

NACKAWIC-MILLVILLE RURAL COMMUNITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Fox
Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Councillor Nozzolillo
Councillor Trail
Councillor Clark
Councillor Simpson
Councillor Graham

ABSENT: Councillor Arbuckle

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathryn Clark, CAO
Dallas Cakes
NoraLynn Carr
Jim Dumville, River Valley Sun
John Howell, Manager AV Group
Mike Legere, AV Group
Henry Grant

TO ORDER: Mayor Fox called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Fox stated he would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded and unsundered territory of Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

23-32 Motion: Councillor Nozzolillo
Second: Councillor Trail

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Motion carried.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21ST, 2023, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

23-33 Motion: Councillor Simpson
Second: Councillor Clark

“That the minutes of the February 21st, 2023, regular council meeting be approved as presented.”

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Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

There was no business arising.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A) Letter from Mike Allen, Vice-President, NB Lyme Disease Association Proclamation

Mayor Fox stated Lyme Disease Awareness month is not until May, and for Council to view it over and we will revisit it at a later date.

B) Letter of Request from Michelle Carr & Marie Tretiak, re: Dumfries Community Hall
(New Business)

23-34 Motion: Councillor Simpson
 Second: Councillor Graham

“To have the CAO explore avenues and develop one policy for the Millville and Dumfries community halls.”

On the Question:

Councillor Simpson suggested the CAO to explore and come up with a policy that would work for all of the halls.

Councillor Trail stated there should be one policy for all the community halls then there won't be any discrepancies.

Mayor Fox stated the only halls the policy would pertain to is Millville and Dumfries.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – No Report

Library – No Report

Protective Services –

Mayor Fox reported on the monthly report from North York Fire Department.

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Recreation –

Mayor Fox reported on the monthly report for February.

Councillor Simpson asked if Mike Wilson was waiting on what the cost will be to install EV Chargers and the rebates from NB Power.

Kathryn Clark stated there are different incentives for what the rebates will be, he is still gathering information and then he will bring it to Council.

Councillor Clark reported on the minutes of February 16th meeting and stated there will be another meeting scheduled in a couple weeks.

Mayor Fox stated there are a couple of events coming up in May with DNEDC, and suggested him to reach out to Pam Fogarty to find out about the two fishing tournaments.

Public Works –

Mayor Fox reported on the monthly report for February.

Councillor Simpson stated there will be a committee meeting scheduled soon.

Special Reports –

DNEDC-Residential Development Study by Gemtec

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane reported on the Gemtec Study and stated housing has been at the top of their agenda for a couple of years. Once the Marina was completed the next project the board decided to take on was housing development and what we decided to do over the past couple years was to identify free land in the community and the 50 acres behind the Middle School. Approximately a year ago, Council approved the funding for the report from Gemtec, last week they finished their report and presented it to the board and it was approved unanimously and it is being sent onto Council for review. Phase 1 which includes 35 lots that will cost \$2,300,000 for water & sewer, sidewalks, curbs and lights for each individual lot and Phase 2 includes 38 lots that will cost \$3,800,000 for a total cost of \$6,100,000. Full serviced lots (0.125 ac to 1.36 ac plus) will cost \$49,000 - \$290,000. The next step DNEDC will bring a proposal to Council for soft cost, once it is completed, then it can be tendered for developers to do the work.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Fox reported on the minutes of the Ad hoc Communications meeting of February 27th and stated they have set a tentative goal to present a draft of the Communications plan to Council by April 17th.

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Chief Administrative Officer's Report

Kathryn Clark stated that:

- she contacted Nackawic Elementary School regarding a Literacy program and while they do not have a specific literacy program, a request can be made for any funds donated to the school to be used for a specific purpose, ie. Books.
- she and Mayor Fox attended a meeting with Escribe on February 24th.
- a flyer was distributed by mail to all of our residents which included a Mayor's message, Council ward and committee information and municipal office and staff information. It also indicated which committees need volunteers and how to contact the office if someone was interested. We already have received a few calls from several residents.
- she and Councillor Trail met with Justin Christie, Glenn Group on February 27th regarding the Millville ballfield rehabilitation project.
- she attended a communication committee meeting on February 27th.
- she attended a meeting along with Mayor Fox with Stacey Russell, Patricia Donnelly, and Rose Arsenault from Capital Region Tourism on February 28th.
- registrations have been submitted for the in-person orientation session being held on March 31st for the Councillors who indicated they wanted to attend.
- the RDC agreement was signed and returned for the Millville ballfield/kiosk project.
- the tender for the Trickle Filter Project will be out very soon with a closing near the end of March and will be on the agenda for the first meeting in April.
- she met with Julie Fournier, ACOA regarding future funding applications.
- she met with Justin McGuigan, North York Fire to discuss various issues.
- she met with Traci Demmons, Scotiabank regarding numerous items.
- she contacted McInnes Cooper regarding a land lease agreement for the Millville ballfield area.
- various reform issues still being worked on, ie. Vendor accounts, fire truck sublease.
- NoraLynn Carr who has accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Clerk will be starting on Monday, March 6th.
- Audit work has been completed but auditors postponed until March 6th-8th due to scheduling conflicts and weather.

Councillor Nozzolillo asked to have a copy of the tender for the Trickle Filter to send to contractors.

Kathryn Clark stated once she receives it, she will email it to her.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fox reported that:

- he attended the Valley Fire Fighter Association Meeting – Hartland on February 21st.
- he attended a ELG webinar “Mandated Services and Working Collaboratively in Support of Stronger Regions on February 22nd.

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- he attended the Welcome Reception – Health Centre on February 23rd.
- he attended the Communications Committee meeting on February 27th.
- he attended the Fredericton Tourism meeting along with Kathryn Clark, Stacey Russell, Patricia Donnelly and Rose Arsenault on February 28th.
- he met with Richard Bragdon and MP Blake Richards, Banff-Airdrie constituency, who is the shadow cabinet minister of tourism on March 3rd.
- he will be attending Council meeting on March 6th.
- he will be attending Capital Region Service Commission board meeting.
- he will be attending Council meeting on March 20th.
- he will be attending Communications Committee meeting on March 28th.
- he will be attending Local Government Reception on March 30th.
- he will be attending Local Government Orientation meetings on March 31st.
- he will be attending Council meeting on April 3rd.
- he will be attending Council meeting on April 17th.
- he will be attending Council Photo Session on April 30th.

Councillor Simpson asked if the CAO could look into the vacant RCMP houses and see if they are willing to rent or sell them.

Mayor Fox stated he will reach out to Richard Bragdon and see what he can find out about the RCMP's houses.

Councillor Nozzolillo asked what the lots just past the Irving were zoned as.

Kathryn Clark stated they are zoned highway commercial.

Councillor Trail asked if the rezoning request from Andy Fox was going ahead.

Kathryn Clark stated she haven't received anything from Capital Region Service Commission yet, but thinks they have started the rezoning.

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane stated regarding the lots on Clark Crescent, DNEDC have been trying for a couple years to get them sold but didn't know who owned them, and feels Council should push the minister to help get them sold.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Recreation Committee Mandate & Composition

23-35 Motion: Councillor Clark
 Second: Councillor Nozzolillo

“That Council adopt the mandate & composition to date.”

Motion carried.

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23-36 Motion: Councillor Trail
Second: Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

“That Council adopt all the minutes and reports to date.”

Motion carried.

23-37 Motion: Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Second: Councillor Simpson

“To break for a 5-minute recess.”

Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 7:30 pm

The meeting resumed at 7:35 pm and John Howell and Mike Legere entered the meeting.

Mayor Fox welcomed John Howell, Nackawic Mill Manager and Mike Legere, Director of Government Relations and Communications with AV Group.

TO THE FLOOR

A) Presentation from AV Group, Mr. John Howell

Mr. Howell stated he is a chemical engineer and worked for AV Nackawic for 12 years before he was terminated. Several years later and with the changes in the last 8-9 months, he was offered the position as the new Mill Manager for AV Group Inc. which he has been working at for the past 4 months. Mr. Howell stated AV Group has 5 pulp mills with 2 mills in New Brunswick, one in Atholville and the other in Nackawic and they are owned by Aditya Birla Group from India. He stated the Cotton Industry has plateaued and this industry that they are in right now, that uses trees to make clothing, has grown 7-8% every year over the last 20 years. What the Nackawic Mill does is it takes wood chips and removes the lignin (the glue-like substance) from the wood that holds the fibres together and what you are left with is paper. In 2009 AV invested over a hundred million dollars to produce fibres to make clothing and other products such as bed sheets. Mr. Howell stated the most important asset of your company is the customer, and we have become the preferred supplier because of what we do. We have focused on people within a professional environment, excellent business mindset and to engage the community.

Mayor Fox stated he was glad to hear that AV Group wants to engage the community, and as a community, we want to engage AV Group.

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane asked what was the percent of dissolving pulp in the global market verses cotton.

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Mr. Legere stated around 15%, and cotton still dominates the market and is very land and water intensive. Last week AV Group made an announcement with the Indigenous community to engage further with them because there is not only a commercial aspect there but a wood certification as well. For AV Group to operate well, we need a strong community that is offering a good place to live and work and we believe we have that here in Nackawic, that is why we are talking to Council here tonight.

Councillor Simpson stated from his perspective, you will have a willing partner in a relationship with the community and AV Group and he is very excited about.

Councillor Nozzolillo stated it makes her excited to get back to work at AV. It is about engagement and hiring the students before they move elsewhere to work.

Mr. Howell stated we are encouraging trades and hiring local with a commitment to the community and the company.

Councillor Trail stated he was glad that the mill dropped the secondary education policy and starting hiring trades people and that more people are staying in the community and working at the mill.

Mr. Howell stated they have invited the union president in on the hiring process when doing interviews as well. It will take a lot of hard work to turn things around for the better, but it will happen.

Mayor Fox thanked John Howell and Mike Legere for the presentation and invited them to stay after the meeting for more of an informal discussion.

Mr. Howell accepted.

23-38 Motion: Councillor Trail
 Second: Councillor Graham

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Tim Fox
Mayor

Kathryn Clark
CAO/Clerk