Minutes of a regular meeting of the council of the Town of St. George's, held in the RecPlex, July 4, 2017

Members Present
Mayor D. Conway
Deputy Mayor A. Tobin
Councillors: S. Lee
A. White
F. Alexander

Also Present
Town Manager J. Butt
Town Clerk D. Woolridge

Public in Attendance
One resident, one property owner

Call to Order
Mayor Conway called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes:
Regular Meeting of June 5, 2017
Motion #17 - 79 Lee/Alexander
Resolved that minutes of the regular meeting of June 5, 2017 be adopted as circulated. All in favour. Motion carried.

Special Meeting of June 19, 2017
Motion #17 - 80 Alexander/Lee
Resolved that minutes of the special meeting of June 19, 2017 be adopted as circulated. All in favour. Motion carried.

Delegations
A package containing receipts, invoices, copies of cheques deposited, and calculations had been sent to the property owner claiming discrepancies last month, but apparently not to his satisfaction. He was advised to set up an appointment this week with the staff to go over his documents. The person then left the meeting.

Councillor Carroll entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Committee Reports:
a) Finance
1) Motion #17 - 81 Alexander/Tobin
Resolved that general invoices of $11,383.26 be approved for payment. All in favour. Motion carried.

2) Motion #17 - 82 Lee/Alexander
Resolved that On Grade Construction Inv. #217 - Gravel Roads Upkeep - in the amount of $897.00 be approved for payment. All in favour. Motion carried.

3) Motion #17 - 83 Tobin/Lee
Resolved that On Grade Construction Inv. #241 - Ditching, Culvert Placement - in the amount of $1210.95 be approved for payment. All in favour. Motion carried.

4) Motion #17 - 84 Tobin/White
Resolved that On Grade Construction Inv. #244 - Water/Sewer Installation - in the amount of $838.35 be approved for payment. All in favour. Motion carried.

5) Motion #17 - 85 Alexander/Tobin
Resolved that On Grade Construction Inv. #253 - Water Leak - in the amount of $2745.63 be approved for payment. All in favour. Motion carried.
6) Motion #17 - 86 Tobin/Lee
Resolved that Pinchin LeBlanc Environmental Inv. #04-1768 - Asbestos Sampling - in the amount of $345.00 be approved for payment from the Projects Account. All in favour. Motion carried.

7) Jocelyn updated council on the account balances and outstanding loan amounts to date.

8) Aged Receivables show that 82.09% of 2017 taxes have been collected; 98.17% of 2016, and 98.78% of 2015 taxes.

b) Projects

Staff have moved the offices to the Siki Bennett Memorial Arena while town hall renovations are in progress. Jocelyn will attend a pre-construction meeting in Corner Brook on Wednesday. Contractors will begin next week with an estimated four-month completion date.

c) Fire Department

No report available from the Fire Department; though council was informed they had been called to an accident involving a dirt bike. Members participated in the Canada Day ceremony and parade, hosted a BBQ at the Fire Hall, supervised a Bouncy Castle, and cut the cake.

d) Stadium/Recreation

Students that were hired for the Parks and Rec Program started today. Kids will start tomorrow. Four children are registered for the ages 5-7 session in the mornings and ten registered for the 8-12 year group in the afternoons.

A deficit of $34,079.41 was reported for the stadium budget to June 17.

e) Roads

Of the 458 culverts in town, more than half have collapsed or are plugged. Jocelyn will send the information to our MHA Scott Reid as well as the Department of Transportation and Works.

We will be getting two students for 5 wks., 20 hrs./wk. They will be cutting grass in the center of town.

Tractor trailers looking for Central Service Station still end up at the end of Shallop Cove thanks to Google. Jocelyn has already emailed Google regarding the situation. One suggestion was a bigger turn-around at the end of the pavement. We would need permission from Transportation and Works to erect a sign; Jocelyn will include the request with her report on the culverts.

Building Applications

Convert Construction Trailer to Residence

An application had been received to place a 12' x 60' construction trailer on property in Shallop Cove and convert it to a residence with a 12' x 60' addition. Council has no issue as long as it is brought up to the required residential standard with a right-of-way and an occupancy permit obtained.

Six building permits and twenty-three general repair permits were issued in June.

Unfinished Business

Councillor Alexander was asked to leave the room at this point.

a) Hudson’s Lane Update

Our municipal lawyer advised that this situation with Hudson’s Lane not originally put in the proper location is not the Town’s responsibility, but a private dispute between the owner and the previous owner.
Motion #17 - 87 White/Tobin
Resolved that council accept the municipal lawyer’s advice on this matter. All in favour. Motion carried.

b) Farm Road Extension Update
No correspondence has been received from the resident concerned as to a request for an amendment to his original permit to extend Farm Road that was issued in 2013. Council agreed to a deadline of July 31 before we take action.

c) Sunset Trail Update/Beautification Budget
Several volunteers worked on the trail; the broken culvert was removed, a new culvert installed, grass mowed, and crushed stone in place waiting to be spread. An item under Incoming Correspondence in a minute of council in 2010 indicated that “council agreed to carry the trail under the Town’s liability insurance with the Economic Development Committee continuing to maintain it.” This committee no longer exists. To be eligible for JCP funding, the Town would have to assume responsibility and do an environmental assessment.

Councillor White would like to see the monies allocated in the budget for Beautification contributed to something.

d) Draft Letter to Library Board
Council agreed to send the letter that was drafted to the Library Board regarding hours, etc.

e) Amendment - Anti-Litter Regulations
Motion #17 - 88 Alexander/Lee
Resolved to draft an amendment to the Anti-Litter Regulations dated 10th September 2007 in accordance with the Municipalities Act 1999, Council Regulations, Section 414 (1) (pp) (ii) (iii), and (iv). All in favour. Motion carried.

New Business

a) Leak Detection and Smoke Testing
An email was received from BioMaxx offering Leak Detection on Municipal Water System Infrastructure, as well as Smoke testing on Municipal Sanitary Systems. Council’s consensus was that the testing would not be viable now but maybe when we have a sewer treatment plant in operation.

b) Election 2017
1) Motion #17 - 89 Tobin/Alexander
Resolved that Jocelyn Butt be appointed Alternate Returning Officer. All in favour. Motion carried.

2) Motion #17 - 90 White/Lee
Resolved that Nomination Day be August 29, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All in favour. Motion carried.

3) Council decided that no advance poll or 4) separate election for mayor be held.

5) Motion #17 - 91 White/Tobin
Resolved that rate of pay for Poll Clerk would be the minimum rate of $10.75/hr. and $13.50/hr. for the Deputy Returning Officers. All in favour. Motion carried.

c) NL Power Rate Increase
Jocelyn received a courtesy call from NL Power informing her that rates for commercial customers increased as of July 1 - “a rate stabilization prior to Muskrat Falls.” This will result in a 1.9%
increase on streetlights and 8.5% on everything else, totaling approximately $8400 more to the end of the year.

Privileged

This portion of the meeting was declared to be privileged and the one remaining member of the public in attendance was asked to leave at this time.

One item discussed was a property issue where an easement had been placed in the wrong location and adjacent property sold by the Town. A lawyer had suggested a quitclaim signed by involved parties would solve the problem.

Motion #17 - 92 Alexander/Tobin
Resolved that council move ahead with a quitclaim to the property in question. All in favour. Motion carried.

End of privileged portion.

Other Business

A request for permission from On Grade Construction to conduct operations from 10 Station Road was discussed. Jocelyn was advised to write the applicant and advise him that the property owner would have to make the application.

Incoming Correspondence

a) Donation request from the Mayor’s March Heart & Stroke Foundation. A March is scheduled for August 12, 2017.

b) An email from MADD Bay St. George Chapter requesting the Town’s assistance in helping the fight against impaired boating in Campaign 911-Boating Signs by incurring the cost to display a sign “Report Impaired Boating - Call 911.”

c) A letter from the Children’s Wish Foundation with a schedule for the 22nd “Run the Rock.” The crew will be in our area on July 24.

d) A Memorandum from Dean Ball, Western Director, MAA, with an update on the Board’s activities and a list of members.

Outgoing Correspondence

Letters were submitted for the Municipal Operating Grant and the Provincial Gas Tax.

It was noted that three of the residents that had received letters concerning their scrapped vehicles had complied and cleaned up their property. Reminders had been sent to the other three warning them that after July 8 the Department of Environment would be called in to do an assessment.

Adjournment

Motion #17 - 93 Tobin/Lee
Resolved that meeting do now adjourn to meet again on August 8, 2017. All in favour. Motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk