

**Town of St. George's
Regular Council Meeting**

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of
The Town of St. George's held in
Town Hall, June 1, 2020**

<i>Members</i>	<i>Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Mayor</i>	<i>D. Conway</i> <i>T. Messervey</i>
	<i>Councillors</i>	<i>A. Tobin</i> <i>C. White</i> <i>R. Blanchard</i> <i>M. Fleming</i> <i>R. Williams</i>
<i>Also Present</i>	<i>Town Manager/Clerk</i> <i>Assistant Clerk</i>	<i>J. Butt</i> <i>S. Bennett</i>
<i>Call to Order</i>	<i>Mayor D. Conway called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Mayor welcomed Council members and the public in attendance through electronic means via Facebook Live.</i>	
<i>Adoption of Agenda</i>	<i>Motion #20 – 75 Williams / Messervey Resolved to adopt the Agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.</i>	
<i>Delegations & Proclamations</i>	<i>N/A</i>	
<i>Adoption of Minutes Reg. Mtg May 4th, 2020</i>	<i>Councillor Fleming noted an error under item (b) New Business in minutes on May 4th, 2020 where it did not reflect "All in favor. Motion carried". Minutes will be corrected to indicate the same.</i> <i>Motion # 20 – 76 Tobin / Williams Be it resolved to adopt the minutes from the regular meeting held on May 4th, 2020. All in favor. Motion carried.</i>	
<i>Committee Reports</i>	<i>(1) Motion #20 – 77 White / Tobin Resolved that General Invoices in the amount of \$14,316.64 be approved for payment. All in favor. Motion carried.</i>	
<i>a) Finance</i>	<i>(2) Current Bank Balances were given.</i> <i>(3) Aged Receivable report shows as of May 31, 2020 property taxes at 72.44% collected, water and sewer taxes at 64.7 % and business tax at 80.32 %.</i> <i>(4) Expense report expenses at 28.72 % for May 2020. Income total 81.03 %.</i>	
<i>b) Projects</i>	<i>Chlorination Building Upgrades / New Water Storage Tank Replacement / New Fire Truck Update</i> <i>The latest update on Chlorination Building Upgrade is, the road is now dry enough for subcontractors to come back to fix the fence and road. This should be scheduled within the next two weeks.</i>	

The Approval to Call Tenders was sent out for Project # 17-GI-20-00043 – New Water Storage Tank for which two tenders were received and they are currently being scored by our consultants Regional Engineers and the Town Manager, once scoring is complete, the bid costs are opened and we should be advised by the end of the week of the results.

Town Manager received an update on the new fire truck which was originally scheduled to arrive in August, that date has been changed due to Covid-19, it should now arrive late September or early October.

c) Fire Department

(1) May Fire Reports

There were two incidents for the month of May which were two Medical Aid calls both at the same residence.

a) May 10th, 2020 and May 14th, 2020 Harview's Lane, Mutual Aid with Russell's Ambulance.

(2) An email was received from The Gallants Volunteer Fire Department thanking us for the donation of a new pump.

Councillor Fleming stated that he was asked questions on insurance and medical coverage and would like to be provided with a copy of the policy we have for liability insurance and medical coverage for firefighters. Town Manager will provide Councillor Fleming with a copy of new policy that she has recently received.

d) Stadium/Recreation

(1) Financial Statement

The monthly budget for the stadium is showing a year to date deficit of \$28,599.08 for month ending May 2020.

Mayor Conway attended a conference call relating to Hockey and Arena use, because of Covid-19 it is possible hockey will not be played in any arenas in 2020. Mayor Conway will be attending another conference which is scheduled for late June.

e) Roads

(1) ATV Use on Municipal Roads

Councillor White gave an update on the roads. He stated that they will be sending out a correspondence once again to Transportation and Works regarding the area across the road from the Pharmacy.

Mayor Conway, Town Manager and Councillor White did have a meeting with residents and Dept of Transportation and Works regarding the condition of road between the Post Office and Central Service Station and it is still ongoing.

Councillor Williams inquired about area by Bobby Garnier's on Main Street, Mayor Conway spoke about the issue of sidewalk been undermined and crumbling because of ATV usage. Town workers have since repaired the area with a blend of Class A & B.

Councillor Fleming had a discussion on making Municipal Roads ATV friendly. He discussed that accessing railway bed on ATV's would boost tourism and business while being able to access services in town.

As of now the Town cannot go ahead with any motions in regards too opening up ATV routes. The Town Manager said we would have to consult with our Insurance Company, ATV regulations would have to be drafted, circulated and sent to the Province for approval. It was suggested that they could be similar to Stephenville's ATV regulations. The Town Manager will consult with Stephenville on their regulations.

*f) Divesture
Committee Report*

1) User License Agreement

Motion #20 – 78 White / Tobin

Be it resolved that the User License Agreement provided by DFO be accepted as presented upon insurance requirements being met. All in favor. Motion carried.

2) Legal Waiver Liability

A meeting was held last week with the Divesture Committee. The tentative opening date for the Marina is June 8th,2020. Floating docks will be put in place, and there will be two new signs erected at the Marina, one regarding Public Distancing and the other Rates. Passes will be available at the Town Office and Chubb's Convenience. A Legal Waiver regarding liability will be drafted.

g) Permits

1) General Repair Permits x 21

Motion #20 – 79 Messervey / Fleming

Be it resolved that the following General Repair Permits be adopted as presented: Permits 1033,1035,1036,1037,1040,1042, 1043,1044,1045,1046,1047,1050,1051,1056,1058,1060,1062 All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion #20 – 80 White / Messervey

Be it resolved that General Repair Permit 1038 be adopted as presented.

*In Favor: Mayor Conway
Deputy Mayor Messervey
Councillor Blanchard
Councillor Fleming
Councillor White
Councillor Williams*

Abstained: Councillor Tobin

Motion carried.

Motion #20 – 81 White / Tobin

Be it resolved that General Repair Permit 1041 be adopted as presented.

*In Favor: Mayor Conway
Deputy Mayor Messervey
Councillor Blanchard
Councillor Fleming
Councillor Tobin
Councillor White*

Abstained: Councillor Williams

Motion carried.

Motion #20 – 82 Tobin /Williams

Be it resolved that General Repair Permit 1059 be adopted as presented.

*In Favor: Mayor Conway
Deputy Mayor Messervey
Councillor Blanchard
Councillor Fleming
Councillor Tobin
Councillor Williams*

Abstained: Councillor White

Motion carried.

2) Building Permits

Motion #20 – 83 White / Williams

Be it resolved that the following Building Permits be adopted as presented: Permits 1034,1039,1048,1049,1052,1054,1055,1057, 1061. All in favor. Motion carried.

3) Demolition Permit

Motion #20 – 84 White / Blanchard

Be it resolved that the following Demolition Permit be adopted as presented: Permit 1053. All in favor. Motion carried.

4) Application for Agriculture Permit

Councillor Fleming identified an issue with the latitude and longitude coordinates as well as the dimensions of the Coop and Pig Enclosure as it relates to property size and distance. The Town Manager will go back to the Applicant to have the application revised, it may then be brought back to council.

Unfinished Business

a) Assessment of Properties

Councillor Fleming inquired about doing an assessment on properties in town. As of today, the Town Manager has not had an opportunity to conduct the assessment, but in June she will be working at this starting in Shallop Cove and going to the end of St. George's.

b) Concerns related to Trucking Season in Town

A letter was received from a resident concerning the trucking season in town. Mayor Conway met with MHA Scott Reid and Department of Transportation and Works and came up with a solution to use Liquid Calcium on the road. The plan was presented to Turf Point Resources which was not accepted, but did say he will try liquid calcium himself as well as installing a sprinkler system on the stack to mitigate the dust issue.

c) Healing Garden Lease

Motion #20 – 85 Williams / White

Be it resolved that the agreement for the Healing Garden will be accepted as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

a) Motion - Legal

Motion #20 – 86 White / Tobin

Be it resolved that Council accepts the legal opinion that no further action is required as there is no basis for the conflict of interest complaint received by Council dated 16 April 2020 against Councillor Fleming.

In Favor: Mayor Conway
Deputy Mayor Messervey
Councillor Blanchard
Councillor Tobin
Councillor White
Councillor Williams

Abstained: Councillor Fleming

Motion carried.

b) Appointing of Acting Town Clerk

Motion #20 – 87 Tobin / White

Be it resolved that we appoint Taylor Garnier & Sherry Bennett as Acting Town Clerk in the absence of the Town Clerk Manager. All in favor. Motion carried.

c) Town Manager Contract

Motion #20 – 88 White / Tobin

Be it resolved that the Town Manager/Clerk receive the contract increase of 3% effective 01 May, 2020 and that yearly increases are approved at the same percentage rate as Union Employees for the life of the contract on a go forward basis 01 May each year. All in favor. Motion carried.

d) Motion – Spending Authority Limit

Motion #20 – 89 White / Williams

Be it resolved that under section 58 of SNL 1999 Chapter M-24 Municipalities Act 1999 the Town Manager's spending authority limit is \$3,500.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

e) Town Welcome Signage

During this past year we lost our Welcome to St. George's sign on Paul's Hill due to a windstorm, new signage is required. The Town Manager will get quotes for the provision of new signage.

The Town also received an email from Marlene Farrell requesting that when we order new signage would it be possible to have the French and The Mi'kmaq word for Welcome included on the sign. Council agreed that we should incorporate French and Mi'kmaq on the new signage.

f) Old Playground Condition

Mayor Conway had a discussion regarding the condition of the old playground located on Diamond Court as it is becoming a hazard and if anyone gets hurt the town is liable.

Motion #20 – 90 White / Tobin

Be it resolved that the Old Playground Equipment be removed from the old playground located at Diamond Court. All in favor. Motion carried.

g) Small Business Tax Elimination

Councillor Fleming was asking for support on Small Business Tax Elimination for small business making \$10,000.00 or less. Given the weak economy and Pandemic, small business should be exempt from business tax when revenue doesn't exceed a \$10,000.00 threshold annually.

Mayor Conway suggested if any Councillors want to discuss it, it will have to be done in October and it would have to worked into the budget and you have to think of other businesses who are currently paying business tax. Mayor Conway said its something we can revisit for the next budget and will leave it up to Councillor Fleming to keep it active.

Other Business

N/A

Incoming Correspondence

a) Barachois Search and Rescue – Request for Donation

A letter was received from Barachois Search and Rescue requesting a donation with regards to paying for the renewal of One Call Now Communications System which costs \$725.29 CAD. This allows for quick response by linking the incoming call to everyone's cell phone.

Motion #20-91 Tobin / White

Be it resolved that the Town of St. George's donate \$725.29 to Barachois Search and Rescue. All in favor. Motion carried.

b) Children's Wish Foundation Run the Rock – Donation Request

A letter was received from Chilaren's Wish Foundation Run the Rock requesting a donation for their 25th- "Annual Run the Rock' from Port Aux Basques to St. John's to help grant wishes for critically ill children in our province.

Motion #20 – 92 Williams / Tobin

Be it resolved that the Town of St. George's donate \$50.00 to Run The Rock Children's Wish Foundation. All in favor. Motion carried.

c) Municipal Assessment Agency Assessment Roll

The 2021 Municipal Assessment Roll is available at Town Office, it is open for public for viewing during normal business hours.

d) DMAE Guidance for Wastewater Collection and Wastewater Treatment Operators during Covid-19

A letter was received from DMAE with information for operational guidance on the operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and wastewater treatment systems during the Covid -19 pandemic.

e) DMAE 2020 Exemptions for Productive Farm Land, Woodland and Associated Buildings

A Circular was received from DMAE with a list of farm properties that have been designated by the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources as productive farmland and woodland for real property tax exemptions for 2020 taxation year.

f) Declaration – Province of NL Public Health Emergency Extension Declaration

Concerning the extension of a declaration of a public health emergency pursuant to section 27 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, SNL 2018, c P-37,3.

g) Western Regional Service Board Residential Drop Off

A letter was received from WRSB stating that beginning the week of May 25, 2020, the WRSB will be reopening their residential drop-off areas with the following two-week transition plan.

St. George's Transfer Station will be open to residents during the week of May 25 – 29 and June 1 -5 (Monday to Friday) using the Alphabetical Order. For these 10 days, the hours of operation will be extended to 8:00 am – 7:00 pm.

h) Western Health Covid-19 Testing Expanded Additional Symptoms

A PSA was received from Western Health May 20,2020 informing us that the symptoms for Covid-19 testing have expanded. Testing is available for anyone with two of the following new or worsening symptoms.

- Painful Swallowing (New)
- Unexplained Loss of Appetite (New)
- Diarrhea (New)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste (New)

Covid-19 testing is now also available for anyone who has small red or purple spots on their hands and or feet (New).

i) Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Commission Information for Licensees

A letter was received from Newfoundland & Liquor Commission with an announcement for support for small business. Liquor License fees typically paid annually to NLC will be waived for the current 2020-2021 fiscal year for all licensees, excluding Brewers Agents excluded. The Town received a reimbursement cheque.

j) DMAE Operational Guidelines for Commercial and Large Public Buildings with Reduced or No Water Use during Covid-19

An email was received from DMAE with information for Building Owners and water system owners (i.e. Municipalities and Local Service Districts) can take several actions to help prevent water from becoming unsafe.

k) RCMP Musical Ride seeking interest for performances in August 2021

Received an email from RCMP seeking interest for performances August 2021 in Stephenville.

l) DMAE Fire Services Division Guideline for Fire Department Operational Plan to Covid-19, Alert Level 4

An email was received from DMAE Fire Services with a guideline to follow for Alert Level 4 and a Firefighter Self Screening Checklist.

m) DMAE Alert Level Information

A Circular was received from DMAE with information announced on COVID-19 Alert Level System. This is a system which outlines measures that will be taken in a 5 level phase-in plan to protect the health and well-being of all communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

n) Western Health Media Release to Resume Some Services

An email was received from Western Health informing us that they are gradually resuming some health care services throughout the region. Medical imaging, endoscopy, cardiac diagnostic, and surgical services have been identified as area within the health care system that can gradually and safely begin to resume services at this time.

Measures are in place to protect individuals when entering our facilities. The public will be screened, asked questions and provided with a mask.

o) Municipal Assessment Agency-2021 Annual Assessment

A Memo was received from Municipal Assessment Agency as a reminder, assessment notices were mailed on June 1st, 2020 and please note that the appeal period for these notices is sixty days and ends on July 31, 2020.

p) Province of NL Health and Community Services Covid-19, First Responders and the Novel Coronavirus

An email was received from NL Health and Community Services updates for First Responders, such as Status and Background, Symptomology, Patient Identification and N95 Respirators.

Outgoing
Correspondence

N/A

Adjournment

Motion #20 – 93 White / Messervey
Resolved that the meeting does now adjourn.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held on July 6th, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

