



Minutes

Village of Chester Regular Monthly Meeting – December 12, 2012

Present: Brenda Mulrooney, Bill Zinck, Michael Heisler, Wynand Baerken, Tom Mulrooney and Iris Tolliver

Regrets: None

Brenda Mulrooney informed the audience that the meeting would be recorded and to hold any questions they have concerning agenda items until the end of the meeting in the allocated time slot for questions.

Additions to the Agenda

Crossing guards and Truck Report were added to the Agenda

Minutes from the previous meetings:

The minutes from **Nov 14th, 2012** were circulated and reviewed. **Bill Zinck moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Tom Mulrooney.**

Presentation by Stephen MacIssac District Director with DOTIR, Western District.

In Western Nova Scotia there are 8003 km of roads of which 290 are sanded. In the Chester area there are 450 km of roads of which 30 km are sanded, which is highly disproportionate. For the past couple years DOT has been working on a project to better care for roads in the Chester area, but water quality and supply is a major concern. Salting is the only effective means of control as sand does not melt ice, it provides traction. This past summer student engineers were hired to do an inventory of every well they could find. They found 501 of which 92 were drilled and 409 were shallow dug. A power point presentation showed the proposed streets marked for salting this season. They are Eastwind, Westwind, Peninsula Road, Nauss Point Road, Golf Course Road, Chester Shore Road and Graves Island Road. Other streets are being considered for future years. Chair Mulrooney allowed for questions from the audience. Ray Cambria asked about the possibility of brine on the streets. Tim Harris does not agree with introducing salt on the roads in Chester, pointing out that most wells are over 50 years old. Mr. MacIssac assured him that if salting has a negative impact, it will be discontinued. Kerry Keddy suggested DOT partner with the Municipality with an initiative to provide drinking water to the Village from Spectacle Lake.

Old Business

None

Reports:

➤ **Fire Chief's Report**

Normally I begin my report informing you how many hours I have logged in since the last commission meeting but now I realize that logged hours don't mean anything to this commission, after the disappointment of having the new truck turned down so quickly at the last meeting without considering how many hours were logged into this project.

As far as I am concerned, we had our homework done and also consulted with Maritime Fire Apparatus, who specializes in this field of designing and ordering fire trucks, whom you completely ignored at this meeting, only to decide that this vehicle was overweight, under powered, too much water on board and not what this community needed.

Well I want this commission to realize that this fire department truck committee has a combined 155 years of experience fighting fires in THIS community (and this is not including Dave Kennedy's 35 years of experience he brought to the table). This IS the type of truck we need, not an 800 gallon truck designed for city firefighting where hydrants are readily available and stations don't have to rely on volunteers. These first out trucks in this community have to be equipped to handle all types of emergencies with limited resources. Speaking as Chief of this department I feel you should reconsider the decision not to order this truck.

The next item in my report is the donation from the Haven film group, one of the final shoots this summer needed a fire truck in the scene, so I had 1 firefighter use a pumper for 3 hours and Haven made a 500 dollar donation to the department so we could write them an official tax receipt. I paid our firefighter 75 dollars and I have a cheque here with me tonight for 425 dollars for use of the pumper. The reason I held on to this money for so long was to see how you were going to handle payment to the firefighters who pumped out and refilled the Lido Pool. It seems odd to me that you set prices for the fire department to charge if we use equipment but when you need our services you pay whatever you want, hardly seems fair to me.

Getting back to firefighting, we had a fairly quiet month with 8 callouts consisting of 3 alarms, 2 practices, 2 Nova Scotia Power related calls and 1 controlled burn.

➤ **Truck Report**

Blake Corkum advised that all general maintenance has been done on the trucks. He is pleased and proud to report on the amount of time and interest that is put in learning how to operate equipment. He reflects Duke's opinion and is very disappointed on the decision to not purchase the truck. He spent more than a year on it and so it is not a shot in the dark. It is a great truck and he again expressed his disappointment over it not being purchased.

Chair Mulrooney offered her response by recognizing and applauding the volunteer's efforts. She acknowledged that it has taken over a year since a committee was formed and Dave Kennedy was hired. She confirmed a lot of time has been spent on that truck. She also confirmed that it came at a very hefty price. To be fair to the tax payers who are funding the purchase, the Commission felt it necessary to look at other options. The Commission has had two months to look at the proposed truck and so have also been very busy and devoting a lot of time to this. The Commission has found two others, one made in Canada and the other from the USA. Both are much cheaper. She feels responsibility to be sure we are getting the best bang for our buck.

Blake responded by wishing this had been done a year ago, to which Chair Mulrooney said they had needed the assistance of the whole truck committee to put forth what they felt was needed. The Commission has not said NO to the truck, but if there is something out there that we can get for a better price, we need to look at it. Last meeting we said we would have a truck ordered by February 1 and this is the very next meeting. Blake said he has been on several truck committees and does not feel they have gone wrong on any of our purchases. Commissioner Baerken assured him that there is no assumption that he has been wrong, nor was Dave Kennedy wrong, but looking at it from a tax payer's perspective, saving 100-200 thousand dollars is a lot of money. Chief Chafe asked why these other two companies did not respond to the RFP and was told that it is a different truck. Chair Mulrooney again reminded them it is a matter of money and expressed her hope that the fire department would continue to be part of the process.

➤ **Fire Advisory Report**

There was no report.

➤ **Clerk Treasurer Report/ Financial Report**

Global Property Inspection. Mike Hogan

An inspection was done on the Fire Hall and although there are several major things that need to be addressed, the building is structurally sound.

The Commission instructed the Clerk to begin getting prices on the more pressing needs like insulation and windows. The question concerning the age of the furnace was brought up by the Fire Chief. The report said the furnace was nearly the end of its efficiency.

Lease for new office on Pleasant St. Graham MacKay

Most of the renos are completed and we will be able to move in on Dec 27. The office will be closed from Dec 27 until Jan 14, 2013.

Clerk Treasurer's Job Description.

A job description has been provided to the Clerk Treasurer, who has accepted it. ***Bill Zinck motioned to accept the Clerk Treasurer's Job Description as proposed by the HR Committee. The motion was seconded by Tom Mulrooney and the motion carried.***

Bank Reconciliation The Clerk passed out to the Commissioners the bank activity and reconciliation for November.

New Business:

Garbage Pick up

An expression of interest was sent to several companies to price full stream collection of garbage in the Village. The Clerk presented a brief explanation of the current cost to tax payers in Chester versus one of the proposed prices submitted. While these prices are not final, the savings would be over \$75,000 per year based on current pricing. ***Tom Mulrooney motioned to have the Commission move forward towards a separate contract for garbage pickup in the Village, pending discussion with the Municipality. Seconded by Brenda Mulrooney. All but one were in favor. Motion carried.***

Correspondence

A list of correspondence was read by the Clerk Treasurer.

Questions

Ray Cambria asked if it were possible to view the drawing of the 3 trucks being considered for purchase so that benefits and features could be understood by the tax payers. He asked if all the trucks would fit through the existing doors at the Fire hall and was informed that they would. Dave Richardson asked for the amount of money in reserve for a new truck. While the Clerk did not have the exact figure, she feels it will be approximately \$650K once the amount budgeted for this fiscal year is added. There were no further questions from the audience.

Brenda Mulrooney _____
Chair

Iris Tolliver _____
Clerk/Treasurer