

Village of Chester
Regular Monthly Meeting –Nov 10, 2010

Minutes

Present:

Bill Zinck Jr., Brenda Mulrooney, Mike Heisler, Tom Mulrooney, and Iris Tolliver

Regrets: Jo-Ann Grant

There were no members of the public present.

Additions to the agenda.

The meeting with the Municipality of Chester was added to reports.

Minutes from the previous meeting:

The minutes from Sept 8, 2010 and Oct 13, 2010 were circulated and reviewed. Mike Heisler moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Brenda Mulrooney. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Winter Wreath Tender

One tender was opened from Elaine Collicutt and Sons. The amount offered was \$1560.00 including HST. Mike Heisler asked the Clerk Treasurer how many companies were contacted. Three companies were called twice. Brenda Mulrooney asked if it was necessary to require a Workers Compensation Certificate from applicants. She feels that this stipulation omits a lot of people who may wish to put in a tender. The Clerk Treasurer will contact WCB to get a ruling concerning this. Tom Mulrooney moved to accept the price submitted by Elaine Collicutt & Sons. Motion was seconded by Brenda Mulrooney, all were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Old Stone Bridge

Brenda Mulrooney moved to write a letter of support to the Municipality of the District of Chester concerning the designation of the Old Stone Bridge as a Heritage Site. Mike Heisler seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Summer Flower Basket Ad

Brenda Mulrooney moved to run an ad in the Progress Enterprise for the tender for next summer's hanging flower baskets. Mike Heisler seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. Bill Zinck also suggested that the clerk treasurer call the companies who have submitted a tender in the past.

Correspondence

Correspondence from the past two months was read by the Clerk Treasurer. The letter from the NS Environment concerning de-registering the Fire Hall as a public drinking supply will be added to next month's agenda.

Fire Chief's Report

Since the last commission meeting on October 13, I have logged in 107 hours in Fire Department business, meetings, callouts and practices. We have had another busy month with 16 callouts consisting of 2 chimney fires, 2 false alarms, 2 practices, 2 power lines down, 1 propane leak. 1 medical assist and 6 flooded basements. The storm on the weekend kept us busy pretty much all of Sunday with our first call for assistance coming in a 8 am and the last one at 10 pm. We also assisted a few others who called on the general information line.

The communications tower which collapsed during one of our recent wind storms has been replaced. The wind and rough seas played havoc with our rescue boat float. One of the poles that the float raises and falls on was bent and then during extremely high tides last week, the float jammed at the top and had to be freed when the tide started to fall. Luckily this was spotted quickly before the boat received any damage. Both the float and the boat have been pulled out of the water. We will look at getting the same system the municipal floats use when we put the float back in next spring. The boat is behind the hall for now and as soon as the weather is fit, it will be winterized and put in our new building, which has been completed by firefighters over the past couple weeks.

Thanks you,

Leo Chafe

Chester Fire Chief

Tom Mulrooney asked the Chief whether a flooded basement could be considered a public service. He was advised that these would include situations where the home owners were concerned about electrical panels submerged and or furnaces that were still on, etc.

Truck Report

In Blake Corkum's absence, the Chief reported that all the trucks have been service. There is a brake re-call on the Spartan tanker. The parts have arrived and the repairs will be done at no cost to the Fire Dept.

Fire Advisory Report:

Bill Zinck Jr apologized for not having a report prepared. Last month was basically a carry on from the previous month and there is nothing new to report. The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov 17/10.

Financial Report:

A financial report that included the past three months was presented by the Clerk Treasurer. It was announced that the Village Commission has been set up through Scotia Connect to view the business account on line. There were no questions. Tom Mulrooney moved to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mike Heisler. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Municipality of the Chester Meeting

Bill Zinck began a report of the meeting with the Municipality, attended by himself, Brenda Mulrooney and Iris Tolliver earlier this evening. Also in attendance were Warden Allen Webber, Erin Beaudin, Pam Myra, Brad Armstrong, Matt Davidson and Bruce Forrest. The first item on the agenda was the issue of ownership of the Fire Boat. The five year contract for the boat expires on Dec 14, 2010. The Commission is prepared to take full ownership of the boat provided the revenues to run the boat will continue to be collected via an Island Fire Tax. The advantage of owning the boat would allow for it to be stationed in Chester. Also it was noted that the CVFD has already spent considerable money on the boat. A question of certification that is required to run the boat was brought up. All operators have a basic training and proficiency certificates. It was noted that since the Commission is already covering the cost of Insurances and maintenance, there would be no further cost to taking ownership of the Fire Boat. Billy briefly mentioned that he had been invited as Chair of the Village of Chester Commission to attend a meeting next Friday (November 19/10) to discuss looking at ways to

provide fire service to Tancook Island. The meeting will also be attended by representatives from the residents of Tancook, EMO, Districts of Lunenburg and Chester, Blandford and Chester Volunteer Fire Departments. Brenda Mulrooney motioned that the Commission send a letter to the Municipality of Chester to advise them the Village of Chester is willing to assume ownership of the Fire Boat and wish to enter into a new contract that will allow the Municipality to continue to collect taxes by means of an Island Fire Rate and allow for revenues to provide services with the Fire Boat. Mike Heisler seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Brenda Mulrooney continued the report by reading the items that were on the agenda for the evening. They included Village taxes, garbage collection, and deed for the land at the Lido, "closed at dusk" signs, Village sewer, Village sidewalks and Municipal works in the village. On the matter of:

Village taxes: - the Commission requested a list of civic address and the assessments. This will help in understanding how the Village taxes are accumulated.

Garbage:-the Commission made the Municipality aware of the intention to continue with the green cart collection next year from June 15 to September 15. The contract the Municipality has for garbage collection has 4 years remaining. The Commission may be interested in looking at taking on the complete collection of garbage within the Village in the future. It was noted that the residents who are presently collected on Wednesday should be moved to Tuesday to avoid any unnecessary confusion on collection days.

Deed for the Lido:-the migration of the land as one property is ready to go and is at the lawyer level awaiting finalization.

"Closed at Dusk Signage":-the Municipality agreed to install signs provided to them by the Commission.

Village sewer: - the Commission question how taxes to cover the cost of the sewer were collected. Every community in the district is different and this system has been in place since the sewer was installed. It was noted that it could be changed. The Commission was advised that what taxes are collected is what is spent. There is room for growth in the system, however with the recent heavy rains; the system is working over capacity.

Village Sidewalks: - the Municipality intends to begin a three phase construction of sidewalks along Duke St. this spring. The completion will be in three years. The Commission asked to be included in future discussion especially where it comes to safety. The section adjacent to the Legion was considered to be the most dangerous and it is slated to be completed last. The Commission asked the Municipality to consider taxing the Village residents an area rate and allowing the Village Commission to take over installing sidewalks.

Municipal work in the Village: - the Commission asked to be consulted and allowed to assist on infrastructure project by the Municipality within the Village limits. This was agreeable to the Municipality.

Questions

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

William Zinck Jr
Chairperson

Iris Tolliver
Clerk/Treasurer