

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 4:30 pm
Fire Hall

Present:	P. Farwell	Mayor
	T. Pollett	Deputy Mayor
	R. Anstey	Councillor
	G. Brown	Councillor
	B. Dove	Councillor
	O. Fudge	Councillor
	P. Woodford	Councillor

Advisory and Resource:	G. Brown	Town Clerk/Acting CAO
	J. Blackwood	Director of Engineering
	N. Newell	Director of Recreation & Community Services
	T. Barron	Director of Municipal Works
	A. Quilty	Fire Chief (A)
	R. Locke	Development Director
	K. White	Media Coordinator
	E. Fisher	Youth Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

2. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

Presentation to Rob Anstey

The Mayor made a presentation to Councillor Anstey from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment recognizing his 16 years of service on Council.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council reviewed the agenda and approved as attached.

Motion #18-051

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Woodford and seconded by Councillor Fudge that the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council on March 21, 2018 be adopted as amended.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

4. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Motion #18-052

Regular Minutes for Approval

Moved by Councillor Woodford and seconded by Councillor Dove that the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of Council on February 28, 2018 be adopted as presented.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

6. REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. Recreation & Community Living:

The Recreation & Community Living report was presented by Deputy Mayor Pollett.

The Recreation & Community Living meeting was held on March 12, 2018. The meeting was chaired by T. Pollett, Deputy Mayor. Other members present included: B. Dove, Councillor; O, Fudge, Councillor; R. Anstey, Councillor; G. Brown, Councillor; N. Newell, Director of Recreation & Community Services; B. Freeborn, Administrative Coordinator.

The following items were discussed:

Soccer/Track Multiplex Steering Committee Update

The Soccer/Track Multiplex Steering Committee held a meeting on March 1st. The Director of Engineering and Recreation wanted to update the Committee on the progress and get some clarification on how to proceed.

The Engineering Director noted that there are two distinct projects – the soccer/track and the multiplex which have different scopes of work. He suggested that a Request for Proposals be prepared for the soccer field/track to secure a consultant to provide a quote for the cost. Plans for the multiplex will still continue to be worked on as well.

The Directors said that they believe the cost of the soccer/track will be approximately 3 million dollars to complete. The soccer field/track will be located in an area with sufficient adjacent land to accommodate other sporting facilities including a multiplex. The Director of Engineering recommended that the Recreation Department map out the area with all the recreation facilities intended for that location.

It was suggested that a meeting be held with the Gander Minor Soccer Association and the Gander Track Committee to see exactly what they require in order to proceed with the Request for Proposal.

The Engineering Director also updated the Committee on the status of the current soccer fields in the plans for the new Gander Academy. The Consultant has said that the current plan is to keep one of the fields and to upgrade it to regulation size. The Committee was asked if they still wanted to proceed with a new field if there would be a new one behind Gander Academy. The Committee felt that they still want to go ahead with the Request for Proposal because the Department of Education could change their plans and not go ahead with the soccer field or upgrade it to regulation size.

A Committee member also asked if it was possible for the Director to contact the Department of Education to see if it was feasible to extend the soccer field at Gander Elementary to make it a regulation size instead of the town building their own regulation size field. The Directors of Recreation & Engineering will follow up with the School Board.

Eat Great & Participate

A representative from Eat Great & Participate contacted the Department to discuss having the cafeteria at the Steele Community Centre offer healthier foods and that the town consider adopting a policy on healthy eating.

The Director explained that it is difficult to ask the operator of a stadium to have only healthy food options on their menu as patrons attending a hockey game look forward to items such as french fries and hot dogs.

It was suggested that the Director contact other arenas with regard to their policy on healthy eating and setup a meeting with the current cafeteria operator at the end of this ice season. Once this is reviewed, the Eat Great & Participate representative will be contacted to meet with the Committee to review the possibility of adopting a Health Eating Policy.

Memorial Seat Program

A citizen contacted the stadium with regard to purchasing a seat as a graduation gift for their child who has been involved in Minor Hockey at the Steele Community Centre since he was a young boy. The Gander Community Centre had implemented a Memorial Seat Program when the building was opened and a number of citizens and businesses purchased a seat.

The benefit from this program was that the person would receive a name plaque for a seat of their choice, a promotional wall clock and a two week holding seat status at the Gander Community Centre for town-sponsored events. This program has not been promoted or used for a number of years as the Town does not host any events that require purchasing a seat.

The Director suggested a new program whereby you can purchase a seat for a cost of \$100. The Department thinks this is a great idea as there are a large number of children in the community who have or are going through Gander Minor Hockey or Silver Jets and would love the idea of putting their name on a seat. The fee for purchasing and installing the name plate on the seat would come from the cost of the seat. The Department is recommending that the revenue generated from the seat program would be put back into the Community Program budget which is used to host events for children, seniors and residents in the town. The names that are currently on the seats from the previous Memorial Seat Program will remain in place.

The Committee agrees with this suggestion, however, they would like the cost to be advertised as a minimum donation of \$100 per seat.

Councillor Woodford left the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest. There was a potential conflict if Council discussed compensating residents who participated in the initial sponsored seat program when the building was constructed. Councillor Woodford was a participant in this program.

Mayor Farwell didn't agree with allocating the money raised to a specific recurring program. Mayor Farwell then left the meeting because he had also participated in the initial seat sponsorship program and Deputy Mayor Pollett took the Chair.

Councillor Fudge said the \$240 paid in the initial program was for more than the plaque on the seat. The rest of Council agreed and felt that the comparison between the two programs was not valid.

Motion #18-053
Memorial Seat Program

Moved by Deputy Mayor Pollett and seconded by Councillor Brown that the Steele Community Centre implement a new Memorial Seat Program whereby a plaque for a seat can be purchased for a minimum of \$100 each and the funds will be allocated to the Community Programming budget.

In Favour: 5 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Farwell and Councillor Woodford returned to the Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor turned the Chair over to Mayor Farwell.

Broadening Horizons

The Program Manager of Broadening Horizons is beginning to plan and promote their canteen services at Cobb's Pond Rotary Park again this summer. The Director noted that the Town did not charge a fee last year unless there was an event, in which case the Department advertised for vendors and there was a cost to setup a booth.

The Committee was in agreement with allowing Broadening Horizons to use the Cobb's Pond Rotary Park canteen again for the summer of 2018.

Variance Report

The 2017 Variance Report for the Recreation, Cultural Services & Special Events Department was reviewed. The Director explained that there were some savings in special events, payroll, training, and programming. As well, the Kitchen Party was a success in 2017, therefore the revenue was more than budgeted. However, the ice rentals were under budget due to only one summer hockey camp being held this past summer. As well, the Sports Field Maintenance was over because the lime and fertilizer had not been budgeted.

Overall, the Committee was pleased with the variance report as the department was approximately \$70,000 under budget.

The Committee refers the variance report to the Finance Committee for its consideration.

Upcoming events

- a) Mar 23 - 25: Steele Hotels Provincial U12 Girls Hockey Tournament
- b) Mar 23 & 25: Kelly Ford Gander Flyers vs. Clarendville Caribous (if necessary)
- c) Apr 2 - 4: Steele Hotels Provincial Peewee Mega Hockey Tournament

B. Public Safety & Protective Services Committee:

The Public Safety & Protective Services Committee report was presented by Councillor Woodford.

The Public Safety & Protective Services Committee was held on March 13, 2018. The meeting was chaired by P. Woodford, Councillor. Other members present included: T. Pollett, Deputy Mayor; B. Dove, Councillor; O. Fudge, Councillor; G. Brown, Councillor; A. Quilty, Fire Chief (A); J. Mayo, Deputy Fire Chief – Volunteer; T. Clark, Assistant Deputy Chief - Volunteer; W. Jenkins, Municipal Enforcement Officer in Charge; G. Whitt, Administrative Support Clerk.

The following items were discussed:

Delegation – Volunteer Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief

The Committee met with the Volunteer Assistant Deputy Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief to discuss recruitment and retention for Gander Fire Rescue.

The delegation discussed the current situation with volunteer firefighter recruits and recommended Gander Fire Rescue begin the recruitment process for the summer season. It was suggested 6 – 8 recruits receive 5 day training session to receive their level 1 Theory, at a cost of approximately \$6,000.00 - \$8,000.00.

The Acting Fire Chief advised the Committee that funding is available in the 2018 budget to absorb any cost associated for training.

The Committee agrees and recommends Gander Fire Rescue begin the process of recruiting new firefighters prior to the summer season.

Stops Signs on Raynham Avenue

The Committee reviewed some older complaints and Council documents associated with the stop signs on Raynham Avenue and the pros and cons of the three way stops and whether or not it was a requirement in the area.

The Committee agreed that there is no justification to remove the stop signs at this time and will adhere to previous Council's decision that they remain in place. The matter will be revisited when Penney Avenue is connected to Cooper Boulevard, as it is anticipated the traffic flow on Raynham Avenue will be reduced at that time.

Town of Gander Traffic Fines

The Municipal Officer in Charge presented the Committee with a list of traffic fines under various sections of the Highway Traffic Act and the Town of Gander's Traffic Regulations. The provincial fines have recently increased and she is recommending that the town fines be adjusted to the same level, as per the attached document.

Motion #18-054

Town of Gander Traffic Fines

Moved by Councillor Woodford and seconded by Councillor Dove that the fines listed in the attached document for sections 32, 59, 35-(d), 62, 33-(1), 33- (2), 48 -(2), 16 -(c) (i), 7, 40, and 85 under the Town of Ganders Traffic Regulations be increased as presented.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Vehicle Replacement

The Municipal Officer in Charge (OIC) is requesting a change to the vehicle replacement for the Department. It was suggested a SUV would be more practical than a truck and the purchase price will remain within budget.

The Committee agreed and recommends the Officer in Charge select the vehicle that is deemed most practical for the requirements of the Department while remaining within budget.

Emergency Measures Organization Bylaw-Removal

The Committee was presented with this bylaw for removal as it is no longer relevant to the Town's operations. The information contained in the document is now included in the Towns Emergency Plan.

Motion #18-055

Emergency Measures Organization Bylaw-Removal

Moved by Councillor Woodford and seconded by Councillor Brown that the Emergency Measures Organization Bylaw be rescinded.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Variance Reports- Fourth Quarter 2017

The Committee reviewed Gander Fire Rescue's annual variance report for 2017 which showed a savings of \$ 30,907 due to a delay in hiring, a higher number of highway response calls, and lower electrical consumption overall than the previous year.

The Committee reviewed the same annual reporting period for Municipal Enforcement which showed a savings of \$ 36,042 due to hiring delays and more than budgeted fines revenue.

The Committee was pleased with these reports and forwards them to the Finance Committee for its review and consideration.

Operational Readiness and Recruitment

The Committee discussed correspondence from a resident referencing concerns with the operational readiness and recruitment at Gander Fire Rescue.

The Committee agrees that further information is required on the subject before further discussion takes place on the matter.

The Committee recommends this item be forwarded to the Privileged Meeting of Council on April 10th for further discussion.

C. Public Works & Services Committee:

The Public Works & Services Committee report was presented by Councillor Fudge.

The Public Works & Services Committee meeting was held on March 14, 2018. The meeting was chaired by O. Fudge, Councillor. Other members present included: G. Brown, Councillor; T. Pollett, Deputy Mayor; T. Barron, Director of Municipal Works & Services; G. Whitt, Administrative Support Clerk.

The following items were discussed:

Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) Backyard Composting Program

The Director reviewed correspondence from MMSB regarding their 2018 Backyard Composting Program. One third of the waste residents place at the curbside is organic. Promoting backyard composting of organic waste over land filling will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create healthy soil and save landfill space, further reducing the cost of curbside collection.

The Committee agreed that the Town of Gander should continue to support this program and recommends placing the minimal pre-order of 40 bins for resale to residents at a reduced cost. Council will work together with local organizations and groups who may be interested in promoting the program.

This item is referred to Finance and Administration Committee for its consideration and recommendation to Council.

43 Cochrane Street

The Director reviewed correspondence from the owner of 43 Cochrane Street who is requesting reimbursement for costs incurred to free a blocked sewer lateral, determined to be caused by a sag in the pipe. In this instance, the sag falls within Policy MW030 guidelines for reimbursement. It is recommended the owner of 43 Cochrane Street be paid \$460.00 to cover the costs incurred to clear the sewer blockage.

Motion #18-056

43 Cochrane Street

Moved by Councillor Fudge and seconded by Councillor Anstey that the owner of 43 Cochrane Street be paid \$460.00 for costs incurred to clear their sewer line.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Tender Summary – Garbage Truck Rental

The Committee reviewed the results of the tender for the supply of one (1) Garbage Truck Rental. Four (4) tenders were received and the Director advises that the lowest of the tenders that met specifications was submitted by T2 VENTURES INC. The truck will be used for the spring clean up.

The Committee recommends that the tender for the supply of one (1) Garbage Truck Rental be awarded to T2 VENTURES INC., and refers the tender to the Finance and Administration Committee for its consideration.

Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA)

The Committee reviewed correspondence from CPWA requesting the Town to sponsor the luncheon for delegates at the annual CPWA Spring Conference, at a cost of \$750.00. This event is held in Gander in May.

Motion #18-057

Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA)

Moved by Councillor Fudge and seconded by Councillor Brown approval to sponsor the CPWA luncheon, at a cost of \$750.00.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Variance Report

The Director reviewed the Variance Report for the fourth quarter with the Committee. The Department remained under budget at year end as projected.

Some items noted in this variance, including diesel consumption, were brought forward from the first quarter report. Additional expenses included an increase in the cost of chlorine and increased consumption and cost of heating oil. Savings included reduced electrical consumption at the Water and Sewer facilities and a delay in implementing chloramines as the secondary disinfectant.

D. Development, Tourism & Culture Committee:

The Development, Tourism & Culture Committee report was presented by Councillor Brown.

The Development, Tourism & Culture Committee meeting was held on March 14, 2018. The meeting was chaired by G. Brown, Councillor. Other members present included: T. Pollett, Deputy Mayor; P. Woodford, Councillor; O. Fudge, Councillor; D. Quinton, Development Director (A).

The following items were discussed:

Delegation

F. Skeard, K. Goulding and J. Davis - Qalipu First Nations

The Committee met with representatives from the Qalipu First Nations to learn more of their current activity within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

They advised the Committee that while the Qalipu First Nations do not currently have a physical location in Gander, they have a significant member population in the Gander area with some members choosing to move into Gander from other areas of the province. To better service this population, the Qalipu First Nations are currently investigating real estate and business opportunities within the Town of Gander.

They feel that with an increased presence in Gander, there are great opportunities for dialogue and partnerships with both the municipality and the business community. With a mandate for both social programming and economic diversification, the Qalipu are excited about the opportunities presented in a progressive and inclusive community such as Gander.

The Committee was pleased to learn that the Qalipu are considering options for an increased presence in Gander and agree with the delegation's assertion that great opportunity exist in open dialogue and potential partnerships.

Pointing to the potential for mutual benefit, both the Committee and the delegation agreed to extend an open invitation to engage in future discussions regarding social programming and economic development as appropriate opportunities arise.

The delegation left the Committee meeting.

Commercial Land

The Committee reviewed a commercial land development concept for a parcel of Town owned land located between Baird Place and Memorial Drive East. This development concept is being proposed in response to identified interest for commercial lots in this area.

The concept, as proposed, would require an extension of Memorial Drive East to Baird Place, thus making available for sale a number of suitable commercial lots for future development. Consideration of future impacts on traffic flow and zoning in this area will be required.

The Committee feels that the growing demand for commercial lots in the Cooper Boulevard/Roe Avenue area is a strong indicator of confidence in the local economy. As such, they believe it is essential for the Town to be in the position to accommodate this future commercial growth.

The Committee acknowledges that while there are land lease options available along the Cooper Boulevard growth corridor, many local business investors are interested in land ownership. The Committee understands that such developments can come with significant cost but also recognize that the long term cost of lost opportunity for increased business investment will be even greater.

The Committee is in agreement with Management's recommendation that the Engineering Department develop a preliminary site plan to include proposed lot layouts and cost estimates for presentation to Committee and Council.

Variance Report: December 31st, 2017

The Committee reviewed the department's variance report ending December 31st, 2017 which shows a savings of \$31,322.00. These savings can be attributed to savings in wages and Travel-Business, and Travel Training budgets. The committee is pleased with the Department's financial standing.

Naming of Buildings and Facilities Policy -1st Reading

The Committee reviewed the recommended changes to the *Naming of Buildings and Facilities Policy* which included changing the name of the policy to the *Community Legacy Naming Policy* in addition to several other minor wording changes. All were in agreement that the proposed changes were suitable and necessary to better reflect the intent of the policy, which is to allow for Town owned assets (other than streets) to be named after prominent community citizens.

E. Engineering, Planning & Controls:

The Engineering, Planning & Controls Committee report was presented by Councillor Fudge.

The Engineering, Planning & Controls Committee meeting was held on March 15, 2018. The meeting was chaired by O. Fudge, Councillor. Other members present included: P. Woodford, Councillor; J. Blackwood, Director of Engineering; J. Hillier, Administrative Assistant.

The following items were discussed:

Shipping Containers as Accessory Buildings

The Committee discussed the increasing usage of shipping containers and old trailers as storage units and accessory buildings. Complaints have been received about the aesthetics and safety of these units and it has been alleged that some are being used to operate businesses from with no store front creating an unfair advantage to those who have constructed a building and are being taxed.

The Committee would like the department to investigate bylaws and regulations from other municipalities which address the use of such units and bring forward a recommendation at the next meeting.

Use of Public Land

The Committee discussed the use of Town owned land and how several residential and commercial properties have encroached on Town land. The Committee would like the Engineering Department to move forward with identifying and rectifying those instances where individuals have unlawfully encroached on Town owned land.

The Committee forwards this item to the next Planning and Priorities Committee meeting for further discussion.

Cannabis Regulations

The Director of Engineering informed the Committee that with the upcoming legalization of cannabis, municipalities will need to be proactive in preparing for this. He advised that the Engineering Department will be looking into the bylaws and zoning regulations and how the Province will be enforcing those regulations.

Further discussions regarding Provincial regulations on this matter and how it will affect municipalities will take place as they become available.

Council would like the Provincial staff to come to Gander hold a public forum regarding the sale of cannabis.

Pump Track and Dirt Bike Trail Location

The Committee reviewed a development application from the Central Newfoundland Biking Association requesting approval to allow for the development of a pump track and mountain bike trail.

The Association has indicated their site preference for a pump track would be behind Cohen's Home Furnishing near the Town's recreation facilities. Preference for a mountain bike trail would be near the former ski hill off the Trans-Canada highway. The Association is requesting Council's approval for both these uses and attached a map outlining the specifics for both these areas.

The Director advised that the Association indicated that they would only be cleaning up the existing trail at the former ski hill site and doing some minor ground work ensuring that nothing would be cut down. The Director also advised that both these areas, as requested, are permitted uses in those zones and the Engineering department does not have any issues or concerns with the proposal.

After discussion, the Committee is recommending approval for the development application as presented.

Motion #18-058

Pump Track and Dirt Bike Trail Location

Moved by Councillor Anstey and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pollett that the development application from Central Newfoundland Biking Association for two bicycling facilities be approved.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Variance Report

The Director presented the departmental variance report to December 31, 2017 and advised that the department is under budget by \$69,718.00. The savings were due to a delay in hiring an engineering clerk replacement and permit revenue was higher than expected.

The Committee was pleased with the variance report and forwards it to the Finance Committee for their review and consideration.

Crosswalk – Golden Years Estates

The Committee discussed a request that was brought forward by Deputy Mayor Pollett, from a resident, to install a crosswalk in front of Golden Years Estates. The request was intended to make it easier and safer for seniors to cross Magee Road to access the designated sidewalk on the opposite side of the road.

The Director advised that after review of the Transportation Association of Canada standards, there was nothing recommending against a crosswalk at this location. It was noted that there is an existing crosswalk at the Airport Boulevard and Magee Road intersection and questioned if it would be necessary to install another crosswalk so close in proximity.

The Committee is not recommending that the crosswalk be installed as requested.

The Deputy Mayor asked that the Committee investigate various options including installing a sidewalk from their property to the Airport/Magee intersection.

F. Finance & Administration:

The Finance and Administration Committee report was presented by Councillor Dove.

The Finance & Administration Committee meeting was held on March 15, 2018. The meeting was chaired by B. Dove, Councillor. Other members present included: G. Brown, Councillor; P. Woodford; T. Pollett, Deputy Mayor; O. Fudge, Councillor; G. Brown, Director of Finance.

The following items were discussed:

Acting Assignments and Appointments Policy

The Committee reviewed a new proposed Policy regarding staff in Acting Assignments and Appointments. This governs how the process will work when there are vacancies in the organization that require coverage by other staff.

This Policy is presented for its first reading. Anyone wishing to comment should contact the Town Clerk no later than April 4, 2018.

Information Technology System Security Policy

The Information Technology System Security Policy was being presented to Council which deals with access levels provided to staff to information on the Town's IT systems.

Motion #18-059

Information Technology System Security Policy

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pollett adoption of the Information Technology System Security Policy, as attached.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

E-mail and Internet Usage Policy

The Committee reviewed the proposed new E-mail and Internet Usage Policy. This Policy provides guidance to staff on what uses are permitted from the Town's computer system with regards to e-mail and internet usage.

Motion #18-060

E-mail and Internet Usage Policy

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Woodford adoption of the E-mail and Internet Usage Policy, as attached.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Network and Information Technology Assets Usage Policy

The Committee reviewed the proposed Network and Information Technology Assets Usage Policy. This Policy outlines to staff, how the Town's Network and IT Assets are allowed to be used and also outlines what is not allowed.

Motion #18-061

Network and Information Technology Assets Usage Policy

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Woodford adoption of the Network and Information Technology Assets Usage Policy, as attached.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Password Policy

The Committee reviewed the proposed Password Policy for the Town's computer systems. This Policy provides staff with direction on types of passwords that should be used, as well as the timeframe for changing passwords.

Motion #18-062

Password Policy

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Woodford adoption of the Password Policy, as attached.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

18th Annual Golf for Health Tournament

The Committee reviewed an invitation for the Town to participate in the Central Northeast Health Foundation Fundraiser to be held on July 5, 2018. In previous years, Council has put a team in the event.

Motion #18-063

18th Annual Golf for Health Tournament

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Fudge that the Town of Gander put a team in the 2018 Golf for Health Tournament. The cost of registration is \$800.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Tender – Rental of Garbage Trucks

The Committee reviewed the Tender for the Rental of Garbage Trucks to be used in the upcoming Spring Clean-up. The Public Works recommendation was that the Tender be awarded to T2 Ventures Inc.

Motion #18-064

Tender – Rental of Garbage Trucks

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Anstey that Tender #18-01 Rental of Garbage Trucks be awarded to T2 Ventures Inc. at a cost of \$13,750/week, plus HST.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Property Tax Reduction

The Committee reviewed one residential tax reduction application which was submitted in accordance with Council's policy on tax reductions for residential property.

Motion #18-065

Property Tax Reduction

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Brown that the one property tax reduction be approved as attached.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Hiring of an Interim Fire Chief

The Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Public Safety Committee that we advertise for the hiring of an interim Fire Chief and the Finance Committee was in agreement with this recommendation.

Motion #18-066

Hiring of an Interim Fire Chief

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Woodford that we advertise for the hiring of an interim Fire Chief.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Rescheduling of the Next Finance Committee Meeting

Due to the absence of several Councillors at the time of the proposed Finance meeting on April 5, 2018, it will be moved to April 9, 2018 at 9am.

Compost Bins

The Committee reviewed the suggestion from Public Works that we purchase more compost bins and they be made available to a non-profit group to sell as a fundraising event. The Gander Community Garden Committee indicated they have an interest in doing so and the Finance Committee thought this was an excellent idea.

Motion #18-067

Compost Bins

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pollett that the Town of Gander allow the Gander Community Garden to sell the composters purchased by the Town through the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Interim Financing – Waste Water Treatment Plant Project

At the January 17, 2018 Council meeting, a Motion was passed to request an Approval to Borrow from the Province for the Royal Bank to provide us with interim financing in the amount of \$13.3 million for the construction of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. The request was sent to the Province and the Town was advised that the Motion has to be modified as they need a term in the Motion for the length of time the money will be borrowed. As such, the initial Motion has to be rescinded.

Motion #18-068**Interim Financing – Rescind Motion #18-020**

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Woodford that Motion #18-020 be rescinded.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

Motion #18-069**Interim Financing – Waste Water Treatment Plant Project**

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Woodford that the Town of Gander request an Approval to Borrow for \$13.3 million from the Royal Bank at an interest rate of prime -0.60% to provide interim financing on the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. The funds will be repaid no later than August 31, 2020.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

New Evolution Wrestling

New Evolution Wrestling has approached the Town with a proposal to rent the Steele Community Centre on July 24, 2018 to host a wrestling show. They are suggesting that the Town do a 70/30 split on the ticket sales with the Town getting 30%. They don't want to pay a daily rental fee as they are unsure of the level of attendance that will be at the event. There are no bookings for the Community Centre on this date and the preparation required by the Town will be minimal.

Motion #18-070**New Evolution Wrestling**

Moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Councillor Fudge that the Town of Gander rent the Steele Community Centre to New Evolution Wrestling on July 24, 2018 for 30% of the ticket sale proceeds.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

2017 Financial Statement

The Committee reviewed the Operating Financial Statement for 2017. In 2017, there was a surplus from operations of \$799,519. This surplus will reduce the deficit being carried forward by the Town from \$1 million to approximately \$205,000.

Revenues for 2017 were \$48,460 over budget and expenditures were \$351,113 under budget.

Major expenditure variances include the following:

1. **Wages**
Wages were \$234,333 under budget. There were two positions in the 2017 budget that were not filled. Also in cases where staff went off for illness or other reasons, positions were not filled.
2. **Electrical Costs**
Electrical costs were under budget by \$95,000 largely due to energy retrofit projects carried out with Honeywell over the last couple of years.
3. **Borrowing Costs**
Borrowing Costs were \$39,000 under budget as a result of rates being slightly lower than had been budgeted.

The Finance Committee is extremely pleased with the financial results of 2017 and it looks like we will be able to eliminate our deficit being carried forward by the end of 2018 which is two years ahead of schedule.

Capital Variance Report

The Committee also reviewed the Capital Variance Report for 2017. There was \$6.2 million spent on Capital Projects in 2017, \$2.7 million of which was the Town's responsibility and \$3.5 million came from other sources. Capital Expenditures for 2017 were \$724,000 under budget. This was primarily a result of timing. There were several projects budgeted in 2017 that will not be completed until 2018.

G. **Other Reports:**

None

7. **ADMINISTRATION**

None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

External Review

The Mayor advised Council that he met with Dr. Peter Vaughn to discuss the external review of Central Health last week. The report is expected to be finalized by the end of April.

Motion #18-071

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Councillor Dove and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pollett that the meeting be adjourned.

In Favour: 7 Opposing: 0

Decision: Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

P. Farwell, Mayor

G. Brown, Town Clerk