

**Town of Montague
Regular Council Meeting
Town Chambers
May 12, 2008 – 7:00 pm**

Call to Order:

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

Attendance:

Mayor Pat McGowan, Deputy Mayor David Mabon, Councillors Bernie Crawford, Peter Doucette, Marian Robertson, CAO Andrew Daggett, 5 citizen and 2 members of the media.

Prayer:

Rev. Victor Adams offered prayer for Council and the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Mayor Pat McGowan

Mayor McGowan welcomed all those present and stated that Councillor MacFarlane would not be present tonight as he was home sick. She stated that in the past month she met with: Nancy MacCormac, CEO of the Kingswood Centre regarding a letter of support; with three students of the Montague Consolidated School; Frank Morrison regarding the “Smoking Outdoors Bylaw”; Ken DesRoches regarding the study he is completing on behalf of Council; the Waterfront Development Corporation; and Minister Sheridan and Jim Ramsay from the Taxation Office. Mayor McGowan stated that she attended: a children’s party at the Curling Club; the closing banquet for the Montague Curling Club; the FPEIM AGM; the open house sponsored by the SEA that dealt with the Nitrates Study; the flag raising on May 2nd to kick off MS Week; a Tour de PEI press conference; and the Easter Seals Wrap-up. Mayor McGowan congratulated CAO Daggett and his wife Tara on the arrival of their son and thanked the Girl Guides for painting fish on our storm drains.

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to approve the agenda as amended (add additional item as 8.3 on the Agenda).

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-48).

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

There were no disclosures.

Adoption of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Crawford to adopt the minutes of April 14, 2008.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-49)

Business Arising From Minutes:

Mayor McGowan asked Councillor Crawford about the possibility of painting the fish sheds on the Waterfront. Councillor Crawford had spoken to Jock Beck but no decision has been made. Councillor Crawford and Mr. Beck did not feel that the timing or economic environment was right to approach the fishermen at this time.

New Business:

Tobacco Free Policy -

The Mayor spoke to the Tobacco Free Policy and explained that it was first brought to Council's attention by the Wellness Centre Committee who were concerned about having a "butt stop" or smoking outside the proposed Wellness Centre. She also explained that this was a "soft" approach policy as adopted by Stratford.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon to accept the Tobacco Free Policy as outlined with an emphasis on reviewing it in six months.

No Secunder

Mayor McGowan asked Councillor Doucette why he was not in favour of the policy. He replied that he would gladly speak to it if it makes the floor for discussion. Mayor McGowan asked Councillor Robertson if she was interested in seconding the motion to which she replied, although not in favour of smoking, she thought the Provincial Government should take the lead on this issue, was concerned about possible "Human Rights" issues, rumours of "bad press", and was not willing to second the motion.

Brick pavers at the Museum -

We have received a quote to remove the sod and complete the brick pavers at the Museum wall.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Crawford that we accept the quote and have the pavers installed.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-50)

Returning Officer for Election (Additional Item to Agenda) -

William Rourke needs to be appointed as the Returning Officer for our by-election.

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon that William Rourke be appointed as the Returning Officer for the June 2, 2008 by-election.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-51)

Approval to Pay Invoices:

Moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Doucette to pay the General Accounts Payable for \$102,137.19.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-52)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Crawford to pay the Water and Sewer Accounts Payable for \$517.54.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-53)

Correspondence:

1. **A letter from Service Canada re: Canada Summer Jobs initiative.**
For info only.
2. **A press release re: Tour de PEI.**
For info only.
3. **An email reminding Council and the public of the tentative dates of consultation for the Energy Strategy Discussion Paper.**
For info only.
4. **A letter from Tourism PEI re: their willingness to provide a bag dispenser and signage along the Confederation Trail for pet owners.**
For information only. Council agreed to look after the dispensers.
5. **A fax from Morell Regional High School requesting funding.**
For info. No funding given.
6. **A request from ECO-PEI to financially support their “Opening the Door to Renewable Energy” project.**
Council would like to have them make a presentation and requested that the CAO arrange such.
7. **A letter from Hon. Wes Sheridan outlining the highlights from the 2008 Provincial Budget.**
For information only.
8. **A thank you letter from Premier Ghiz acknowledging the Town’s support of the recently announced relocation of the Dept. of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development to Montague.**
For information only.
9. **A thank you from Librarian, Swarna Chandrasekere.**
For info only.

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) **Councillor MacFarlane**
Councillor MacFarlane was not present and no Report was forwarded for the meeting.

b) Deputy Mayor Mabon

Deputy Mayor Mabon began his report by stated that he had attended many meetings during the past month. The Museum will be opening in mid-June and the flag pole will be going up after the power/telephone lines get shifted. The Economic Development Committee met and is awaiting the study being performed by Ken DesRoches. Deputy Mayor Mabon reported that the Seniors College was very pleased with the way things went this year and would return with programs again in the fall. He reported that more street signs would be replaced with the Provincial style green reflective signs and funding would determine how many we could replace. Deputy Mayor Mabon finished his report by stated he attended the EMO Preparedness convention and reported that their main concern is to make people aware that they should be prepared to look after themselves for 72 hours.

c) Councillor Crawford

Began by stating that he met with the Maintenance Dept. on a regular basis and they are cleaning up the streets as time and weather permits. He also stated that the Maintenance Dept. had fixed several sewer and water issues within the Town and asked for citizens to be patient as cleanup can only be done after things dry up and settle. Councillor Crawford said he was pleased with the general “clean-up” by citizens and feels that it speaks well of the Town. He encouraged the citizens to inspect the trees on their property and report any safety concerns to the Town. Councillor Crawford stated that the Summer Days committee had met several times and things are proceeding very well. He thanked the media for recently reporting the “good news” about the Library and the Maintenance Dept. He continued his report by saying that the sound system at the Waterfront would be upgraded thanks to funding from the Provincial Government and that the “apron” area on the front of the gazebo will be upgraded as well to better accommodate entertainers. Councillor Crawford finished his report by stating that Kents (specifically, Trendera) is looking after the parade this year and is looking for volunteers.

d) Councillor Doucette

Councillor Doucette’s report is attached as Appendix “A”. Councillor Doucette spoke to his report and the “house-keeping” items within. On the question to each item he received the following responses:
Temporary Bridge - he was informed that it was presently being dismantled.
Joint Development Committee Meeting - he was informed that we are awaiting the Ken DesRoches study. Councillor Doucette stated he would like to see a “priority list” to focus our efforts.
Vision Meetings - pending.
Town Treasurer – has been re-advertised and hoping for progress soon.
Montague Curling Club – we are waiting for the criteria of the Island Communities Fund before proceeding.
Montague Business Leaders Consultation – Deputy Mayor to look into with Economic Development.

Non-Attendance at Monthly Meetings – Councillor Doucette questioned if written reports might increase attendance by putting public input sooner on the agenda and speeding up the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Mabon asked Councillor Doucette for a more thorough report on the Wellness Centre which was then given.

e) Councillor Robertson

Councillor Robertson’s report is attached as Appendix “B”.

Public Comments/Concerns:

Merrill Scott – Mr. Scott asked who was responsible for collecting leaves in the Town and was informed that it was Waste Watch. He also inquired if Council would consider naming the laneway into the Wellness Centre “Arthur Sullivan Lane” or something similar to recognize Mr. Sullivan’s contribution and acknowledge Sullivan Field. He also stated that the fund raising is going well and they are waiting for the tender opening to see what are the actual numbers. Mr. Scott also informed Council that the Wellness Centre headquarters had been moved to Main Street for better visibility. He also thanked the media for being so positive toward the Wellness Centre.

Derek Nicholson – informed Council that he is helping Councillor Robertson with arranging pastors to open the meetings with prayer.

Faye Fraser – hoping that Beautification will get going again this year and be like in years past.

Information for Council/CAO Report:

1. RCMP Report

As written.

2. Animal Control Report

As written.

3. CAO Report


As written. No questions were asked.


Adjournment:

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

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-54)

This meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.


Andrew Daggett
CAO


Pat McGowan
Mayor



Montague Town Council

Monday, May 12, 2008

There are a number of issues that seem to be left in limbo, that need to be resolved. Here are some that immediately come to mind that I feel should be dealt with:

- **THE TEMPORARY BRIDGE**

Since ACOA has advised the town that the probability of getting new funding to build a pedway over the Montague River where the 2004 CBCL study suggests, and the builder of the temporary structure suggests the temporary bridge would last for much longer than all of us will be around, and since the Waterfront Development Committee never reported on what could be done with the structure as originally intended last fall, should the town council just give up the existing temporary bridge without investigating what could be done with it, through the Waterfront Development Committee, creating some conceptual drawings, costs for cosmetic improvements, landscaping, flowers etc. The Island Community Fund may be of great financial support (Provincial Budget Address, pages 19 and 20)

- **THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, AND REVIEW THE ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED IN JANUARY**

When are we going to have the meeting with both development groups, to review what priorities will be considered for the remaining year and a half of our current term, and why has it taken so long? Is the town going to make an effort to focus on a plan based on agreed upon priorities from the 2004 CBCL study, as perceived by all three groups?

- **VISION MEETINGS**

What ever happened to the public consultations with the residents to create a strategic plan as discussed before we introduced our first budget in 2007? Council agreed on the need for a strategic plan at that time, but getting the 2007 budget ready was a priority before we could work on a strategic plan so we introduced the public consultations as a way to develop a strategic plan and then nothing has come of the meetings, lots of questions about this, why is this taking so long?

- **THE NEW TOWN TREASURER**

It seems the workload Andy is being asked to manage is far too heavy at this point, our CAO should be focused on the big picture items making Montague a community people want to live in, leaving the administrative functions to others. The funding of programs

and projects for the town Andy is capable of achieving makes far too much sense for us as a community not to be taking advantage of. I know the benefits he could create with his skills and abilities would pay his salary several times over. Have we hired a town treasurer as support staff for our town, and if not why not and what is the plan now?

- **THE MONTAGUE CURLING CLUB**

What support can we provide to the Curling Club in creating financial support for the ongoing capital and operational needs of this facility? Can we initiate some funding applications with consent from the executive to meet the long term needs of the facility?(Island Community Fund, Budget Address, pages 19,20) Providing financial "fingers in the dyke" only frustrates the work of the executive and shows no planning on the town's part in creating sustainability for the recreational opportunities we currently have. If the facility closes, and the pool closes, we have gained nothing for our efforts in creating the Wellness Centre.

- **NEW ITEM: MONTAGUE BUSINESS LEADERS CONSULTATIONS**

Could the town invite all business leaders to a Saturday morning workshop, as a think tank exercise, to stimulate ideas that would improve the climate of our town, regarding future development?

- **NEW ITEM: THE NON-ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

What and how can we as a council create more interest in our regular monthly meetings? It seems to me the value of councillors making reports to an empty room serves no useful purpose, written reports could be faxed or e-mailed to the media saving at least an hour of time at the regular meeting, and maybe creating a much earlier time to hear concerns from the public on our regular agenda.

B

Councillor's Report May 2008

Good Evening your worship, fellow councillors, CAO Andy, members of the gallery. As usual it has been another busy month. I have been to lots of meetings this month. One meeting was to hear Frank Morrison on tobacco free places. Another meeting was to hear the results of initiatives to get Montague growing again. We do have lots of assets here in Montague and if they are marketed right, we will see Montague grow to its full potential. Montague is a great place to live, work and play in and also a great place to raise a family.

I also attended the annual federation meeting in Summerside. It was both educational and informative. I enjoyed the day most thoroughly.

We are in the process now of getting our Communities in Bloom committee together and we will most differently be having our meeting this week. We do have some amazing ideas forming and look forward to seeing them take shape. The potted plants for the poles have been ordered.

I also attended our meeting of the council of the whole and the meeting to discuss the situation of the Curling rink.

Our bird house building contest is now over. We will have some gift certificates for our winners in a few days. I wish to thank all who built a bird house and entered our contest. I hope you enjoyed taking part in this contest and we look forward to doing it again. Only next time we will get an earlier start right after the New Year. I wish to thank the carpentry class at the High School for building us some bird houses that we will be auctioning at an event later.

We still have some half barrels on hand and if anyone would like to buy one and plant it they can have their name painted on it and place it on the water front or on Main Street in front of their business or their home. I was in Moncton last fall and they had numerous barrels placed around the city and they really looked marvelous.

We also had a great visit with Wes Sheridan the Finance Minister and I hear there is more help coming to the libraries across the Island.

I too appreciate the people of Montague raking and cleaning up the branches and leaves left over from the winter. The Town is beginning to look good.

And that's my report.

I hope all Mothers had a Happy Mother's Day yesterday.

A question about the Council of the Disabled - We are still looking into having an automatic switch put on the door here at the Town Hall.

A question about unsightly premises - One house has already been taken down and there is two more we are seeing about.