

**MONTAGUE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 8, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Montague is hereby declared in session by Mayor Richard A. Collins this 8th day of May 2006 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Richard A. 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. He invited members of the gallery, who wished to do so, to address Council during the Public Input portion of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of Councillor Beck as item 11(a).” Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

Seconded by Councillor Beck

“That the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 10, 2006 and the special meeting held on April 27, 2006 be adopted as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Beck inquired about the web site design. The CAO advised that he expected some information to be posted today, however, since he was out of the office all afternoon he did not have a chance to verify.

Payment of Accounts

Moved by Councillor Naddy

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That bills amounting to \$75,916.29 are hereby approved for payment from the Town General Account.” Motion carried

Moved by Councillor MacKay

Seconded by Councillor Doucette

“That bills amounting to \$19,689.98 are hereby approved for payment from the Water and Sewer Utility Account.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Correspondence from David Boyce, Executive Director, Southeast Environmental Association extending an invitation to Council to attend one of their Board meetings to discuss how SEA can work with the town to address issues of common concern. A copy of the SEA annual report is included for your information.

Discussion: Councillor MacFarlane indicated that Mr. Boyce would be making a presentation to Council at next month’s meeting.

2. A letter of resignation was received from the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Bill Sutton, to be effective June 2, 2006.

Discussion: Councillor Naddy stated he did not blame Mr. Sutton for resigning since the government did nothing to provide the tools needed to do the job.

Councillor Mabon asked if the Public Safety Committee had any discussion regarding this issue. Mayor Collins responded by stating that this program was under the direction of the Mayors of the three municipalities involved and therefore the matter did not come before the Committee.

Councillor MacKay asked about the events leading up to this resignation. Mayor Collins indicated additional information would be provided later in the meeting from the meeting of Mayors this afternoon.

3. Information regarding the condition of the Montague River was submitted by Rick Gibbs.

Discussion: Councillor Beck stated he shared the concerns about the river and offered to assist with any river cleanup program that may develop.

Public Input

Mayor Collins opened the floor for public comment and requested anyone interested in addressing Council to come to the podium.

Rick Gibbs & Greg Jobe, made a presentation concerning the need to address the problems associated with the Montague River. Mr. Gibbs stated that a lot of money and energy was put into cleaning up the waterfront area, however, it now appears that the river itself is deteriorating. Soil appears to be eroding at an accelerated pace. He indicated his desire to start a stakeholders movement to begin the process of improving the river. He felt a study was needed to quantify the problem.

Mr. Jobe added to Mr. Gibbs comments by stating that they would be in contact with other stakeholders, such as SEA, Waterfront Development, fishers, etc to gather documentation necessary for SEA to prepare a project funding application. At this time, they are looking for a letter of support from the town.

Several of the Council acknowledged the deterioration of the river and commented on their individual observations.

Mayor Collins indicated that the Council would support their efforts.

Lorne Cudmore addressed Council with comments about the Bylaw Enforcement Program. He stated that it appears the town lacks a capacity to enforce the bylaws through a ticketing process. He had three questions: Was this program thought through thoroughly prior to it was set up? Was there ever any legal counsel sought? And Where does the FPEIM fit?

Mr. Cudmore then commented on the sidewalks and crosswalks noting that the town needed to become more pedestrian friendly to entice people out of their cars. He also felt that an audible signal should be installed at the lighted crosswalks for the benefit of the blind and the colour of the crosswalk signs should be changed from black & white to something more visible.

Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

CAO Report

A written report for the month of March was presented by the CAO Robin Campbell. One item requiring Council action was the relocation of the fence from the hardball field near TCAP to the main softball field. The CAO noted this was briefly discussed during budget deliberations.

Action: Moved by Councillor Naddy
Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane
“That approval be given to proceed with the moving of the ballfield fence to the softball field.” Motion carried.

Resolutions

There were two resolutions for consideration.

- 1. RESOLVED that the Town of Montague make an application to the Municipal Rural infrastructure Fund to fund WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION – PHASE 2
And that the project be designated as priority number 1.**

The Council understands and commits that it will be responsible for its’ designated share of the eligible costs of the project, and will assume responsibility for any and all operating and maintenance costs resulting from the project.

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

2. **RESOLVED that the Town of Montague make an application to the Municipal Rural infrastructure Fund to fund MONTAGUE WELLNESS CENTRE And that the project be designated as priority number 2.**

The Council understands and commits that it will be responsible for its' designated share of the eligible costs of the project, and will assume responsibility for any and all operating and maintenance costs resulting from the project.

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

Bylaw Enforcement

Deputy Mayor MacFarlane addressed the issue of Bylaw Enforcement and extended thanks to Bill for his efforts. He questioned what would happen if the government passed required legislation within the next three weeks.

Councillor MacKay commented that it is a shame that three communities that worked so hard to keep this program going were now going to loose out. He further commented that he could not foresee anything happening with legislation within the next three weeks.

Councillor Doucette, as Chair of Planning, expressed concern that this latest development may mean that our new zoning bylaws are unenforceable.

Mayor Collins commented that it appears that all municipal bylaws are currently unenforceable.

Councillor Mabon asked some questions regarding the enforcement of speeding infractions by the RCMP and development infractions.

The CAO stated that speeding infractions would be handled under the Highway Traffic Act. As for development infractions, the bylaw will continue to be followed from an administrative perspective, however, he was unsure of the course of action if someone did not comply.

Councillor Beck

Councillor Beck addressed Council by stating that over the past few weeks he received a significant number of complaints regarding the RCMP and Bylaw Enforcement. He was especially concerned about the lack of RCMP presence at the Curling Club dance last Saturday. The noise and fighting lasted until 5:00 am.

Councillor Beck requested the CAO to review the list of streets that would be receiving water this year. The list of streets as it appeared in the CAO's April report was read: Princess Avenue, MacLean Street, MacKinnon Street, Fraser Street, MacDonald Avenue, Harbourview Drive, and Riverview Drive.

In response to other questions from Councillor Beck, the CAO provided information with respect to the provision of services to the Asket Estates subdivision by the developer.

Councillor Beck's final comment was with respect to the length of time between the Bylaw Officer's submission of his resignation and when Council was made aware of it's receipt.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor MacKay

Seconded by Deputy Mayor MacFarlane

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

Richard Collins, Mayor

Robin Campbell, CAO