

Village of New Maryland Council

18 January 2023

Present: Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee Deputy Mayor Tim Scammell
Councillor Laurie Pearson Councillor Mike Pope
Councillor Alex Scholten Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud
Cynthia Geldart, CAO/Clerk Shawna Cyr-Basque, Assistant Clerk
Harry Farrell, Fire Chief

Guests: Two resident attended the meeting

1. Call to Order

Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the acknowledgement that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq people and that we should live and work on this land in relationships of peace, friendship, and mutual respect. She also explained that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Tim Scammell that the agenda be approved as distributed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud that the minutes of the regular session of Council of 21 December 2022 be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Disclosure of Interest

No *Disclosures of Interest* were declared.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to read into the record.

8. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Wilson-Shee wished everyone a Happy New Year and provided an update of the meetings and events that she attended since the last Council meeting:

- December 22: met with the administration staff of the Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne (CCSA) to discuss improving and enhancing integration services of newcomers to the francophone communities at CCSA;
- January 01: Lieutenant Governor's New Year's Levee;
- January 03: New Maryland Lions Club meeting (*Councillor Scholten also attended*);
- January 09: Parish of New Maryland (PNM) Zoomers meeting;
- January 09: Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting to present Chairperson Julie Clarke with her 5 (five)-year service award;

- January 12: Capital Region Service Commission (CRSC), formerly known as Regional Service Commission 11, Special Board meeting hosted via Zoom; Mayor Wilson-Shee reported that she has been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee;
- January 17: New Maryland Lions Club Open House;
- January 18: met with Michelle Sawler, Recreation Coordinator and Tanya Hanson Rocca to share information regarding the Village's beautification projects along Highway 101; and
- January 18: met with Jeff Tapley, a resident and member of the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) to discuss the Neighborhood Watch Program.

9. Comments by Members of Council

There were no comments by members of Council.

10. Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Councillor Alex Scholten provided a summary of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of Monday, 09 January 2023.

- The committee reviewed the *Building Permit Summary Report* for December 2022 as presented by staff. The December report included 3 (three) permits issued for home renovation projects with \$19,570 (*nineteen thousand, five hundred seventy dollars*) in estimated value of construction and \$197.75 (*one hundred ninety-seven dollars and seventy-five cents*) in permit fee revenue for the month.
- Staff also presented to the committee the *Annual Building Permit Summary Report* for 2022. A total of 139 (one hundred thirty-nine) building permits had been issued to the end of December 2022 with a total estimated value of construction of \$5,613,883.15 (*five million, six hundred thirteen thousand, eight hundred eighty-three dollars and fifteen cents*) and \$43,566.50 (*forty-three thousand, five hundred sixty-six dollars and fifty cents*) in fees collected. The data for 2022 illustrates a similar year-end total for the number of permits in comparison to 2021 numbers, however the estimated construction value and permit fee revenues are approximately 17% (seventeen percent) lower in both instances. There were 11 (eleven) new home construction permits issued in 2022, compared to 12 (twelve) issued in 2021. A number of the new home permits in 2022 were for semi-detached dwellings in the Orchard's Edge Subdivision and a permit was also issued for creation of a basement apartment. Therefore, the number of new residential dwelling units in 2022 totaled 15 (fifteen).
- Councillor Scholten concluded his report by explaining that Mayor Wilson-Shee attended the PAC meeting to recognize Julie Clarke for her outstanding service during the past 5 (five) years and to present her a 5 (five)-year service pin and a token of Council and staff's appreciation for her valued contributions to the committee.

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud the adoption of the Planning Advisory Committee report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Committee

The ERP Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

12. Project Reports / Updates

12. (i) Recreation & Leisure Services Department Updates

Councillor Laurie Pearson provided an update of the Recreation & Leisure Services Department activities.

- She reported that residents have been inquiring about the outdoor rinks. January has been unseasonably mild with very little snow, so unfortunately, staff have been unable to get underway

with the flooding of the rinks. Residents are reminded to check the Recreation Hotline at 451-4732 and our social media sites for updates on the status of the rinks.

- Councillor Pearson shared a reminder that in addition to the outdoor rinks, the Village has established a sliding hill in Sunrise Park which will soon be available with a bit more snow. Once we have enough snow, Recreation staff will plow the area adjacent to the sliding hill to allow for parking and ensure the access road off Weston Street is plowed. Access is also available from the Sunrise Estates playground.
- Another outdoor activity available is to try snowshoeing. The New Maryland Centre nature trails, as well as the New Maryland Elementary School nature trails, are excellent venues for walking and snowshoeing. It is necessary to ensure that pets are always kept on a leash when sharing the trails and users are asked to be considerate and clean up after their pets.
- Regularly scheduled activities resumed at the New Maryland Elementary School last week. A reminder that Open Gym is held on Friday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and there are a variety of activities available. All weekday evenings are fully booked until March.
- Staff are pleased to announce the return of the “Snow Much Fun” contest for the Winter months. Starting the week of 23 January 2023 and running until 12 March 2023 (the end of March Break), residents are invited to send a photo of their hand-crafted snowman, snow sculpture, or snow fort to our Recreation Coordinator via e-mail at michelle.sawler@vonm.ca. Resident are encouraged to submit as many entries as they’d like and additional details regarding the voting process and winning entries will be available on the Village’s Facebook and social media sites.
- The professional video recording of the Wetmore-Street Duel & Trial presentation by Frantically Atlantic and friends has been posted on our website and shared on our social media. If residents were unable to attend the event in September, they are encouraged to view the video. This event commemorated the 200th anniversary of the trial.
- The PNM Zoomers will hold their next monthly meeting on 06 February 2023 at 10:00 a.m. They offer a variety of activities and more information is available by contacting pnmzoomers@gmail.com.
- Councillor Pearson concluded her report with a reminder of two upcoming events. The outdoor Glow Skate has tentatively been scheduled for Friday, 24 February 2023 in Athletic Park from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Staff will be on hand with glow sticks and hot chocolate and the New Maryland Guides will build and monitor a warming bonfire. This event is subject to weather conditions and availability of the rinks. The next Stay Safe Course will be held on Friday, 10 March 2023 at Victoria Hall. The course runs from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and the fee is \$55.00 (*fifty-five dollars*). The registration form and payment options will be posted on the Village’s website and social media later this month.

MOVED BY Councillor Laurie Pearson and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (ii) Public Works Department Updates

Deputy Mayor Tim Scammell provided an update of the activities of the Public Works Department.

- Public Works staff investigated 48 (forty-eight) public works reports in 2022. The reports were inquiries from residents relating to drainage issues, culvert inspections, or water and sewer issues. The majority of the reports concluded with gratitude and compliments from the residents involved.
- Council and staff have continued to take precautions to reduce the opportunities of spreading COVID-19. The safety of the public and staff are taken seriously by the Village.
- Public Works staff continue to ensure the Village’s infrastructure is functioning properly. The year was faced with challenges in receiving supplies and equipment due to delays, however Public Works staff were able to accomplish several projects which included:

- installation of a new sand/salt shed at the Operations Building,
 - repair and replacement of 22 (twenty-two) driveway culverts,
 - planting of 52 (fifty-two) trees along various streets, along walking trails, at parks and public lands within the Village,
 - repairs on several sidewalk panels, and
 - hired an additional Operator for the Water and Sewer Department to assist with the maintenance of the infrastructure.
- The largest and most exciting project for the Village is the continued development of the Sunrise Wellfield. This project started in 2021 and continued in 2022 with the purchase of water treatment equipment, the awarding of Contract 5 for the construction of 2 (two) new well control buildings, and the initial design of the new water treatment plant. This year foresees the installation of the water main along the west side of the New Maryland Highway from the south end of the Village to Daniel Drive. This wellfield development will provide redundancy for the Village's existing water system as well as allow further development in the Village. Deputy Mayor Scammell shared a thank you on behalf of Council and staff to the residents who allow staff to monitor their wells during this construction and the further development of the wellfield. This project would not be possible without the financial support from the Federal and Provincial governments.
- Motorists are reminded to allow extra time and greater stopping distances when slippery conditions exist during the winter months. Drivers should adhere to the posted 40 km/hr speed limit and be mindful of pedestrians using crosswalks and walking along streets with no sidewalks.
- Deputy Mayor Scammell explained that the ban on overnight parking on Village streets is now in effect. As per the *Traffic and Parking By-law No. 63-2022 section 3.04(c)*, *No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle on any street or public space in the "Winter Period" between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m. of any day, or leave any vehicle unattended during periods of snowfall, on any street or highway so as to interfere with snow removal operations.*
- Public Works staff assisted the New Maryland Scouts with their annual Christmas Tree pick-up that took place on 07 January 2023. The trees were collected and hauled to the wastewater treatment plant site for chipping and disposal in the spring. The New Maryland Scouts will be removing boughs from some of the trees to use for winter camping activities. They greatly appreciated the donations they received.
- Deputy Mayor Scammell concluded his comments by encouraging residents to participate in the Adopt-a-Hydrant program during the winter months by keeping hydrants clear of snow and remarked that any assistance in that regard is greatly appreciated. He also shared a sincere thank you to the residents who have helped to keep hydrants clear of snow in the past.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Mike Pope the adoption of the Public Works Department report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (iii) New Maryland Fire Department

Fire Chief Harry Farrell provided a summary of the quarterly and year-end reports for 2022. The quarterly report for October, November and December 2022 consisted of a total of 26 (twenty-six) fire calls, compared to 24 (twenty-four) calls for the same period last year, and 267 (two hundred sixty-seven) firefighting hours. The fire calls included 11 (eleven) calls within the Village limits for a total of 66 (sixty-six) firefighting hours, 10 (ten) calls outside the Village limits for a total of 137 (one hundred thirty-seven) firefighting hours, and 5 (five) mutual aid calls which involved 64 (sixty-four) firefighting hours.

The summary report for 2022 contained a total of 75 (seventy-five) fire calls, compared to 70 (seventy) in 2021. The total firefighting hours for 2022 was 724 (seven hundred twenty-four). The total fire calls

included 29 (twenty-nine) calls within the Village limits with a total of 186 (one hundred eighty-six) firefighting hours, 35 (thirty-five) calls outside the Village limits with a total of 406 (four hundred and six) firefighting hours, and 11 (eleven) mutual aid calls with a total of 132 (one hundred thirty-two) firefighting hours.

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten the adoption of the New Maryland Fire Department Quarterly and Year-End Summary Reports as presented by Chief Farrell. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (iv) Administration/Clerk's Office

Councillor Mike Pope reported that he had a motion to bring forward regarding a revised Vaccination Policy. He explained that Council enacted a Vaccination Policy during the COVID-19 pandemic that was very detailed due to the circumstances and challenges created by the pandemic. The provincial regulations and restrictions have eased considerably since the policy was initially enacted and staff have proposed revisions to reflect some of those changes. The recommendation from our Chief Administrative Officer and our Fire Chief is that the policy continues to include the requirement for staff, Council and our volunteer firefighters to be fully vaccinated with two vaccinations. This recommendation and decision of Council was made due to the fact that our first priority is always the safety of our Council, staff, firefighters and the residents we engage with on a daily basis.

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Tim Scammell the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland, as per the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer and Fire Chief, adopt the revised Vaccination Policy as attached hereto. **MOTION CARRIED**

13. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Treasurer's Report be adopted as follows: payments made in the month of December 2022 from the General Operating account by cheques and direct payments **\$956,754.07** (*nine hundred fifty-six thousand, seven hundred fifty-four dollars and seven cents*); from the Water & Sewer Operating account **\$204,471.06** (*two hundred and four thousand, four hundred seventy-one dollars and six cents*); from the General Capital account **\$97,640.75** (*ninety-seven thousand, six hundred forty dollars and seventy-five cents*); and from the Water & Sewer Capital account **\$300,144.39** (*three hundred thousand, one hundred forty-four dollars and thirty-nine cents*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

14. Public Input / Inquires

The residents in attendance did not offer any comments or questions.

15. New Business

There was no New Business brought forward.

16. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next formal Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

17. Motion for Adjournment

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Geldart

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk

Judy Wilson-Shee

Judy Wilson-Shee
Mayor



Cynthia Geldart

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk