

Town of North River Meeting Minutes December 5, 2023
Town Council Chambers 43 North River Road, North River, NL

In Person Attendance: Mayor Hurley, DM Blair Hurley, Councilors' Joanne Morrissey, Kelly Hall, Dwight Snow, Elsie Morrissey, and John Newell

Absent:

Also Present: Katie O'Flaherty - Town Clerk/Administrator, James Cummings, Dave Wicks & Cathy Mahoney

Agenda and Minutes:

Motion 2023 – 2268– Councilor Hall/DM Hurley

Resolved that the agenda for the November 7, 2023, meeting be adopted with the following additions.

Boat Launch

Christmas Parade update

North River Road

Riverside Road

All in Favor, Motion Carried

Motion 2023-2269 – Councilors J Morrissey/Hall

Resolved that the minutes of November 7, 2023, meeting of council be adopted, noting correction to sentence on page 2. "Councilor Snow did not engage as he felt he was in a conflict of interest. Council approved".

All in Favor, Motion Carried

Delegation:

David Wicks asked that the council clarify the procedure of council in responding to questions and concerns submitted via email or items brought up during councils' monthly meetings. He asked if and when the council had received a copy of the two emails that he had sent to the clerk.

Mayor Hurley advised that he thought the emails had been responded to.

The clerk advised that emails were sent out to council and that they were also included in the agenda package for review.

Mr. Wicks asked if all members of council had a copy of the Municipal Council Handbook and suggested all members obtain a copy for reference. He expressed his disappointment with the lack of discussion in public council meetings and asked the council why that is. He questioned how the council can make a decision and direct a response if there is no debate or discussion had, therefore no motion by council to act.

Mayor Hurley noted that discussion was removed from public meetings because they started to get out of hand.

Mr. Wicks spoke about the years in which he has been attending council meetings and only recalled one instance where things got out of hand. He agrees that the rules should be followed and respected by those in attendance, but fair and reasonable debate is an important part of these public meetings.

The rocks that were placed at Martins bridge by council back in May were also questioned.

Mayor Hurley stated that it has been a long process to get the boundary and planning area extensions approved. At the time, Council was of the understanding that the planning area had been approved which took in the area of Martins bridge. Mayor Hurley agreed that Council should have confirmed before making the decision and having the rocks placed.

Mr. Wicks thanked the council for their time and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Next, Mr. James Cummings addressed the council regarding a permit which was approved by the council at the November meeting. It was noted that the council approved an application for an 8x10 shed extension. Mr. Cummings advised council that at the time of approval, the preexisting shed had already been removed from the property, and that

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council approved the extension based on the false information in the permit application. He also noted that the survey tape marking the boundary on site had since been removed. He questioned how a permit could be approved for an extension when there was no longer a building to extend.

Mr. Cummings noted that in the same meeting, another shed application was denied, and the resident instructed to remove the structure as it did not comply with town regulations.

Mr. Cummings expressed his dissatisfaction with the council's procedures when addressing permits and council business.

He too, spoke on the process of getting a response from Council and did not agree with how it is done.

Mr. Cummings asked if all members of council were aware that paving was taking place on Riverside Road. He also questioned why the Council would proceed with paving prior to the completion of the road upgrades approved at the last meeting.

Mr. Cummings felt members of council were in a conflict of interest and questioned Mayor Hurleys position on Council.

Mr. Cummings expressed his frustrations and asked that Mayor Hurley resign from his position as Mayor.

Business Arising:

Boat Launch – Councilor Hall asked for an update on the Boat Launch application. The Clerk advised that correspondence had been sent back to the two individuals who had been involved in the original application, but no response had been received.

Parade – Due to the weather, the council postponed that December 4th Christmas parade. New date – December 7th.

Motion 2023-2270 – Councilors Hall/Snow

Resolved that the council award prizes for floats as follows:

1st place - \$200.00, 2nd place - \$100.00, 3rd place - \$50.00 and ATV/Side by side - \$50.00

All in Favor, Motion Carried

Councilor J Morrissey asked if the clerk has received any response from the letters council sent to the MHA and to Minister Abbott regarding the concerns and lack of upgrades completed to North River Road.

The Clerk advised that to date, no additional correspondence has been received.

Council agreed to post correspondence on the Towns website and encourage residents to reach out and express their concerns over the condition of North River Road.

Clerk to follow up with Minister Abbott's office.

Councilor E Morrissey spoke on the paving recently completed on Riverside Road as she was not aware it was being completed. She asked if approval was not given to move forward with the proposal submitted to install armor stone can council request that the rock wall on adjacent property be moved back.

Council to address if proposal submitted not approved.

Clerk to send thank you letter to Lynch's Trucking for their service.

Town office will close end of day on December 22, 2023, and reopen on January 2, 2024.

Due to holiday closure, the January 2024 public council meeting will take place on Tuesday January 9, 2024.

Clerk to post notice.

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New Business:

Mayor Hurley presented the 2024 Municipal Budget to Council and was happy to report that there would be no increase on mill rates or to the fee structure.

Motion 2023-2271 – Councilor Snow/DM Hurley

Resolved that for the 2024 fiscal year, Council the following tax structure:

Residential & commercial mil rate at 4.25

Minimum property tax at \$400.00

Business Tax at \$300.00

Fees for permits shall be applied according to the following schedule.

Residential Development \$100.00

Commercial Development \$100.00

Extensions \$50.00

General Repairs \$20.00

Garages/Sheds \$20.00

Other Fees and charges shall be applied according to the following schedule.

Tax Certificate \$100.00

Compliance Letter \$75.00

Pavement Cutting Fees \$1000.00

Tax Discount Policy must be in receipt of GIS or Widowed Spouses Allowance will be accepted.

All in Favor Motion Carried

Mayor Hurley stated that the Council has a balanced budget for 2024 in the amount of \$440,798.05.

Motion 2023-2272 – DM Hurley/Councilor E Morrissey

Resolved that the 2024 Municipal Budget be accepted and approved as presented.

All in Favor Motion Carried

Development Applications:

Council received an updated application for 169 North River Road - Shed, but no survey or drawing was included to identify the new location of the shed and property boundaries. Clerk to contact and advise that a sketch is needed prior to a decision being made by the council. Deferred until required documentation is provided for review.

The council discussed the lack of completion on some permits being presented to council. Clerk to ensure proper documentation is submitted with the application prior to council meeting.

Councilor Newell suggested that the council form a development committee to review applications and conduct site visits prior to council meetings to ensure information provided in the application is correct. A follow-up visit would need to be conducted once construction begins to ensure compliance. He asked if the measurements outlined in the survey attached to the application for 6-12 Riverside Road were verified and felt that the application misguided council as the application was for an extension not a new shed.

DM Hurley does not feel it is the job of council members to visit properties to confirm measurements and explained that it is why council has applied for a shared service Enforcement Office with neighboring towns. The enforcement officer would be responsible for site visits and ensuring compliance.

The Clerk noted that the outside worker had visited properties to confirm application details and signed off on measurements during his seasonal employment. The clerk asked should an application be received during the off season; does she have councils' permission to call in the outside work to verify.

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Correspondence for Information:

87A North River Road	Riverside Ext	Addressed as Delegate – Quantity of rock was not confirmed by council, copy of invoice provided.
87A North River Road	Bart Kennedy Road	Addressed as Delegate – Right of way opposed to a town road
Government of Canada	CSC Funding	File
MAA	Clair Simmonds Scholarships Update	File
The Shoreline	Christmas Greetings Ad	File
Telecommunications Alliance	New Area Codes	File
Dept of Transportation	Climate Resilient Costal Communities Program	File
Minister Tom Osbourne	Naloxone Kits	Council in favor

Correspondence received from 87A North River Road addressed the paving of Riverside Road and previous work completed to upgrade Riverside Road which council had reimbursed a resident for. It noted that they had confirmed by visual and also had an engineer calculate with a tandem tandem truck averaging 16 to 18 ton of rock at 10 loads with a total of roughly 180 tons, the road should be 12 feet wide, 24 inches deep and approximately 170 - 180 feet in length using minus 6 rock. Using minus 4 rock the length would be 180 - 190 feet. I would like to know which councilor confirmed that the rock was put in place so the invoice would get paid? A copy of the invoice approved by the council for reimbursement was also requested.

Mayor Hurley nor members of council could confirm that a site visit was made to verify. Contact could be made with the contractor who did the work to confirm.

It was then asked if the council would hire someone with a backhoe to verify the rock is there.

A second email received from 87A North River Road questioned the policy for road upgrades/access as they had been liable for the expense associated with upgrading road to access their property but felt Council had taken all responsibility in upgrading Riverside Road. They asked if there are two sets of rules for the community.

Access to 87A North River Road was via a right of way, with property on both sides of the right of way being privately owned. Riverside Road has always been recognized as a town road, but no upgrades were completed in previous years as there was no development in the area. Council concentrated on upgrading roads that had residential developments.

Committee Reports

Bay de Grave – No more meetings for this year.

Joint Councils – Last meeting was cancelled. Next meeting scheduled for Dec 14, 2023, at 7pm via Zoom.

Animal Control – Deferred.

Occupational Health Safety – Nothing to report.

Bills

Motion 2023 –2273 –Councilors E Morrissey/Snow

Resolved that the bills be paid in the amount of \$15,653.53

All in Favor Motion Carried

Adjournment

Motion 2023 –2274 – Councilors Newell/Hall

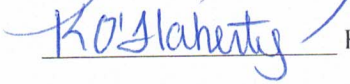
Resolved that this meeting of the council be adjourned until the next regular meeting January 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Council Chambers, 43 North River Road.

All in Favor Motion Carried

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Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Mayor Brian Hurley

Katie O'Flaherty - Town Clerk/Administrator,

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