

**Village of Chester Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 15, 2020 – 7:00 pm**

Attendance: Bill Nauss, Commission Chair; Nancy Hatch, Commission Vice Chair; Jo-Ann Grant, Commissioner; Martin Hiltz, Commissioner; Michael Heisler, Commissioner; Dennis Egyedy, Clerk Treasurer; Maxine Veinot, Recording Secretary; Everett Hiltz, Fire Chief.

Public Gallery: There were eight members of the public in attendance

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Nauss called the January 15, 2020, regular monthly meeting of the Village of Chester Commission to order at 7:02 pm.

2.0 Public Forum

a) Brad Armstrong – Tremont Street

Mr. Armstrong thanked the Commission for undertaking rodent control measures.

b) Darrell Tingley - Cermaq Application – Main Street

Mr. Tingley presented information on fish farms and his experience in Queens County when 500,000 rainbow trout escaped from a fish farm. He stated that Cermaq left BC fish farming five years ago and are considering fish farms in Mahone Bay and St. Margaret's Bay. Although, the Village Commission has no jurisdiction in this case, Mr. Tingley asked the Commission to write a letter to Municipality of Chester and Mr. Colwell, Minister of Fisheries & Oceans, opposing fish farms in the surrounding areas.

Danielle Barkhouse, Councillor MOC, stated that Chester area waters are not deep enough and not suitable for fish farms. It was suggested to have Marshall Hector attend a meeting and speak on the Norway experience.

Commissioner Grant expressed concerns why is Cermaq establishing farms here and why is the Province supporting the venture? It was noted that job creation was a major factor to support fish farming.

3.0 Review/Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

New Business 8(b) Cermaq - Commissioner Grant; Correspondence 6 – Ray Cambria

MOTION #20-151: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:

The approval of the agenda with the additions of 8 (b) Cermaq and 6 Correspondence.

Unanimously Carried

4.0 Review/Approval of Minutes

(a) Regular Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2019

MOTION #20-152: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the minutes of December 18, 2019 Regular meeting as presented.

Unanimously Carried

5.0 Business Arising

There were no items for 'Business Arising'.

6.0 Correspondence

Ray Cambria submitted a letter regarding the Village's website. The website should be more user friendly as it is very difficult to find specific documents.

Discussion was held on this issue and the Clerk Treasurer will investigate possible changes.

MOTION #20-153: Commissioner Grant moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
To accept the correspondence as information.

Unanimously Carried

7.0 Reports

a) Clerk Treasurer

Clerk Treasurer, Egyedy asked Commissioners to consider Budget requests as work will begin on the 2020-2021 budget. A budget request list is attached to his report on items that have been identified to-date.

On Wednesday, January 22, 2020, the Auditor will be here to conduct an interim audit. The Audit Committee will be holding their first meeting at 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. A resume was received for the Audit Committee citizen representative, Sandra Dumaresq. Sandra is very qualified as she is an accountant with CGA designation. She lives in the Village of Chester.

MOTION #20-154: Commissioner Grant moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:
To appoint Sandy Dumaresq to the Audit Committee as the citizen representative.

Unanimously Carried

Egyedy stated that a Joint Council meeting with MOC should be planned in the new year and Commissioners should identify any agenda items. Secondly, the EDM Report stated that a Strategic Plan should be developed based on the recommendations in the report. The Clerk Treasurer was instructed to contact Trevor Hume to determine his availability to facilitate a strategic planning session.

MOTION #20-155: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:
The approval of the Clerk Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2019.

Unanimously Carried

b) Financial Statement/Cheque Log – December 2019

The financial statements and cheque log were reviewed with the Commission. Commissioner Hatch expressed concern over the large expenditures made by Fire Chief Hiltz on behalf of the fire department. In December, Chief Hiltz was reimbursed \$2,234.45 and \$2,326.54 for equipment purchases. It was recommended that the fire department have their own credit card instead of using their personal credit card. Clerk Treasurer expressed concerns regarding accountability and documentation of expenditures.

MOTION #20-156: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:

To approve applying for a Scotiabank Visa credit card in the name of the Fire Chief, Everett Hiltz, Chester Volunteer Fire Department with a spending limit of \$5,000.00.

Unanimously Carried

MOTION #20-157: Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:

The approval of the Financial Statement and Cheque Log as of December 2019 as presented.

Unanimously Carried

c) Fire Chief

Chief Hiltz reported that CVFD responded to six (6) emergency dispatches; 3 MVC's, 2 alarms, 2 smoke conditions and 1 fire.

MOTION #20-158: Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Hatch seconded:

The approval of the Fire Chief's Verbal Report for the month of December.

Unanimously Carried

8.0 New/Other Business

a) Reimbursement Policy

Egyedy presented the Commission with the updates noted at the December 18, 2019 meeting which included a daily incidental amount of \$10.00 and compensation for meals based on receipts.

Commissioner Hatch noted that the reimbursement for breakfast increased by \$2.00 and supper increased by \$5.00. Hatch suggested that anyone spending money in excess of the meal allowance should not be compensated beyond the set amounts. Hatch recommended that reimbursement based on receipts not be allowed.

MOTION #20-159: Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:

To approve the Reimbursement Policy as presented with no changes.

Commissioner Hatch requested a recorded vote:

Commissioners Grant, Heisler, and Hiltz voted in favour of the motion.

Commissioners Hatch & Nauss voted against the motion.

Carried

b) Cermaq Application

Commissioner Grant brought an article to the attention of the Commissioners from the Municipal Insight Paper – Aquaculture, December 2019 edition regarding aquaculture not in municipal jurisdictions; however, the Municipality would be a stakeholder. Commissioner Grant felt the Village should ask to be a stakeholder in this matter and would like to hear the positive aspects of fish farming.

Chairman Nauss stated that the village is a stakeholder in that motorboats and sailboats are important to the area and may get entangled in the fish pens. It was recommended to invite Martin Karlsen, Norwegian Canadian Representative to discuss salmon farm(s).

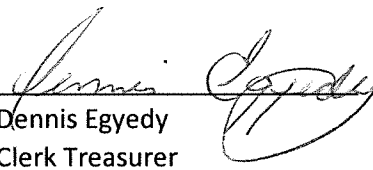
Clerk Treasurer Egyedy was asked to organize a COW meeting for February 2020.

9.0 Adjournment

Commissioner Heisler adjourned the January 15, 2020 meeting at 8:30 pm.



Bill Nauss
Commission Chair



Dennis Egyedy
Clerk Treasurer