

Minutes

Item 1: Call to Order

Mayor R. Hobbs called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm on January 11, 2012 and presided with the following individuals in attendance:

Deputy Mayor D. Tremblett
Councillor B. King
Councillor A. Hynes
Councillor P. Budgell
Councillor F. Mills
Councillor R. Canning

Randy Drover, Town Treasurer
Angela Crant, Town Clerk

Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 1/2012 – Councillor Canning/Councillor Hynes

To adopt the agenda for public meeting 1299 as presented.

Yeas: 7 – Mayor Hobbs, Deputy Mayor Tremblett, Councillor King, Councillor Hynes, Councillor Budgell, Councillor Mills and Councillor Canning.

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Item 3: Sewage Treatment Project – Meeting with Minister O'Brien

Mayor Hobbs provided a briefing of the meeting with Minister O'Brien on December 20, 2011, attended by His Worship, the Town Treasurer, and MHA Forsey. Essentially, the Minister rejected the Town's three (3) requests for different funding arrangements to make the project more financially viable; however, the Minister is aware that the cost-share arrangement, as presently proposed, is not adequate from the municipal standpoint. As such, he is willing to work with the Town to resolve this problem. In terms of next steps, the Minister advised as follows:

- (1) Council needs to constitute a Steering Committee in early 2012 comprised of officials from DMA, DMG, Environment, and the Town. The mandate of the Committee, among other things, is to

prepare a recommendation for Council as it concerns the sewage treatment plant. This work will involve developing cost estimates for capital and operational expenditures. Council will need to appoint representatives to this Committee.

- (2) The Minister advised that Council must accept the \$13,189,381 (20% equates to municipal share \$2,637,876) complete sewage treatment project funding offer; however, the Minister did state that when the final estimate of the project is known, and if Council determines it's not feasible, the Town can terminate the agreement.
- (3) A study may be necessary to determine what sewage treatment system is appropriate, and the Minister committed to funding this on a cost-shared basis. It is not known, at this point, whether that will come from the \$13,189,381 or if a separate project will be created. That question must also be settled in the near future.

DISCUSSION/DEBATE

The following points were raised during debate: (1) Total cost of the Sewage Treatment Project cost factor is approximately \$10,000,000.00, of which the Town of Bishop's Falls will cost share at 20%; (2) acceptance of this Project is at Council's discretion based on projected annual costs to run the treatment plan; (3) in order to facilitate future development within the Municipality of Bishop's Falls, this Project must proceed; and (4) operational cost aspects regarding affordability were discussed and the feasibility of the project once underway.

Motion 2/2012 – Councillor Canning/Councillor Hynes

That Council shall form part of a Steering Committee comprising of Department of Municipal Affairs, Department of Municipal Government, Environment Canada and the Town of Grand Falls Windsor.

DISCUSSION/DEBATE

The Town Treasurer advised it may be wise to first develop a Terms of Reference for the Committee. That can be presented during the regular public meeting on January 17, 2012. Council agreed with this recommendation.

The mover and seconder withdrew the motion with Council's consent.

The Town Treasurer will develop a Terms of Reference for the public meeting on January 17, 2012.

Yeas: 7 – Mayor Hobbs, Deputy Mayor Tremblett, Councillor King, Councillor Hynes, Councillor Budgell, Councillor Mills and Councillor Canning.

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Item 5: Local Government Gas Tax Agreement (CIP) – Next Steps

On December 19, 2011, Mayor Hobbs and the Town Treasurers; and MHA Forsey, met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to discuss the Local Government Gas Tax Agreement. It was determined that those funds can not be used towards costs associated with the Sewage Treatment Project due to bilateral agreements between the Federal and Provincial Governments. Therefore, it was recommended that Council amend the Gas Tax Plan.

Motion 3/2012 – Councillor Budgell/Councillor Tremblett

Be it resolved that Council shall amend the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for the Town's Local Government Gas Tax Agreement as follows:

- (1) An allocation be set aside, totalling \$35,000, to complete a review/update of the Town's *Municipal Plan and Development Regulations*; and
- (2) The total expenditure for the Hobbs Park Road Reconstruction project is reduced to \$715,000.

Yeas: 7 – Mayor Hobbs, Deputy Mayor Tremblett, Councillor King, Councillor Hynes, Councillor Budgell, Councillor Mills and Councillor Canning.

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Item 6: Mutual Aid Agreement – Norris Arm

His Worship informed Council of a meeting with the Fire Chief of Norris Arm, and other officials, that occurred on January 5, 2012. The Norris Arm Fire Department is requesting the assistance of Bishop's Falls through a mutual aid agreement so it can adequately respond to fire and emergency situations within its boundaries. This matter requires additional study, and it's linked to the Town's overall approach to fire protection services in the region.

DISCUSSION/DEBATE

The following points were raised during the discussion: (1) a formal agreement must be in place before committing fire fighting backup services to Norris Arm; (2) review of the Fire Fighters Insurance Policy; (3) it is Council's discretion to allow the Fire Department outside of the Bishop's Falls boundary; and (4) Standing Operating Procedures to be adopted by Council.

Mayor Hobbs will be meeting with the Fire Protection Officer, Emergency Services, Municipal Affairs on January 12, 2012.

Item 7: Adjournment

Motion 4/2012 – Councillor King/Councillor Hynes

To adjourn regular public meeting 1299.

Yeas: 7 – Mayor Hobbs, Deputy Mayor Tremblett, Councillor King, Councillor Hynes, Councillor Budgell, Councillor Mills and Councillor Canning.

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Angela Crant, Town Clerk