

**MONTAGUE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 13, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Montague is hereby declared in session by Mayor Richard Collins this 13th day of March 2006 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Richard Collins, Mayor
John MacFarlane, Deputy Mayor
David Mabon, Councillor
Wilbur Naddy, Councillor
Peter Doucette, Councillor
Niall MacKay, Councillor
Rick Beck, Councillor

Staff: Robin Campbell, CAO

Welcome & Remarks

Mayor Collins called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That the agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Beck
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

“That the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 13, 2006 be adopted as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Payment of Accounts

Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That bills amounting to \$20,972.29 are hereby approved for payment from the Town General Account.” Motion carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That bills amounting to \$7,107.93 are hereby approved for payment from the Water and Sewer Utility Account.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Card of Thanks received from Blanche Andrews for the plant sent to her while a patient in the hospital.
2. Correspondence from Robin Laird, Health Promotion Nurse looking for donations for prizes for an event to be held during Safe Kids Week 2006.

Action: Moved by Councillor Doucette
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
“That a financial contribution of \$50.00 be given for the Safe Kids Week 2006 program.”

Discussion: Councillor Beck – this is setting a dangerous precedent. If we give them money we have to give to anyone else that makes a request.
Councillor MacKay – Each application would have to be judged on its own merits. Perhaps Chair of Finance could do some investigation and bring back more information.

Councillor Mabon suggested that we should have a policy to deal with donations.

The mover & seconder agreed to withdraw the motion to allow the Finance Chair to obtain more information.

Public Input

There was no response to Mayor Collins invitation for public input.

Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

CAO Report

A written report for the month of February was presented by the CAO Robin Campbell. There was one item requiring action by Council:

Application for Subdivision from the PEI Department of Transportation for a subdivision of a portion of PID #194688 on Wood Island Road and the annexing of this portion to property of Danny & Rhonda Clements, PID # 196287.

Moved by Councillor Doucette
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
“That the subdivision application from the PEI Department of Transportation be approved.” Motion carried.

Presentations

There were three scheduled presentations on the agenda.

1. **Peoples First:** A delegation of members of Peoples First made a presentation to Council. This is a group of intellectual challenged individuals who are learning to speak for themselves, to show that they can live and work in the

community, that they have rights and responsibilities the same as everyone else and that they can be independent. This group presented Council with some information about their efforts to achieve their goal.

2. **Creating Safer Communities:** A presentation was made by Suzanne Norris on behalf of this project which is promoting respect and inclusion for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. The project is funded by the National Crime Prevention Strategy. The purpose of the project is to create an understanding of the issues and challenges of the GLBT living in a smaller community.
3. **Economic Development:** Stirling Whiteway, Chair of the Economic Development Committee presented a recommendation with respect to the recently completed Streetscapes Plan. The recommendation was to have the consultant prepare similar plans and cost estimates for lighting, crosswalks, sidewalks, etc. on the south side and to submit funding applications to ACOA to upgrade Main Street on both the north and south sides of the bridge.

Resolutions

Three resolutions were presented for Council consideration:

1. Water & wastewater Capital Cost Recovery

WHEREAS the water and wastewater industry is capital intensive;

AND WHEREAS the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission has established regulations governing the allowable capital costs to be expensed on an annual basis;

AND WHEREAS this allowable capital expense is significantly lower than the actual capital expense incurred by the utilities thereby creating serious cash flow problems for utilities;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association has established standards for rate setting which advocates a full cost recovery;

AND WHEREAS the full cost recovery includes, but is not limited to, the interest and principal payments on debt; capital expenditures paid out of current revenues; dividends paid to municipalities; and transfers to reserves for future capital expenditures;

AND WHEREAS under current regulations the only allowable capital expenses are interest payments on debt and capital depreciation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities petition the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission to amend their regulations to allow full cost recovery of capital expenses as advocated by the Canadian Water & Wastewater Association.

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

Motion carried

2. Communities in Bloom

WHEREAS “Montague the Beautiful” is much more than just a slogan, in the mind of the residents and community of our town;

AND WHEREAS the image of our community is enhanced by the care and attention the residents of Montague place in their homes and property;

AND WHEREAS pride in our collective place in Prince Edward Island is necessary for the growth and development of our town;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Montague enter the “Communities in Bloom” national competition for the summer of 2007, and a town-wide competition be established to promote and support the objectives of the national competition.

Moved by Councillor Doucette
Seconded by Councillor Beck
Motion carried.

3. Streetscapes

RESOLVED that Council accept the recommendation from the Montague Economic Development Committee to proceed with the streetscapes project along Main Street and that appropriate applications for funding assistance be submitted to the Province of Prince Edward Island and to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Moved by Councillor Mabon
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
Motion carried.

2005 Financial Statements and Audit Report

Mr. Jim MacPhee, representing Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants was in attendance to present the results of the annual audit. He reviewed the audit report for the General Fund highlighting some significant items and noting an accumulated surplus at December 31, 2005 of \$17,762.

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
“That the audit report and financial statements for the General Fund be accepted.” Motion carried.

Mr. MacPhee then presented the Water and Sewerage Corporation report and statements. He commented on the continuing operating deficits resulting from the accounting methods dictated by the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission. As of December 31, 2005 the accumulated surplus amounted to \$186,395.

Moved by Councillor MacKay
Seconded by Councillor Naddy
“That the audit report and financial statements for the Water & Sewerage Corporation be accepted.” Motion carried.

2006 Budget

Councillor Naddy, Chair of the Finance Committee presented the 2006 General Operating Budget for consideration. In his comments he noted a couple of highlights including the substantial increase in the costs of the RCMP. Following his address the CAO gave a more detailed presentation with respect to the estimated revenues and expenditures for 2006.

The following resolution was then presented for consideration:

WHEREAS the estimated expenditures for the year 2006 amounts to \$1,074,695;

AND WHEREAS the projected revenues other than taxes amounts to \$365,579;

AND WHEREAS the amount of revenue to be raised through taxation is \$709,116;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that council approve the proposed general operating budget in the amount of \$1,074,695 with a Commercial tax rate of \$.94 per \$100 of assessment and a Non-commercial tax rate of \$.88 per \$100 of assessment;

Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Motion carried.

The Finance Chair then presented the 2006 Budget for the Water and Sewerage Corporation. He remarked on the continuing deficit projections of \$161,000 for the year.

The following resolution was then presented for consideration:

RESOLVED that Council approve the 2006 operating budget for the Montague Sewerage and Water Collection and Treatment Corporation as printed and circulated.

Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Councillor Doucette
Motion carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
Seconded by Councillor Beck
"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm.

Richard Collins, Mayor

Robin Campbell, CAO