillor Brooks questioned if the trees and shrubs, that were planted this year for the Downtown Redevelopment Project, would be covered for the winter. Town Manager Bolt advised that they would not be covered.

b. **Brunette Island Display**

Councillor Grikis questioned if the display stand has been done for the Brunette Island Storyboard. Town Manager Bolt advised it will be completed this week.

7. **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

a. **Burin Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**

Received an email advising that the Burin Peninsula Chamber of Commerce is looking at holding an in-house Annual Business Awards Event in October, they would like to know who would be interested in attending so they can make a decision if it will go ahead. If anyone is interested in attending let the Town Clerk know.

b. Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL)

Received an email advising that registration for the 2020 MNL Virtual Conference is now open. Deadline to register is Friday, October 16, 2020. If anyone is interested in attending let the Town Clerk know.

c. Main Street Youth Centre Inc.

- * Received a letter from the Main Street Youth Centre Inc. expressing concerns over the loss of a community centre and requesting the Town consider helping the youth to help find a place for the kids/teenagers to go.
- * Received an email from a concerned parent who would like for her two teenage children to have a youth centre and somewhere safe for them to go hang out with their friends.
- * Received an email advising the youth in this Town are in need of a community centre to keep them out of trouble.
- * Received a letter from the Main Street Youth Centre Inc. inquiring if Council is considering a recreational facility for the Community or if Council can help them secure another facility.
- * Received a letter from a former employee and volunteer of the Community Youth Network advising that there is a high need for a youth centre in the Town.
- * Received an email from MHA Carol Anne Haley to the Main Street Youth Centre Inc. advising of the information that would be needed in order to proceed in any proposals.
- * Received an email from Sadie Parsons suggesting the youth need a place to go in order to help keep them out of trouble.

After some discussion, it was agreed that Mayor Matthews, Deputy Mayor Welsh and Councillor Burt would meet with the Executive of CYN to discuss their issues and concerns.

8. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

a. Municipal Assessment Agency

Receive an update on the Municipal Assessment Agency.

b. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Received an email regarding changes to the Asset Management Grants for Municipalities.

c. Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Received an email advising “International Right to Know Day” is September 28th.

d. Citizen

Received an email thanking the Town Council for being prepared for the heavy rainfall on September 18, 2020 with employees out checking manholes, pumps out, etc.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance Committee

Deputy Mayor Welsh, Committee Member, presented a written report of a meeting the Committee held on September 23, 2020.

MOTION 2020-3295: C. WELSH/J. BURFITT

Motioned that the Finance Committee report of September 23, 2020 be approved with the exception of item #4 which is to be deferred.

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 2020-3296: C. WELSH/R. GRIKIS

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank approve the following Tax Recovery Plan for 2019:

A. Status of the Objective(s) of the Tax Recovery Plan Dated December 31, 2019

The Town of Grand Bank was able to recover approximately 55% of the outstanding and current taxes receivable for the municipality fiscal year that ended 2019.

The Town of Grand Bank placed accounts with Small Claims Court and a Collection Agency. As well, the Town requested payroll deductions on several accounts and commenced Tax Sales on several properties.

The Provincial Government changed the procedure for payment of AES clients; thus, limiting access to the Town in determining if clients' accounts will be paid by AES directly or by the client. The client may not be responsible for paying, due to several reasons, including insufficient income or because they moved.

In accordance with the Utilities Act, several telecommunication companies, including Bell Express Vu, have not forwarded payment as per their invoice. The Town continues to charge these companies in the hope that payment will be received in the future.

B. 2020 Objective(s)

The Town's objective is to recover 80% of the outstanding taxes receivable by December 31st each year.

In order to ensure the availability of sufficient municipal services, it is important that residents and businesses make their payments to Council by September 30, or otherwise be placed on the Town's arrears listing and subject to the Town's arrears recovery actions as outlined in the Town of Grand Bank's Policy #10-Collection Policy and Procedures/Tax Recovery Plan attached to this report.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 2020-3297: C. WELSH/R. BROOKS

Motioned that the Town of Grand Bank increase the amount spent on the 2019 Roads upgrades - (Project #98-2019-6790) by \$33,902.00.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

b. Development Committee

Deputy Mayor Clayton Welsh, Committee Chairperson, presented a written report of a meeting the Committee held on September 23, 2020.

Item #8: After some discussion, it was agreed to remove the posts at 37 Main Street and invoice the property owners for the costs in keeping with the Town's policy.

MOTION 2020-3298: C. WELSH/R. GRIKIS

Motioned that the Development Committee report of September 23, 2020 be approved with the change to Item #8.

ALL IN FAVOUR MOTION CARRIED

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Consultants Report – Town Hall

Mayor Matthews questioned if everyone had an opportunity to read through the drafts that were prepared by the Engineers. After some discussion, it was agreed that Recreation Director Burton would arrange a meeting with the Consultants and Council to discuss the drafts proposed.

b. 2020 Roads Upgrading

Mayor Matthews advised that Farrell's Excavating was awarded the tender for the Roads Upgrading and it was indicated they would start work around September 14, 2020, however work hasn't started as of yet. After some discuss, it was agreed that Town Manager Bolt would advise the Engineers that if the 2020 Roads Upgrading Project

doesn't start soon and isn't finished by the Government cut off time for asphalt being laid, then the project would be put on hold until Spring next year.

c. Dam Information

Town Manager Bolt advised that the information for the Dam Project had to go through three different government departments, it is now in the Fisheries Department. Mayor Matthews stated it may go out to tender this week.

d. Forward & Tibbo

Mayor Matthews advised that on the advice of the Town's former solicitor, Mr. Don MacBeath that the Town put the piece of land that is on Water Street, up for a tax sale.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021 Capital works

Mayor Matthews advised that the plant line has had three breaks in the last couple of months it is costing the Town a lot of money to repair. He agreed with having the Plant Line Replacement as the #1 priority on the Capital Works list.

b. Outstanding Accounts

Mayor Matthews advised that next week Councillors may get calls from taxpayers when workers start the process of turning off water because of taxes not paid.

c. Stoodley Stage

Mayor Matthews advised that Stoodley Stage is in the process of being sold and it will be restored to its former glory. He also advised that the owner is hoping to turn the property over to the Heritage Society. Mayor Matthews noted that given his brother is part of the Stage he will rescue himself from discussion on this issue.

d. Town Solicitor

Mayor Matthews questioned where Council would go now for a Solicitor, with the passing of Mr. Don MacBeath. Councillor Burt suggested that due diligence needs to be done on this matter. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mayor Matthews, Town Manager Bolt and Town Clerk Dolimount meet to discuss and recommend a new solicitor for the Town.

12. COUNCILLORS FORUM

a. Ruth Piccolo

Councillor Bennett advised that he was contacted by Ms. Piccolo stating that she tried to speak with staff concerning the letter she received. Town Clerk Dolimount advised the letter was in regards to the incident of her dog at the dam.

b. Nature Trail

Councillor Brooks questioned where the application stands for the Nature Trail. Mayor Matthews advised that the Provincial Government is sitting on the money from the Federal Government and was supposed to approve projects in later September.

c. Wharf – Phase II

Councillor Brooks questioned if any work is going to be done on the Phase II of the Wharf. Councillor Burfitt advised that in the last Harbour Authority meeting with MP Rogers it was stated that Grand Bank was number #1 on the list for funding.

d. Trail

Councillor Burfitt advised that there are a couple of broken boards in the boardwalk up the Nature Trail that needs to be repaired. Recreation Director Burton was asked to investigate this and repair.

e. **Plan of Action**

Councillor Burfitt questioned if there is a plan of action in place should the Town Manager and Town Clerk retire after the election next year. Mayor Matthews advised that there is nothing in place for succession planning since there is minimum staff employed by the Town. Further, he noted that Senior Managers would give the Town fair and reasonable notice when they plan to retire.

13. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN OFFICIALS**

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION 2020-3299: G. BENNETT/C. WELSH

Motioned that the meeting adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION CARRIED

