

**VILLAGE OF NEW MARYLAND
COUNCIL**

January 15, 2014

Present: Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee
Deputy Mayor Gisèle McCaie-Burke
Councillor Frank Dunn
Councillor Paul LeBlanc
Councillor Peter Wiggins

Also Present: Cynthia Geldart, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Karen Duncan, Assistant Clerk
Harry Farrell, Fire Chief
Scott Sparks, Treasurer

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Mayor Wilson-Shee called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
MOVED BY Councillor LeBlanc and **seconded by** Councillor Wiggins to approve the agenda as distributed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
MOVED BY Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke and **seconded by** Councillor Dunn to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2013 regular session of Council as distributed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**
No disclosures of interest were declared.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**
No presentations were made.

6. **PROCLAMATIONS**
No proclamations were read.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**
The following correspondence was read into the record by the CAO/Clerk, Cynthia Geldart, as per the request of Mayor Wilson-Shee:
 - a request from a resident that the lettering on the new Welcome Sign be repainted in order to stand out better;
 - a thank you to the snow removal crew for working so diligently over the holidays to try to deal with all of the snow we received in a relatively short period of time;
 - an email from a resident thanking our snowplow operators for doing a great job keeping snow banks pushed back between the streets and sidewalks to help improve visibility for traffic; and
 - a thank you from the RCMP for allowing them to use the property near the Wastewater Treatment Facility for training activities.

8. MEETINGS AND/OR SPECIAL EVENTS

Mayor Wilson-Shee attended the following meetings and/or special events since the last formal Council meeting:

December 19th – the RSC 11 Board meeting;

December 20th – a potluck hosted by the Village of New Maryland staff;

December 30th – the community skate at Grant Harvey Centre;

January 1st – the New Year’s Levee hosted by Village of New Maryland Council, along with Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke and Councillors Dunn and LeBlanc;

January 7th – the RSC 11 Board meeting;

January 9th – the Community Policing Committee meeting;

January 10th – a meeting with Don Fitzgerald, Executive Director and Michael Blaney, Chair of RSC 11;

January 12th – a visit with Dorothy Lockhart, Goodwill Ambassador; and

January 15th – a potluck hosted by the Parish of New Maryland Zoomers.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS / UPDATES

Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor Wiggins reported that the committee met on January 6, 2014 with all committee members present.

- The focus of the meeting was to review the motions that will be presented at tonight’s Council meeting.
- The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2014.

MOVED BY Councillor Wiggins and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the adoption of this report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Wiggins and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the following resolution of Council:

Be It Resolved That the Council for the Village of New Maryland reappoints Stephen Conn as a member of the Planning Advisory Committee for a period of three years, as per Section 12 of the *New Brunswick Community Planning Act*. **MOTION CARRIED.**

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Wiggins and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the following resolution of Council:

Be it Resolved That in accordance with the terms of the Developer’s Agreement entered into on September 14th, 2012 between the Village of New Maryland and Tandax Inc., for development of Pine Ridge Subdivision Phases 3A and 3B, which development, by agreement includes the construction/provision of municipal services, utilities and facilities enumerated in the said Developer’s Agreement; the Village Council, on the recommendation of the Village Engineer, agrees to: Assume the municipal services and roadway base works for the Sprucewood Drive and Kirkland Drive portions of Phase 3A; terminate the one (1) year warranty period for the same, extend the warranty period by an additional year as per Section 10(1)(b) of the Development Agreement for the Phase 3B portions of the municipal services on Doherty Street; and, authorize revisions to the associated warranty security as per the provisions in the Development Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED.

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Wiggins and **seconded by** Councillor LeBlanc the following resolution of Council:
Be It Resolved That in accordance with the terms of the Developer's Agreement entered into on September 14th, 2012 between the Village of New Maryland and Tandax Inc., for development of Pine Ridge Subdivision Phases 3A and 3B, which development, by agreement includes the construction of concrete curb and gutters, foundation preparation and installation of concrete sidewalks, base and surface asphalt, construction of boulevards, drainage swales and ditches ("works"), enumerated in the said Developer's Agreement, the Village Council, on the recommendation of the Village Engineer, agrees to: Accept the Phase 3A surface works completed to date on Sprucewood Drive and Kirkland Drive; commence the warranty periods of two (2) years for the surface asphalt and one (1) year for the remaining portions of the surface works; and, authorize revisions to associated warranty and performance securities as per the provisions in the Development Agreement.

Discussion:

Councillor LeBlanc remarked that these motions are formalities to transfer ownership to the Village.

MOTION CARRIED.

Human Resources & Administration Committee

Councillor Dunn reported that the Human Resources and Administration Committee met on January 8th with all committee members in attendance.

- The meeting began with a review of action items that have been completed since the previous meeting.
- The committee then moved on to discuss a draft policy regarding office closure during the Christmas holidays. The policy will be presented to Council at the next Council-In-Committee meeting for debate.
- The committee held a brief discussion regarding the cenotaph at Victoria Hall Park. The cenotaph was dedicated to the community in 1996 and the committee wants to ensure that the 20th anniversary of the dedication will be acknowledged in 2016.
- A final item to note was an update from the CAO concerning changes in staff and the status of those positions.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12th at 9:00 am.

MOVED BY Councillor Dunn and **seconded by** Councillor Wiggins the adoption of this report.

MOTION CARRIED.

Recreation and Leisure Services Committee

Councillor Wiggins reported that the Recreation and Leisure Services Committee did not meet in December due to the holiday season.

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Wiggins and **seconded by** Councillor LeBlanc the following resolution of Council:
Be It Resolved That the Council for the Village of New Maryland appoints Laurie Pearson to the Recreation and Leisure Services Committee, for a period of two-years, commencing immediately.

Discussion:

Councillor Wiggins stated that he would like to thank the members who have served during this major project that was just completed, and the committee is soliciting new members so that committee business can move forward. **MOTION CARRIED.**

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Wiggins and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the following resolution of Council:

Be It Resolved That the Council for the Village of New Maryland appoints Steven Clark to the Recreation and Leisure Services Committee, for a period of two-years, commencing immediately.

Discussion:

Councillor Wiggins confirmed that with the appointment of these new members, all seats on the committee

are now full. The intent of the committee will be to examine the Recreation matrix and choose another suitable project. Councillor Wiggins encouraged residents to attend the meetings and share their thoughts and input with the committee. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Transportation and Protective Services Committee

In Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke's absence from the January 14, 2014 Transportation and Protective Services Committee meeting, Councillor LeBlanc chaired the meeting and gave the following report.

- The committee approved the agenda and reviewed the session notes from the previous meeting.
- Committee member Dan Taylor led the committee through a strategic planning session.
- The committee was informed that a letter has been sent to the resident who made a previous request to install a stop sign at the corner of Berkley Drive and Melrose Street. The letter explained to the resident that the stop sign will not be installed but other options are being investigated.
- During the discussion of the Springwater subdivision pilot project, the committee was presented with an update on the types of speed sentry units that the committee should consider purchasing.
- As a continuation from the previous meeting, the committee again discussed the suggestion to install a stop sign at the corner of Cains Brook Lane and Shaw Lane. The majority of the committee agreed that the current yield sign that is already located at this intersection should remain, and no changes will be made to the signage at this intersection at this time.
- The November Transportation report was presented to the committee. It was noted that a fair bit of snow removal from ditches in various locations has taken place over the last few days in anticipation of the rain that was forecasted. Damage to sod from the ditching operation will be repaired in the spring.

MOVED BY Councillor LeBlanc and **seconded by** Councillor Dunn the adoption of this report.
MOTION CARRIED.

New Maryland Fire Department's Annual Report

Chief Farrell reported that for the year 2013 the department received 68 calls for service. Thirty-two calls were in the Village of New Maryland, and 36 were in other areas outside the Village including mutual aid calls. The department received 28 calls for fire alarms and 11 vehicle accidents. A total of 562 man hours were dedicated to fire calls this year and over 1800 hours were spent on training and public relations.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke and **seconded by** Councillor LeBlanc the adoption of this report.
MOTION CARRIED.

Emergency Response Plan Committee

Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke reported that the Emergency Response Plan Committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2014.

► **MOVED BY** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke and **seconded by** Councillor LeBlanc the following resolution of Council:

Be It Resolved That the Council for the Village of New Maryland appoints Gary Love (PNM Zoomers) to the Emergency Response Plan Committee, for a period of two-years, commencing immediately.

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke gave a brief background of Gary's work experience that she felt will make him an asset to the committee. She also explained that Gary will be on the committee as an alternate representative for the PNM Zoomers.

MOTION CARRIED.

Water and Wastewater Committee

Councillor LeBlanc reported that the Water and Wastewater Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

Finance Committee

Councillor Dunn reported that the Finance Committee met on January 8, 2014.

- The entire meeting was dedicated to the 2014 Budget. Council's top priority for 2014 is the stormwater study and upgrade. Other Capital items were discussed.
- It was noted that the unconditional grant from the province was reduced this year by \$63,702.00 and will be eliminated entirely in 2015.
- It was agreed that \$171,458.00 will be reserved for infrastructure replacement.
- A recommendation from the committee to approve the budget will be brought forward to Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Dunn and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the adoption of this report.
MOTION CARRIED.

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Dunn and **seconded by** Councillor LeBlanc the following resolution of Council:

Be It Resolved That the Council for the Village of New Maryland appoints Scott Sparks as the Treasurer for the Village of New Maryland as per section 74(2) of the *Municipalities Act*.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

MOVED BY Councillor Dunn and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke to approve the Treasurer's Report as follows:

- (1) Cheques and direct payments from the General Operating account for December 1 through December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$325,935.75;
- 2) Payments from the Water and Sewer Operating account for December 1 through December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$21,165.50;
- (3) Payments from the General Capital account for November 1 through December 1 through December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$81,981.50; and
- (4) Payments from the Water and Sewer Capital account for December 1 through December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$5,587.37. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. PUBLIC INPUT / INQUIRIES

No members of the public were present. A member of the media attended the meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 BUDGET (attached)

Scott Sparks, Treasurer, presented the 2014 General Operating, Utility, and Capital budgets for the Village of New Maryland. He acknowledged the competent work of our retiring Treasurer, Joan Chandra, for being patient in helping to finalize the numbers on Council's behalf. He also thanked our CAO, Cynthia Geldart, Department Heads, Council and all volunteers who serve on the different committees for their dedication in helping to prepare the budget. He concluded by stating that he was pleased to submit the Village of New Maryland's 2014 Operating and Utility budgets for Council's consideration and approval.

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Dunn and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the following resolution of Council:

Be It Resolved That the sum of **\$4,642,346** be the total budget of the Village of New Maryland, that the sum of **\$4,139,771** be the Warrant of the Municipality for the ensuing year, and that the tax rate for the Municipality be **\$1.2072**. The Council orders and directs the levying by the Minister of Local Government of said amount on real property liable to taxation under the *Assessment Act* within the Municipality of The Village of New Maryland.

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke thanked our Treasurer for his annual budget presentation. She confirmed that she will be voting in favour of adopting the resolution and she stated her reasons for doing so. She stated that she felt it is critical that the Village take a proactive approach to address the long-term sustainability of aging infrastructure, which can be an expensive undertaking. The Village will need to have dedicated financial resources to replace outdated infrastructure and following the asset management plan will be a cost efficient approach to addressing the issue. The Deputy Mayor stated that a tax increase of 3.14 cents is a small amount compared to what it will cost taxpayers if the problem is not addressed now. Considering that there has not been an increase in the rate for the last six years, a small increase now that will begin to address the concerns of aging infrastructure makes financial sense rather than delaying the work and incurring a much greater cost in the future.

Councillor LeBlanc commented that he has always been a supporter of keeping the tax rate as low as possible, but the numbers presented tonight speak for themselves. He explained that Council has tried to stretch funds as much as possible over the past six years to cover the continuing decrease in the unconditional grant and to pay for unexpected expenditures that have arisen, but there is a limit to how far funds can stretch. In order for the Village to continue to provide the same level of service that residents have come to expect, the numbers have to change. He stated that he will be voting in favour of the resolution.

Councillor Wiggins stated that he does not feel that the tax rate should increase. He remarked that he has only been a member of Council for a short period of time and there are members of Council who have been here for many years and should have addressed the issue of aging infrastructure before now. He added that he felt there are other means of doing the infrastructure upgrades, and the portion of money that has been set aside this year is inadequate for the work to be done in Springwater subdivision. The Village will need to borrow money in order to do an adequate job and address residents' concerns, rather than doing a band-aid approach. In the past, the Village borrowed millions to pave the roads and now money should be borrowed to fix the issues with water. He concluded by stating that increasing the tax rate for this reason is not satisfactory to him and therefore will not be voting in favour of the resolution.

Mayor Wilson-Shee left the chair to make her own comments, and Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke assumed the chair. Mayor Wilson-Shee remarked that when dealing with the 2014 budget process Council as a whole agreed that one item of major concern was to proceed with a stormwater study and future upgrades. As a result, \$138,000 has been allocated to commence the study and upgrades. This is a major commitment from Council. The Village has experienced reduction in revenue with the decrease in unconditional grant funding from the Province of New Brunswick which neither Council nor staff have any control over. Based on a 2% assessment increase and with the new tax costs, Mayor Wilson-Shee provided examples of the property tax bill cost change to homeowners. A home assessment of \$200,000 in 2013 will increase in 2014 to \$204,000. This will mean an annual change in the property tax bill of \$111.07, or \$9.26 monthly. A home assessment of \$250,000 in 2013 will increase in 2014 to \$255,000. This will mean an annual change in the property tax bill of \$138.84, or \$11.57 monthly. A home assessment of \$300,000 in 2013 will increase in 2014 to \$306,000. This will mean an annual change in the property tax bill of \$166.60, or \$13.88 monthly. Mayor Wilson-Shee resumed the chair.

Mayor Wilson-Shee, Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke, Councillor Dunn, and Councillor LeBlanc voted in favour of the resolution. Councillor Wiggins voted against the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED.

► **MOVED BY** Councillor Dunn and **seconded by** Councillor Wiggins the following resolution of Council:
Be It Resolved That pursuant to paragraph 189(4) of the *Municipalities Act*, the total budget for the water and sewer utility for the ensuing year would consist of total revenues of **\$1,114,952** and total of expenditures of **\$1,114,952**.

Discussion:

Councillor Dunn congratulated the new treasurer and the work he did in the preparation of the 2014 budgets. He stated that he believes he is a person who will be very dedicated to his job and will ensure that the money received from the tax increase will be well handled.

Mayor Wilson-Shee asked that it be noted that the utility rate will stay the same.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular session of Council is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 7:30 pm in Council Chamber.

14. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Councillor LeBlanc and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Duncan
Assistant Clerk

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk

Judy Wilson-Shee
Mayor