

Village of Chester
Regular Monthly Meeting –Dec 15, 2010

Minutes

Present:

Bill Zinck Jr., Brenda Mulrooney, Mike Heisler, Tom Mulrooney, Jo-Ann Grant and Iris Tolliver

Regrets: None

There were Approx. 15 members of the public present.

Additions to the agenda.

“In Camera” sessions was added to New Business.

Minutes from the previous meeting:

The minutes from Nov 10, 2010 were circulated and reviewed. Brenda Mulrooney moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Tom Mulrooney. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Summer Flower Baskets

One tender was received from N. Levy’s Property Maintenance. The tender was circulated. Billy announced the amount of the tender as \$16079.30 (HST in). A motion to accept the tender was made by Brenda Mulrooney, seconded by Jo-Ann Grant. All were in favor and motion carried. Brenda Mulrooney noted that many of the hangers have been moved and or misplaced. She would like to see some down around the water front as well. She recommended that we alternate seasonal banners with the flower baskets and wreaths on the poles to keep cost down. The item was tabled until the budget so there would be an opportunity to get prices on banners.

New Business:

Certification for Fire Boat Operation

It has come to the Commission’s attention that a Pleasure Craft Certification does not meet the qualifications for operating a Rescue Fire Boat. Directing his comments to Fire Chief Duke Chafe, the Chair asked whether it is something that should be discussed further. Fire Chief Chafe asked for the data that has been collected by the Clerk Treasurer and he will meet with her to determine what will need to be done prior to the fire boat going back in the water.

Duke St Sidewalk Presentation

A presentation of the proposed Duke Street sidewalk installation was presented by the Municipality of Chester. Present were Gordon Tate, Active Living/Transportation Coordinator; Matt Davidson Public Works Director; Lyle Russell, Assistant Engineer; and Matthew Covey, Area Manager of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. A ten minute slide show and updates of the three phase plan was presented by Gordon Tate and Lyle Russell. The Chair asked that the member of the public hold their questions until the question period at end of the agenda. However there were questions from the Commission. After explaining the requirements for the sidewalks, Brenda Mulrooney asked if there was any thought given to installing a more narrow sidewalk as a way to lower costs. Mr. Russell explained that what was being presented tonight are preliminary plans and her suggestions could be considered. He added that water management and storm sewers are the biggest part of the project and suggested the Municipality is leaning towards underground management of the water run-off. Next

step in the process is to meet again with DOT and answer some of the questions raised. There were no funds available in the budget last year to tackle this project which is estimated to cost between 425 thousand dollars. Council has made a motion the first part of October for a feasibility study with the thought of spreading the work over a couple of construction seasons.

The first phase would tackle the area between Valley Rd and Regent St., the next phase would include the area from Union St to the Bank of Nova Scotia and the final phase being the portion directly in front of the Legion. The engineering portion of the project has also been approved and it is expected that an RFP will be out by the end of January with a result of a consulting firm hired by March 2011. Tom Mulrooney asked if a comparison had been done between doing the sidewalk over 3-4 seasons as opposed to all at once and financing the cost. Mr. Tate did admit they expect the cost of running over a few years will increase the cost by perhaps \$50K, but the financial department has not had an opportunity to really look at the costs in order to make that determination. The question of financing costs was considered as well. Mr. Mulrooney then asked about the expected start date for the project and whether it was possible to start in this construction season. Brad Armstrong spoke from the audience to state that only the engineering part of the project has been approved by council. Mr. Tate clarified that council has approved the cost of engineering to get the project "shovel ready". Mr. Russell said all that could happen in time to begin the project this spring and have the first phase of the project completed by March of 2012, pending council approval. Further questions would be considered at the end of the meeting during question period if necessary.

Water Supply at Fire Hall

Brenda Mulrooney moved that the Clerk Treasurer submit a request to the Nova Scotia Environment to de-register the Fire Hall as a public drinking water supply. The motion was seconded by Tom Mulrooney and all were in favor.

Web Site for the Village of Chester Commission

The commission is seeking to have a dedicated web site with its own search engine. The topic was tabled to be discussed later during a budget meeting. The Clerk Treasurer was asked to start getting prices in preparation for a decision on the matter.

Clerk Treasurer Vacation

The Commission granted unanimous permission to allow the Clerk Treasurer to be absent from Feb 14-25, 2011. Arrangements have been made to ensure the mail will be picked up in her absence.

Formation of "Budget Committee"

Tom Mulrooney motioned to form a "Budget Committee" which would include all members of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Mike Heisler and all were in favor.

"In Camera" Sessions

Jo-Ann Grant moved that the Clerk Treasurer contact ANSV to determine the process for an amendment that would allow Villages to hold "in camera" meeting. Brenda Mulrooney seconded and all were in favor and the motion carried.

Correspondence

Clean Nova Scotia

Pamphlets and magnetic concerning the "Retire Your Ride" program.

Municipality of Chester Recreation & Parks Dept

Email from Cossette Howlett with a poster about an upcoming P.R.O. Kids fundraiser happening this Friday at Subway in Chester. A portion of the sales go to P.R.O. Kids.

Municipality of the District of Chester

Memo from Chad Haughn, Recreation and Parks Director, concerning Volunteer Week being held April 10-16, 2011. Deadline to submit a nomination is Feb 2/11. Also included is information on an Intergenerational Award program to be held this spring. The program is designed to increase awareness of

the value of relationships between older and younger generation. The deadline for nominations is Jan 31, 2011. The Rec. and Parks Dept is offering all community groups in the Municipality 100 free photocopies. Finally the memo also includes info on the Lucky Duck Lotto 2011.

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Office

Bill Estabrooks, Minister, sent a package that included a flyer with information on winter maintenance standards and road safety tips.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Call for nominations for the Paul Zyzyk Award for Multiculturalism. The award acknowledges and honors individuals in communities across Canada who have made exceptional contributions to the integration of newcomers, and is open to all citizens and permanent residents. It includes a \$20K grant to be given to an eligible, registered not-for-profit Canadian organization or association of the recipient's choice. Nominations are being accepted until March 1/11.

Alzheimer Society Nova Scotia

An invitation to towns, villages and municipalities throughout the province to officially proclaim January as Alzheimer Awareness Month. (sample proclamation)

Municipal Finance Corporation

Sponsoring a one day workshop to all municipal councilors and staff. There is no fee to attend this workshop and registration is offered on first come, first served. Topics will include: Where do municipalities get their money, what do they spend it on, what does the budget process look like and what is My role, when should you use area rates and user fees, what is the difference between assessment and taxation, how can the budget be used as a management tool, how can strategic planning improve municipal finances, when and how should you consult with your citizens.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Copy of the 2009/2010 Year in Review highlighting the successes and achievement of the Division.

Bell & Grant

Commercial package renewal effective October 11, 2010. Of note is that the 1997 International Pumper does not have Replacement Cost coverage. (#551). Also included is the endorsement for the Property Policy at the Lido. The Blanket Amount has increased by \$283,700. The limit of coverage on the Lido Wharf has increased to \$25,000. Coverage has been added for the new pool house (\$250,000). The contents limit has increased to \$60,000). The cost for this increase is an extra \$2265.00 annually.

Bell & Grant

Risk Inspection and Property Valuation Reports. These are the results from a site visit by a representative of Frank Cowan Company. All the hazards noted on a previous visit have been eliminated with the exception of the other half of the dividing wall of the pool to the ocean, the guardrails for the 2 rock walls that have a difference in elevation of about 4 feet and a secure physical barrier around the pool.

Fire Chief's Report

Since the last commission meeting on November 10, I have logged in 116 hours in callouts, meetings, practices and fire department business. We have had 10 callouts this month consisting of 3 practices, 1 alarm, 1 MVA, 1 medical assist, 1 controlled burn, 1 propane fire, 1 wood pile fire and 1 tree on power lines. All fire calls were minor with very little damage. The MVA call caused considerable damage to the vehicles but fortunately there were no injuries. We assisted paramedics with a cardiac arrest at the Pharm-a-save, the victim was transported to hospital but did not survive.

Firefighters have had a busy month with other functions such as the members attending a basic firefighting course spread over the winter months. Several of these courses will be held at our hall and the majority of the others will be held in Blandford.

The Rescue Boat is winterized and in storage behind the hall and the float slider system will be repaired over the winter so it will be ready to go in the spring.

Thank you.

Truck Report

Nothing to report.

Fire Advisory Report:

The committee is considering rehab for fire fighters during call outs.

Financial Report:

A financial report for the past month was presented by the Clerk Treasurer. There were no questions. Brenda Mulrooney moved to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Tom Mulrooney. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Questions

Kerry Keddy suggested that the Lido Pool facility provide WiFi access. Bill recommended tabling his

suggestion to be considered at a budget meeting.

Councilor Brad Armstrong complimented the Commission on the completion of the Pool and Public Washroom project. He also referred to the improvements at the Jib Lot with a much needed new fence.

There was a thank you to the Fire Department from the Catholic Church for assistance with flooding.

Many suggestions were directed to the representatives from the Municipality of Chester concerning the sidewalk on Duke St. The concerns expressed were related to the grassed portion of the sidewalk being unnecessary, wheelchair accessibility, water runoff with a wooden boardwalk being a possibility, using the original retaining wall at the Legion, paved shoulder instead of sidewalks in front of the Legion, bike trails, etc. Billy ended the question session by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

William Zinck Jr
Chairperson

Iris Tolliver
Clerk/Treasurer