

## **PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL**

### **Minutes**

**June 4, 2020**

A Public Meeting of Council of the Town of Stephenville was held on June 4, 2020 @ 12:04pm. The meeting was held via videoconference and live streamed.

Present:	Tom Rose	Mayor
	Susan Fowlow	Deputy Mayor
	Laura Aylward	Councillor
	Mark Felix	Councillor
	Don Gibbon	Councillor
	Maurice Hynes	Councillor
	Mike Tobin	Councillor

Staff:	Mike Campbell	Town Manager
	Jennifer Brake	Town Clerk
	Robyn Snook	Video Facilitator

### **CALL TO ORDER/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion No. 20-142 Fowlow/Aylward

That the Agenda of the Regular General Meeting of Council June 4, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

### **MINUTES**

Regular General Meeting, May 14, 2020

Motion No. 20-143 Tobin/Felix

That the minutes of the Regular General Meeting of council May 14, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Special Meeting May 19, 2020

Motion No. 20-144 Fowlow/Gibbon

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of council May 19, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

### **PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

June - Recreation Month

June - Pride Month, flag will be raised to support

Flag was raised supporting Acadian Francophone

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance Committee

#### Poll Tax

Motion No. 20-145 Tobin/Hynes

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Poll Tax adjustments of \$ 5257.58 and refunds of \$257.58 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### Property Tax

Motion No. 20-146 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that property tax write offs in the amount of \$819.20 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### Business Tax

Motion No. 20-147 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that Business adjustments in the amount of \$ 602.09 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### Remission of Tax

Motion No. 20-148 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance committee that Remission of Tax totaling \$1,181.95 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### Expense Cheque Listing for May 2020

Motion No. 20-149 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Expense Cheque listing for May 2020 totaling \$ 265,342.88 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### Request for 2019-2020 Scholarship – College of North Atlantic

Motion No. 20-150 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Town of Stephenville provide \$500.00 Scholarship to the College of the North Atlantic for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Carried Unanimously

#### Request for Grant- Stephenville Theater Festival

Motion No. 20- 151 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that Town of Stephenville provide a donation to the Stephenville Theater Festival in the amount of \$15,000.

Carried Unanimously

**Request to Host – RCMP Musical Ride 2021**

Motion No. 20-152 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that this request be denied due to expected financial requirements.

Carried Unanimously

**Request for Grant – Hillside Interfaith Cemetery Committee**

Motion No. 20-153 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Town of Stephenville give a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to the Hillside Interfaith Cemetery Committee.

Carried Unanimously

**Request for Donation – Run the Rock/Make - A-Wish Canada**

Motion No. 20-154 Tobin/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Town of Stephenville give a grant in the amount of \$100.00 to Run the Rock, Make – A-Wish Canada

Carried Unanimously

**Approval to Rescind Motion No. 20-73**

Motion No. 20-155 Tobin/Gibbon

Let it be RESOLVED that the Town of Stephenville rescind Motion No. 20-73.

Carried Unanimously

**Approval to Borrow- TD Commercial Bank New Loader & New Snow Blower**

Motion No. 20-156 Tobin/Gibbon

Let it be RESOLVED that the Town of Stephenville borrow from TD Commercial Banking, \$ 422,506.11 to purchase New Loader/ Snow Gear and New Loader Mount Snowblower for a term of 5 years, amortization period of 5 years. Rate will be 2.15%. Monthly principle payment \$6742.45, and monthly interest payment \$691.15 totaling \$7433.60, as of the date of this letter. The GST rebate portion will be paid by the Town of Stephenville.

Carried Unanimously

**Approval to Borrow – Maple Street Reconstruction MAE # 17-SCF-19 00141**

Motion No. 20-157 Tobin/Gibbon

Let it be RESOLVED that the Town of Stephenville borrow from TD Commercial Banking, \$172,195.17 for the Municipal Share allocation for Project number MAE # 17-SCF-19 00014, Maple Street Reconstruction for a term of 5 years, amortization period of 5 years. Rate is 2.20%. Monthly principal payment \$ 2,744.94 and monthly interest payment \$ 288.27 totaling \$ 3,033., as of the date of this letter. The GST rebate portion will be paid by the Town of Stephenville.

Carried Unanimously

## **Request for Grant- Stephenville Airport Corporation**

Motion No. 20-158

Tobin/Aylward

It was the recommendation that the Town of Stephenville provide a grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 to the Stephenville Airport Corporation to provide bridge funding for the purpose of hiring Winnipeg Airport Services Corp. (WASCO). And additional grant to the Stephenville Airport for operations in the amount of \$200,000. Totaling \$400,000.00.

The Mayor stated this motion would mean new management and new opportunity for the Stephenville Airport. The Wasco contract is supported by council, the airport and Minister Davis and the provincial government. There is negotiating transpiring for a new airline service, we are finalizing the routes, start dates and the timing is perfect to move this airport forward.

Mayor opened the motion for discussion:

Councillor Felix, indicated he was not supporting the airport, and feels the timing is not perfect. He noted he attended a meeting for tourism and Canada tourism completed a survey which indicated 51% of Canadians are afraid of contracting Covid-19, 51% are stressed to go outside their home, 33% feel the worst is to come, and only 22% indicated they would fly after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, because it's still risky. We have given enough to the airport, and when you separate the emotions from the facts its clear how we should vote today.

Coucillor Aylward, indicated she supports the motion. She stated this is the first time in twenty-seven years that a reputable company is interested in the airport. We need to give them a chance. The federal government will be offering money and the provincial has committed to provide funding.

Councillor Tobin, stated he supported the grant at the special meeting on May 19, 2020. But there are new circumstances and information, with Porter and Sunwing announcements. He stated he would like a meeting with the negotiating airline, Airport Board to review their financials, and opportunity to review town financial situation to mid year.

Councillor Gibbon, inquired if the Wasco contract can be postponed, until we see if the federal government is going to support the airport.

Deputy Mayor Fowlow, we need to move forward and look at other opportunities for the airport. She supports development of the airport, innovation and supports the motion put forth.

Councillor Hynes, indicated he is not confident \$200,000.00 is sufficient to support the airport operations, and feels another \$150-160,000 will be required.

In response the Mayor stated council has the financials of the airport, and there are revenues not included: funding from the federal government, federal labour programs. If we do not support the airport today, the airport will close, we will be turning away an airline, people will be laid off. He continued to say, the town should just take down the "hope" sign on main street because we will have lost the hope in this town. WASCO has history of walking into airports with no service. The airport industry has been through H1N1, SARS, and 911. I got elected with a council to lead this town, and this is important, to turn away funding from government, turn away an airline, turn away WASCO, it would be a disservice and I would be disgraced to have to take a podium to represent council to the media, because we will probably be the first airport to close because of Covid-19.

In response Councillor Felix stated, as the former chair of finance he takes exception to the way the Mayor is lecturing council, and questioning the leadership of the council, because there is a retired colonel and active Lieutenant Colonel on council. He expressed, he is not the Chair of Finance today, because during a special meeting of council this motion was approved, and it's a betrayal to the taxpayers of Stephenville. Councillor Aylward stated if the airport closes it is a betrayal to the taxpayers. Councillor Felix stated the taxpayers clearly indicated they support the airport but not at the cost of increasing taxes. Deputy Mayor in response asserted that surveys are as good as the number of people responding, they can be used as a guide but not as fact, because only a small number of people responded to the survey. Councillor Tobin asserted there are limited funds, and decisions to support important organizations may be in jeopardy. Mayor Rose expressed the budget supports the grant, \$150,000 was allocated for marketing director, and he directed to Councillor Felix, that he respects the titles of the military; however this is not the military, we are public service. The Town of Stephenville is responsible for economic development and the airport is economic development. WASCO and the new airline will allow people to fly in/out of this airport and WASCO is not coming here to fail. The mayor queried council, we going to shut down an airport now? and turn away an airline? and shut down jobs? This will be a sad day, and those who vote against it, you may not want to walk around this town. Councillor Felix called point of order, and stated he does not like to be threatened, and did not like the Mayor's tone, requested the lecture to stop and take the motion to vote.

In Favor: Mayor Rose, Deputy Mayor Fowlow, Councillor Aylward, Councillor Gibbon.

Opposed: Councillor Felix, Councillor Hynes, Councillor Tobin

Motion Defeated.

It was the Mayor's opinion that the motion was approved because the Special Meeting, May 14, 2020 council voted to approve the funding, and the meeting was ratified at the public meeting. And you would not need majority of council

now to approve this motion because the decision of the special meeting was already ratified.

Councillor Felix, called point of order, this motion needs majority of council. This is a non-budgeted item and five votes are required.

Upon question the Town Clerk stated, the minutes of the Special Meeting has to be ratified, and this motion is another decision of council.

Mayor Rose indicated this is not his view and asked for a legal opinion and requested the Town Clerk clarify with Municipal Affairs.

For the record of the minutes, council did not have a vote to defer the decision of the vote, therefore it is town clerk position that the motion was defeated.

## **PLANNING & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

### **Mark & Mildred Byrne- 12 Dutchess Drive**

Motion No. 20-159 Fowlow/Aylward

The Committee reviewed a request for permission to consolidate the parcels of land located at 12A Dutchess Drive with 12 Dutchess Drive as per letter and survey attached.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this request be approved, subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

### **The Hair Room- 43 West Street**

Motion No. 20-160 Fowlow/Hynes

The Committee reviewed a Request for a permit to operate a hair salon business from the property located at 43 West Street.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

### **Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network- 6 Woodland Street**

Motion No. 20-161 Fowlow/Tobin

The Committee reviewed a Request for a permit to construct a Healing Garden which will consist of 4 benches, 3 storyboards and flower beds on the property located at 6 Woodland Street as per sketch submitted.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**Esthetics Etcetera- 10 Remuri Place**

Motion No. 20-162 Fowlow/Gibbon

The committee reviewed a Request for a permit to operate a home-based esthetic services business from the residence located at 10 Remuri Place.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations and approval of Service NL.

Carried Unanimously

**Air Cadets- Tennessee Drive**

Motion No. 20-163 Fowlow/Hynes

The Committee reviewed a request for permission to place shipping container 40 to 53 feet on airport property to store a glider, located on Tennessee Drive, as per map submitted,

It was the recommendation of the Committee that this request be approved, pending airport approval and compliance with all town regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**Elliott Academic Innovations- 113 Maryland Drive**

Motion No. 20-164 Fowlow/Felix

The Committee reviewed the Request for a permit to operate a home-based educational consulting business from the residence located at 113 Maryland Drive.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**Request to Amend Town Bylaws & Regulations**

Motion No. 20-165 Fowlow/Tobin

The Committee reviewed a request to amend the bylaws/regulations to prohibit camping within Town limits, unless in an approved campground.

It is the recommendation of the Committee that the Town of Stephenville bylaws and regulations will remain unchanged related to camping within town limits.

Carried Unanimously

**Ken Hepditch – 34-40 Florida Loop**

Motion No. 20-166 Fowlow/Ayward

The Committee reviewed a request for a permit to build 8 ft X 14 ft deck on apartments 34 and 40 of a four-plex unit.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this request be approved, subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**Alphonsus Jesso – 141 –147 Georgia Drive**

Motion No. 20-167 Fowlow/Gibbon

The Committee reviewed a request for a permit for exteriors renovations to replace windows, styrofoam/siding and rebuild porch on the property located at 141-147 Georgia Drive

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be approved, subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**Thomas & Joanne Rose- 45 Hillier Avenue**

Motion No. 20-168 Fowlow/Aylward

The Mayor as the applicant declared himself in Conflict and disconnected from the meeting @ 1:20pm, Deputy Mayor chaired the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the Request for a permit to construct a 3-bay garage 36' x 24' to store equipment as per revised sketch submitted on the property located at 45 Hillier Avenue.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic committee that this permit be approved as an accessory building to store equipment to the existing farming operations.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor Rose was called back into the meeting 1:23pm and resumed a Chair.

**BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Rose

He thanked all the professional personnel and staff of the health care system for their expertise and everyone for following the guidelines to keep us safe during Covid-19.

During Covid-19, town management and council are continuing to provide services and he thanked the staff for their corporation in the measures that were taken.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Rose**

Municipal infrastructure projects for this year include:  
West Street Paving, Ramp – anticipate tender end of June  
Carolina Bridge – anticipate tender end of July



## Queen Street Paving - 2021

### Curbside Pickup – Fridays

Bulk curbside pickup will commence Friday June 12, 2020

No Black Bags, and residents must call the town office for pickups. More information will be available on the town website.

### **Councillor Aylward**

Reitmans store in Stephenville will be open effective June 12, with reduced hours.

### **Councillor Gibbon**

He sent condolences to the family of late Mike Vickers. Mike was also a councillor with the Town of Stephenville. Councillor Aylward stated Mike mentored her during her first campaign for council.

### **Councillor Tobin**

Stated he attended a three-hour UMC meeting on Zoom, 15 large towns participated. Many towns are forecasting a loss in revenue due to covid-19 and indicated the FCM has requested 10 billion dollars in assistance from the federal government for municipalities. Some councils are concerned about the revenue loss and layoffs, reduction in services, or increases in Mil rates were discussed.

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion No. 20-169 Fowlow/Aylward

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:34p.m.

Carried Unanimously