

**Town of Montague
Regular Council Meeting
Town Chambers
Dec. 10, 2007 – 7:00 pm**

Call to Order:

Mayor Pat McGowan called this meeting to order 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Mayor Pat McGowan, Deputy Mayor David Mabon, Councillors Bernie Crawford, Peter Doucette, Robert Benoit, Marian Robertson, CAO Andrew Daggett, Merrill Scott, and 2 members of the media.

Prayer:

Pastor Michael Trusty offered prayer for Council and the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Mayor Pat McGowan

Mayor McGowan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She mentioned the upcoming Moonlight Skate (New Year's Eve, 5-7 pm) and New Year's Levee (Town Hall 1-3 pm) as events to keep in mind, and that she hopes Iceland will be replaced. The Mayor also mentioned that the new Montague Bridge was slated to open on Monday, December 17th and that the "Senior's College" would be beginning in the New Year. The Mayor then mentioned the success of our focus on "healthy living" and the Town's partnership with the PEI Active Living Alliance. She emphasized that increasing business will be a concentration for the Council in the New Year. The Mayor also mentioned the following: the success of our festivals; the Tour de PEI bike race; Visioning meetings; Regionalization meetings; and the Streetscape project as accomplishments of the past year. She said we are hoping to incorporate a Christmas Parade into Winterfest next year providing it doesn't interfere with other parades. The Mayor then congratulated Bryce Haight on becoming a member of the RCMP. She then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Benoit to approve the agenda.

Motion Unanimously Carried.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

There were no disclosures.

Adoption of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Robertson to accept the minutes of Oct. 25, 2007.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Robertson to accept the minutes of Nov. 13, 2007 with amendments.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Benoit to accept the minutes of Nov. 28, 2007.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Business Arising From Minutes:

Councillor Doucette was asked about the distribution of the Junior A “Abbies” tickets and informed Council that Gilbert Murphy was aware that the tickets were available.

New Business:

Mayor and Council Honourarium –

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon that:

Whereas, no method of payment is specified in the current bylaw governing payment of honorariums to municipal elected officials, as specified in Part 3 of municipal bylaw 2005-01, and

Whereas, honorariums are considered salary or wages, and

Whereas, the financial compensation provided to elected officials should be available to the elected official, on a quarterly basis

Be It Resolved, an amendment be made to Part 3 Subsection 1 as noted in bylaw 2005-01 specified as 3.1, at the conclusion of said section, by the removal of the period at the conclusion of section, and the insertion of a comma and the following “and be available to the mayor in quarterly instalments, and in Part 3 Subsection 2 as noted in bylaw 2005-01 specified as 3.2, at the conclusion of said section, by the removal of the period at the end of the section and the insertion of a comma and the following “and be available to the councillor in quarterly instalments, and

Be It Further Resolved the amendment shall take effect January 1st 2008.

No seconder.

Approval to Pay Invoices:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Crawford to pay the General Accounts Payable for \$12,818.15.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Benoit to pay the Water and Sewer Accounts Payable for \$6110.51.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Correspondence:

- 1. Copy of an invoice from Communities in Bloom along with the requirements for entering next year's contest –**
Councillor Robertson addressed and stated that the CIB Committee will need to sit down and fulfill the requirements in the near future.
- 2. E-mail from Federation of Canadian Municipalities with a website address for accessing the report “Danger Ahead: The Collapse of Canada's Municipal Infrastructure”.**
For information only.
- 3. A letter from Community, Cultural Affairs and Labour announcing that the fall instalment of our Municipal Support Grant and equalization grant have been deposited –**
For information only.
- 4. Invitation from MRHS to become a sponsor for their 2008 Fall Festival of Sport -**
Council decided to take this matter under advisement for budget consideration and to write a letter back thanking the group and letting them know it will be considered during budget deliberations.
- 5. Invitation from Scotia McLeod & Scotiabank to attend their Christmas Party on Thursday, Dec. 13th -**
For information only.
- 6. E-mail from Philip Brown requesting support for banning cosmetic pesticides across PEI -**
For information only. CAO Daggett informed Council that the FPEIM were prepared to make a presentation which included a previously passed resolution against cosmetic pesticides.
- 7. A letter signed by Scott and Brian Annear expressing concern about the establishment of a full time truck detour to keep large trucks from using Main Street.**
Council decided to write a letter back to acknowledge the correspondence and to inform the Annears that we are awaiting the results of a survey conducted by the Provincial Dept. of TPW and we will advise them when it is received.

Delegations and/or Special Speakers:

None.

Councillor Reports: Councillors gave their monthly reports in the following order with the following resolutions and/or motions:

a) Deputy Mayor Mabon

Deputy Mayor Mabon began his report by wishing all a Merry Christmas. He stated that the new Museum book may be ready for Christmas, but the official launch is slated for February 2008 to celebrate 50 years of the Museum. Deputy Mayor Mabon also said that the “Senior’s College” registration would take place Jan. 17th for the winter semester.

b) Councillor Crawford

Began by mentioning that he had attended several meetings regarding the Wellness Centre and several more with the group that organized the Christmas Craft show. He thanked the Christmas Craft show group for agreeing to decorate the Town float for the Charlottetown Christmas parade and thanked Boyd Hawkins and family for being on the float and taking part in the parade. Councillor Crawford stated that the float did not get to the Souris Christmas parade due to weather, but the old 1961 Fire Truck did. He commended the people of Souris for their enthusiasm and for being out and taking part in their parade in such inclement weather. Councillor Crawford mentioned that the Montague Fire Department was featured in the “Code 4” magazine, and that they were the only F.D. from PEI featured. He thanked Animal Control Officer, Mark Oliver for a job well done. Councillor Crawford said the New Year’s Eve Family Skate will take place on Dec. 31st from 5-7 and that he was not sure if it would be “live” music or the PA system. He thanked Council, Office Staff, and the Maintenance Crew for their cooperation.

c) Councillor Doucette

Councillor Doucette’s report is attached as Appendix “A”. He noted the illness of Councillor MacFarlane’s mother and stated that our thoughts and prayers are with him and the family at this time.

Moved by Councillor Doucette, seconded by Councillor Benoit:

Whereas, no method of payment is specified in the current bylaw governing payment of honorariums to municipal elected officials, as specified in Part 3 of municipal bylaw 2005-01, and therefore

Be It Resolved, an amendment be made to Part 3 Subsection 1 as noted in bylaw 2005-01 specified as 3.1, at the conclusion of said section, by the removal of the period at the conclusion of the section, and the insertion of a comma, and the following **“and be available to the mayor as requested by he or she”**, and in Part 3 Subsection 2 as noted in bylaw 2005-01 specified as 3.2, at the conclusion of said section, by the removal of the period at the end of the section and the insertion of a comma and the following **“and be available to the councillor as requested by he or she”**, and

Be It Further Resolved the amendment shall take effect January 1st 2008.

Aye: PD, RB, MR, BC Nay: DM

Motion Carried

Councillor Doucette commented that he found a great deal of similarity between the former motion dealing with the Honourarium Bylaw and his own motion and expressed some concern that his motion had apparently been deleted from the Office computer. He then wished everyone a prosperous and Happy New Year.

d) Councillor Benoit

Councillor Benoit began his report by stating that the Public Works Committee met to discuss the Snow Removal tender, and from that meeting a recommendation to hire King Enterprises was put forward and accepted at the Special Meeting of Nov. 28, 2007. He congratulated the SEA for being successful in receiving a grant for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 Watershed Planning Fund. He also stated that the Watershed Group would be working towards getting a Planning Committee together to deal with the nitrates problem in the Montague River. Councillor Benoit congratulated Councillor Crawford and Kathy Sandford on a job well done with the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies held at the Town Hall. He mentioned that the opening of the new Montague Bridge would take place on Monday, December 17th and how this event was “history in the making”. Councillor Benoit mentioned that he attended the FPEIM meeting in Abram Village and found it quite informative, and then he thanked CAO Daggett for his help during the past year. He reminded everyone to drive carefully, especially during this time of year and then ended his report by wishing the Mayor, Council, staff and the citizens of Montague season’s greetings, health, peace, prosperity, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

e) Councillor Robertson

Councillor Robertson addressed Council about the Snow Removal contract and a few issues that had occurred after the first few snow falls. She also noted that she was discouraged by the Dec. 3, 2007 “no” vote (to support the Wellness Centre) by all of the surrounding communities except Brudenell, but was encouraged again after the Wellness Centre meeting on Friday, December 7th and hopes that some sort of agreement can be found. She also attended the “Scope of Practise” meeting inquiring if medical personnel were able to work to their full potential but found it was more relevant to the medical community. Councillor Robertson stated that she had not had any luck yet in setting up the 2009 Canada Games Challenge but was still trying. She said that they will be judging the best Christmas lights this year the same as what was completed last year and there will be prizes. She finished her report by reminding everyone that “Jesus is the reason for the season” and thanked everyone that voted for her and that she is looking forward to working for them again in the New Year. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

DM – inquired whether the Waterfront will be decorated this year.

MR – stated that she was not sure.

f) Councillor MacFarlane

Councillor MacFarlane was not present at the meeting.

Public Comments/Concerns:

Merrill Scott – inquired about having a “Wellness Centre” website link off the Town website in order to give up-to-date information.

Information for Council/CAO Report:

As presented to Council in writing. There were no questions on the reports.

Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Robertson to adjourn.

Motion Unanimously Carried

This meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Andrew Daggett
CAO

Pat McGowan
Mayor