

Rural Municipality of Crapaud

Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

7:00 pm

Crapaud Community Hall

Minutes

Present: Mayor Joanne Harvey; Deputy Mayor Margaret Armsworthy; Councillor Della Ferguson, Councillor Dean MacDonald, Councillor Tom Patterson, Councillor Savannah Dugay; CAO Alana Searle

- 1. Call to Order** - Mayor Joanne Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- 2. Approval of Agenda** - Approval of Agenda for Tuesday, March 19, 2024– Moved by Councillor Dean MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Tom Patterson to approve the agenda for Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.
- 3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest** – Nil
- 4. Approval of Minutes from:**

4.1. February 20, 2024, Regular Council Meeting

Moved by Councillor Della Ferguson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Margaret Armsworthy to approve the February 20, 2024; Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

4.2. February 27, 2024, Special Council Meeting

Moved by Councillor Dean MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Tom Patterson to approve the February 27, 2024; Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

5. Discussion Items

- 5.1. Bylaw #2022-03 - Water & Sewer Corporation – Mayor JoAnne Harvey advised that there are two years from when the Water & Sewer Bylaw was written to adopt or reject and start over new. Councillor Dean MacDonald said he would like to see a resolution to remove the corporation as listed. A resident advised that the Water and Sewer were previously privately owned, and a corporation was required at that time, but now that the Municipality owns the Water and Sewer, it can be removed. Deputy Mayor Margaret Armsworthy said she wants to know the cost impact of removing the corporation before a resolution is brought forward. Item deferred.
- 5.2. Bylaw #2024-01 - Code of Conduct for Member of Council -First reading of Bylaw #2024-01 was moved by Deputy Mayor Margaret Armsworthy and seconded by Councillor Della Ferguson. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.3. Election Officials Fee Policy #2024-01- Moved by Deputy Mayor Margaret Armsworthy and seconded by Tom Patterson. Councillor Della Ferguson advised she does not support compensating for meals for election workers and that when she worked in the provincial election the rate of pay was lower than the proposed rate. Motion lost 0-5.
- 5.4. By-election - Nomination Period -Mayor JoAnne Harvey read a letter from Minister Rob Lantz granting an extension of the 6-month deadline to call a by-election due to vacancy.
- 5.5. ACOA Fiona Funding Expenditure – Mayor JoAnne Harvey advised that after Hurricane Fiona in 2022, it became apparent that the community was in need of a designated warming centre for emergency situations and an application had been made and approved to upgrade the Community Hall located at 36 Route 13 including replacing damaged windows, an electric stove, and hood vent for the kitchen. Amount granted was \$40,700.00. Motion made approving improvements by Deputy Mayor Margaret Armsworthy and seconded by Councillor Della Ferguson. Motion passed unanimously.

5.6. CCBF (Gas Tax) Funding Expenditure – Mayor Harvey advised that quotes for Capital Projects and Infrastructure improvements need to be submitted to the Municipal Office. Items that Council are looking into include roof and siding repairs on the Fire Hall, an expansion of the Food Bank into the current Library space, scoping the water and sewer lines, renovations to the former Scotiabank building, paving the parking lot at the Community Hall and Fire Hall, adding a new building for the Parks Department.

5.7. Web Services – CAO Alana Searle advised that she has been researching more cost-effective solutions to the Community’s software. Current fee through Weebly for the Community’s website is \$337.00 USD annually and the administrative email through Google is costing \$322.00 USD annually. Moving both to Ionos would cost \$100.00 CAD each resulting in a cost savings of \$700-800 per year for the Municipality. There would be a one-time \$1500.00 CAD fee payable to Scott Jay at Your Digital Coach to set up the new website on Ionos.

5.8. Grant Request

5.8.1. South Shore Chamber of Commerce – Mural

5.8.1.1. Moved by Councillor Dean MacDonald to sponsor the Mural Project in the amount of \$250.00 and seconded by Tom Patterson Motion passed 4-1.

5.8.2. Bluefield High School – A request was made for a \$500 grant – Moved by Councillor Della Ferguson to sponsor the “Crapaud Community Council Award” at Bluefield High School. Seconded by Councillor Savannah Dougay Motion passed unanimously.

6. Information Items

6.1. Exhibition Grounds Tree Removal – Mayor JoAnne Harvey moved this item to the start of the meeting after approval of minutes from previous meetings to accommodate guest speaker Jason Webster. Paula Sark was present and gave notice that Elmer MacDonald was unable to attend. Jason Webster presented the Tractor Pull’s wish to remove trees from the South Side of the Exhibition Grounds to make more room for

campers and increase the safety of the event. A resident raised concerns about the removal of old growth trees with no plan to replace them from an environmental stewardship perspective. Mayor Harvey advised that Council would work with the Tractor Pull Association to see if they can secure funding to plant new trees on town property bordering the Exhibition Grounds.

6.2. Complaint to Municipal Affairs – Mayor Harvey advised that a complaint has been made by a concerned resident to Municipal Affairs regarding computers from previous Council that were wiped clean before they were returned. Council is aware that the computers’ memories were erased but have no way of knowing what information was on there prior to the computers being turned over to Municipal Affairs.

6.3. Complaints about ATV – Mayor Harvey advised that complaints have been made regarding a loud ATV driving on the streets including late into the night. Residents are asked to call the RCMP moving forward, and Council is aware of the ongoing issue.

7. Adjournment – Moved by Councillor Dean MacDonald to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm and was seconded by Councillor Savannah Dougay.

Joanne Harvey _____

Mayor

Alana Searle _____

Chief Administrative Officer