

MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of Council was held January 10, 2022, at 7:00 PM with Mayor Campbell presiding. All members of Council and Clerk were present.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Hamer and seconded by Councillor O'Blenis that '*The Agenda be approved.*' MOTION CARRIED

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No conflict declared at this time.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor Gallant that '*The Minutes for the Council Meeting held on December 29th be approved.*' MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Nothing to report. Clerk noted that it was a very busy weekend of snowstorm cleanup.

DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL RECREATION AND WELLNESS REPORT

The Director of Regional Recreation and Wellness was not in attendance. Councillor Thorne provided an update from the department.

Pandemic Impact – All programs offered by Recreation and Wellness are currently paused due to the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the virus' highly contagious Omicron variant.

Outdoor Rink – Completion of the outdoor rink is expected within the coming days. Flooding of the ice surface is forecast to be followed by a few days of very cold temperatures. The rink is located on the Douglas Street courts across from the Department of Recreation and Wellness.

New Position - Councillor Thorne informed Council that Jarrett Crossman has accepted the offered position of Director of Regional Recreation and Wellness for the villages of Salisbury and Petitcodiac. An action plan will be developed following his meeting with Councillor Murphy of Petitcodiac.

Winterfest – Discussions regarding Winterfest, the local annual Winter festival, will begin the week of January 10th.

Snowshoes and Skis – Snowshoes and skis of various sizes are available to be borrowed at no charge from Recreation and Wellness.

Grants – Recreation and Wellness staff have been looking into grant opportunities.

Outdoor Excursions – Outdoor excursions with Recreation and Wellness staff will resume once the Province's COVID-19 Winter Plan permits.

PRESENTATION – Salisbury Fire Rescue

Gifts of appreciation were presented by Mayor Campbell to David Bannister, who is stepping down as Fire Chief but staying on as a volunteer firefighter, and to outgoing Deputy Fire Chief Wayne Kitchen who is retiring after 32 years of service. Both were praised for the

dedication and leadership they brought to the fire department. They were joined at the meeting by five other members of the volunteer fire department, including new Fire Chief Brad MacLeod and Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Lee (Doc) O'Brien, who had kind words for both, calling them two of the best. Councillor Hamer also offered his praise. The presentation of gifts was followed by Mayor Campbell making an introductory ceremonial presentation to Fire Chief MacLeod.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Railway Trestle (Bridge)

Nothing to report.

By-Law Review

Nothing to report.

MacDonald Road Property

Nothing to report.

All-Terrain Vehicles

Nothing to report.

Regional Recreation Agreement

Further to the history-making Regional Recreation Agreement between the Village of Salisbury and Village of Petitcodiac, Councillor Thorne congratulated the new Director of Regional Recreation and Wellness, Jarrett Crossman, who accepted the contract offer. He now must meet with the Councillor responsible for recreation in the Village of Petitcodiac, Dennis Murphy. This item can be removed from the agenda going forward.

Employee Manual Adjustment

A change was made on December 13, 2021 to the Employee Manual with regards to statutory holidays. Councillor Thorne explained that a clarification must be made concerning the lack of consistency with regards to the municipal overtime policy. Council agreed to have Councillor Thorne draft up any potential changes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were discussed by accommodated and remaining correspondence placed on file:

Service New Brunswick – Procurement Act – Adjusted public procurement thresholds

Service New Brunswick advised of increased public procurement thresholds for purchases covered by trade agreements. This is effective January 1, 2022. For municipalities, the threshold for goods and services increased from \$105,700 to \$121,200.

Beverly Best – Email Re: Concerns about municipal sewer and animal control rates

Resident and former Councillor Beverly Best questioned the six per cent increase in the municipal sewer rate, from \$305 per unit to \$325 per unit in 2022, arguing that the budget showed that the utility had a surplus of \$23,000 and, to her knowledge, there was not an increase in personnel in the Department of Infrastructure and Public Works that would warrant a rate hike at a time when the overall cost of living is going up. Clerk explained that the surplus shown in the utility

budget, which is an accounting surplus, is from three years prior that for Provincial accounting purposes must be carried forward and is not a reflection of the present-day finances. There are also rising costs of wastewater treatment to factor in, including pending physical upgrades of the facility, as well as the increased cost of sewer connection rehabilitations. As for personnel, it was explained that the utility budget is currently funding the equivalent of three employees, not two. This is due to the fact that the salary of an additional employee in Village administration is actually cost-shared by the utility budget due to the position's sewer accounting duties.

Beverly Best also questioned the need for increases in the cost of Village of Salisbury Dog Tags. It was clarified that the cost of dog tags had, in fact, not increased from the current \$10 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$30 for dogs not spayed or neutered, plus the late fee of \$15 that goes into effect after March 31st.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Goodbyes and welcomes covered in earlier presentation.

RCMP REPORT

Councillor Hamer provided a report for 2021 accessed through the RCMP website. Overall occurrences in the village last year were up 14 per cent from 2020. He noted that the report was vague and is requesting from the RCMP more specific information on assaults, break-and-enters, frauds, vehicle thefts, collisions, and domestic violence among other offences, also wondering about historical trends.

RCMP Attendance - Councillor Hamer has asked that an RCMP member attend a Council meeting at least on a quarterly basis, pointing out that their last visit was in September, 2021.

Alternate Police Agency – Councillor Hamer noted the occasional presence over the last year or so of another police agency driving vehicles with police markings, and sometimes unmarked vehicles, ticketing vehicles in the area under the Motor Vehicle Act. He would like to know who this is, since the municipality's only policing contract is with the RCMP.

Neighbourhood Watch – The plan remains to eventually, when permitted under the Province's pandemic recovery plan, hold an in-person public meeting with regards to creating a new Neighbourhood Watch program for the Salisbury region. Councillor Hamer noted that many residents continue to report incidents on social media without actually contacting the authorities.

MAYOR'S REPORT

New Fire Chief – On December 29th, met with incoming Fire Chief Brad MacLeod.

Newspaper Interview – On December 30th, had an interview request from reporter Alan Cochrane of the Times & Transcript. They discussed the growth of the Village.

Health Committee – On January 10th, attended a Horizon Health Network Wellness and Health Action Committee meeting. Trails and related grant opportunities were discussed. With Village of Petitcodiac Mayor Dan Pollock also in attendance, the new Regional Recreation Agreement between Salisbury and Petitcodiac was announced. Noted that the group was very excited about new recreation opportunities for the region.

Works Department After-Hours – Asked that after-hours contact information for the Department of Infrastructure and Public Works be posted online for residents. Department staff regularly monitor the phone number 372-3243 for messages after-hours, but residents must be advised that this is the practice and to leave messages.

Housing Needs Survey – The plan is to eventually post a survey online, perhaps in the Local News and Views newspaper as well suggested the clerk, to gauge residents’ thoughts on local housing needs. Noted that there is a developer interested, but more information is needed.

COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Councillor Thorne

Recreation and Wellness – Congratulated Director of Regional Recreation and Wellness Jarrett Crossman on his new role in Salisbury and Petitcodiac. Noted that there have already been a number of meetings between the director and herself and Councillor Murphy of Petitcodiac.

Use of Municipal Building – There was discussion about the security issues of having public groups use the Village Office upstairs training room after-hours when municipal staff are not present to monitor it. Presently, the training room is used for Salisbury Fire Rescue training meetings and for Recreation and Wellness sponsored programs, pandemic rules permitting, as well as by South East Adult Education as the Salisbury Adult Learning Centre, and occasionally by municipal staff. To date, contrary to public perception, the training room has not been used as a rental space. Discussion also touched on the community’s facilities shortage, although it was noted that what needs to be determined is the extent of the pandemic’s role in this.

It was moved by Councillor Colwell and seconded by Councillor Gallant to *‘Have a recess.’*
MOTION CARRIED

RECESS

It was moved by Councillor Colwell and seconded by Councillor O’Blenis to *‘Return to the regular meeting.’* MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Colwell

Beautification Committee – Discussions have begun regarding the Salisbury Beautification Committee’s labour-assistance needs.

Councillor Gallant

Snow Removal – Received many compliments regarding municipal snow-removal efforts following the previous weekend’s storm. The one complaint was not elaborated on.

Infrastructure and Public Works – Met last week with Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works for the first of what will be regular bi-weekly meetings in the new year.

Councillor Hamer

Outdoor Rink – After pointing out that Salisbury Fire Rescue members would be flooding the ice that same evening, commented that he felt that Village staff dropped the ball in their outdoor rink preparations since the rink was unavailable for the previous month including the Christmas break. Councillor Thorne and Mayor Campbell both felt that the warm weather was the real problem, as is the case in many years, as opposed to the timing of the set-up of the rink. Councillor Hamer also suggested that next year staff should take advantage of an offer from the firefighters to volunteer to help set up the outdoor rink, saying it is too large a job for just the heads of the works and recreation departments to do. Also suggested that they approach former Councillor McNeil for volunteer assistance with the rink given his experience with it in the past.

Councillor O’Blenis

Nothing to report.

CLERK’S REPORT

Sewer Bills – The 2022 Village of Salisbury Sewer bills were delivered to Canada Post in Salisbury to be mailed on January 10th. Each mailout included an information sheet with details on the municipal budget, sewer billing, garbage collection including special pick-ups, recreation programming, and animal control.

CLOSED MEETING – No Closed Meeting held as there was nothing to discuss.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 24, 2022.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor Colwell to ‘*Adjourn the meeting.*’ MOTION CARRIED (7:59 PM)