



Rural Municipality of Belfast

Mayor: Garth Gillis; Chief Administrative Officer: Bob Brooks; *Incorporated 1972*

COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Upstairs Hall, Wood Islands Village

In Attendance:

Council: Mayor Garth Gillis (Chair) Deputy Mayor Virginia Cooke (*by phone*)
Councillor Lynn Docherty Councillor Billy Gamble
Councillor Andy Henry Councillor Mary Mecher-Carlson
Councillor Joanne Vessey (7:10 PM)
Administration: CAO Bob Brooks Ashley Feschuk
Public: (2)

Item Order of Business

1. **Call to Order** – Council was called to order at 7:00 PM
2. **Covid-19 Restrictions** – no capacity limits; 6-foot distancing and masking optional.
3. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – Do any Council members have a conflict of interest with any items on today's Agenda? – None.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items? (*To be placed under Item 11*)

Moved by Councillor Henry and seconded by Councillor Gamble to adopt the agenda as presented.
Votes for: 5 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**
5. **Adoption of March 16, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes** (*previously distributed – all changes received to-date by Council have been incorporated. Minutes pre-approved to send in with Year-End Tax Documents – here for confirmation*).

Moved by Councillor Carlson and seconded by Councillor Docherty to confirm the approved Minutes of the March 16, 2022 Council Meeting as presented.
Votes for: 5 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**
6. **Business arising from the March 16, 2022 Council Meeting**
 - a. **Municipality-Wide Mosquito Abatement Program Public Discussion** – A new Council will be elected in November of this year, and will be required to set the next Council Budget of which, the Mosquito Abatement Program may or may not be a part of. In light of this timing, it is recommended that any further public discussion and/or decision on a Mosquito Abatement Program, now be delayed until the new Council is in place. **Discussion: Council agreed**, and it was suggested that if the Mosquito Abatement Proposal was still to go ahead, public discussions in a larger public venue, could start as soon as December/January.

Councillor Vessey arrived at 7:10 PM, making Council attendance: *6 Council, one Mayor*

- b. **Health Matter** – Since the meeting on March 11th, a Sub-Committee has been created by BCDC, regarding a possible Health and Wellness Centre in Eldon, where a Walk-in Clinic may or may not become part of the project. BCDC asked if RMB would like to participate, for a Municipal point of view; Mayor Gillis and Councillor Carlson volunteered, and Ashley will also be assisting in the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee’s first meeting is April 21st. The representatives will report back.
 - c. **Community Grants Committee - Policy/Bylaw Reconsideration** – To reconsider the Community Grants Policy and Bylaw in time for the 2023/2024 Grants cycle, discussions/preparations will need to start some time in September. To better prepare for those discussions, it is important to list the topics for discussions. After some discussion, Council requested that Administration prepare the following for reconsideration:
 - (1) Requirement to be a Not-for-profit,
 - (2) Requirement/specifics for Liability Insurance and how much, and
 - (3) Whether Mosquito Abatement should be included within the criteria.
 The need for financials was also discussed; however, it was decided that the size of the grants would make that requirement too onerous, both human resource-wise and financially. It was also confirmed that the systems RMB has in place protects the Municipality from liability.
 - d. **2022/2023 RMB Budget and Financial Plan** – Documents have now been finalized and submitted to the Province within the required time-frame.
7. **CAO Financial/Variance Report +**
- i. Provincial Credit Union Account Balances at March 31, 2022 Statement:

a. Share 001	\$5.30
b. Chequing 010	\$101,414.17
c. Savings 020 (Reserve)	\$36.43
d. Savings Reserve GIC/Int. (<i>project to be determined</i>)	\$45,164.28
e. Gas Tax Acct 00011	\$37,456.94
f. Gas Tax GIC/Int. (<i>for previously-approved GT projects</i>)	\$50,416.31
 - ii. Christmas decorations are now down and plans are in place to design next year’s lay-out so that the vast majority of the decorations can come down right away and have only a smaller portion on for the month of December. Councillor Gamble volunteered to remove the tree.
 - iii. The new signage with the logo has now been ordered and should be in place within the next two weeks. The CAO is now looking at the requirements for the highway signage.
8. **Public Input/Presentations regarding any items on today’s Agenda, or other items?** (*Five minutes is allotted for each speaker/presentation*)
 – **Sherry Pelkey with BAWG** – expressed her thanks to RMB for the funds that were granted through the Gas Tax Program for the Roseberry Pond Fishway Installation Project. That project is now complete and that Council members are invited to the upcoming Fishing Derby, to be held in May. Official invitations will be sent out.
9. **Official Plan and Development Bylaw Update (Fotenn Consulting Inc.)** – Just a reminder that limited community consultations have already been taking place, but that more fulsome public consultations will take place throughout the summer.

10. **New Business for the Agenda** (*as per Item 4 above*)? – there were no further agenda items for today’s agenda.
11. **Next Meeting:**
 - a. **Regular Council Meeting** – the next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Hall at Wood Islands Village.
12. **Adjournment** – As there is no further business...

Moved by Councillor Henry to adjourn the meeting at: 7:48 PM.

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