

**Town of Montague
Regular Council Meeting
Town Chambers
Dec. 08, 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 Marian Robertson, Peter Doucette, Bernie Crawford, Janice Taylor, John MacFarlane, CAO Andrew Daggett, Cpl. Andrew Blackadar, Derek Nicholson, Merrill Scott and 2 members of the media.

Prayer:

Derek Nicholson was a little late but offered prayer for this meeting after the Mayor's Opening Remarks.

Opening Remarks: Mayor Pat McGowan

Mayor Pat McGowan opened her remarks by stating that she had taken part in a meeting with the other two Mayors in Kings County where items such as policing and other matters of mutual concern were discussed. She thanked Lieutenant Governor Barb Hagerman for attending the Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph. She also stated that she attended the auction held by the auxiliary to raise money for the Hospital. Mayor McGowan said she had been speaking with Merrill Scott and the Wellness Centre project was proceeding well, and also that the Christmas Dinner was a delightful evening with many toys brought for the Lion's Club Toy Drive. She thanked Councillor Crawford for being MC at the Christmas Dinner and also for the excellent Winterfest and Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. The New Year's Levee will be held in the Town Hall from 2-4 on Jan. 1 and we are hoping to have the New Year's Eve Family Skate again this year.

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Councillor Robertson to approve the agenda.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-133).

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

There were no disclosures.

Adoption of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor MacFarlane to adopt the minutes of November 10, 2008 after checking the tape to ensure that the "permanent" comment made in relation to the purple ribbon establishment and attributed to Mayor McGowan was accurate.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-134)

Business Arising From Minutes:

Councillor MacFarlane stated that he had been talking to Hughie Graham and, although there is no official harness racing association in Montague, Hughie may pursue the harness racing display for the Museum anyhow.

Mayor McGowan reminded the CAO that Development Permits are to be posted on the bulletin board.

New Business:

Resolution in support of TCAP funding application.

Moved by Councillor Doucette, seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Town of Montague supports the Community Fund Application from TCAP Cooperative.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-135)

Financing for the Wellness Centre.

Moved by Councillor Doucette, seconded by Councillor Crawford that the Town of Montague accept the recommendation of the Wellness Centre Finance Committee and selects the Province of PEI as their short term financing lender.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-136)

Servicing Options for the Wellness Centre.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Town service the Wellness Centre by signing an easement agreement with TCAP and installing the water line, sewer line, and driveway entrance across TCAP property.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-137)

Deputy Mayor Mabon inquired if the agreement would continue the same if the TCAP facility was sold to a private organization in the future. Mayor McGowan informed Council that the agreement was between the Town and TCAP.

Councillor Crawford inquired if the easement carried beyond TCAP ownership. CAO Daggett informed Council that an easement is attached to the property regardless of ownership.

Subdivision Application from Pan American Properties.

Pan American Properties have requested approval on the subdivision of PIDs 934364 and 198960 into three lots.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mabon, seconded by Councillor Taylor to approve the application as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-138)

Approval to Pay Invoices:

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to pay the General Accounts Payable for \$61,733.23.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-139)

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mabon to pay the Water and Sewer Accounts Payable for \$93,278.85.

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-140)

Correspondence:

1. **A letter from Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour stating that we have been approved for short term financing for the Wellness Centre.**
For info only.
2. **A letter from the Infrastructure Secretariat announcing the launch of the new Island Communities Fund.**
For info only.
3. **A message of congratulation from MP Lawrence MacAulay for the Town's receiving the Community Improvement Competition award.**
For info only.
4. **A thank you letter from Minister Gail Shea.**
For info only.
5. **An invitation from the Rotary Club of Stratford.**
Mayor McGowan to reply.
6. **Information about "Gameswear Fridays" in support of the Canada Games.**
To be addressed in Councillor Taylor's report.
7. **A request from Merrill Scott to clarify the position that a Sports Coordinator will play in the future and who will fund this position.**
Mayor McGowan expressed that she felt that, due to a lack of work for that person at this time, there was no need to fill this position. She feels that Council needs to sit down and have some discussion on the matter before proceeding any further with the position.
Councillor Doucette inquired if the Mayor was suggesting that we not apply at this time to HRDC for 50% funding for the Rec. Director position. She stated that was what she was suggesting.
8. **An email from FPEIM with updates about new information from the Provincial Government.**
For info only.

9. An invitation from Communities in Bloom to participate in the 2009 National Edition of CiB.

Councillor Crawford to address and enter the Town into the competition.

10. A letter from Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour stating that the recent amendments to the Subdivision and Zoning Bylaws have been approved.

For info only.

11. A letter from Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour stating that our application for the Community Recreation Support Grant has been approved for Iceland Arena.

For info only.

12. A statement from FCM President Jean Perrault in response to the Speech from the Throne.

For info only.

Delegations and/or Special Speakers:

None.

Council agreed to allow Cpl. Blackadar to give the RCMP Report at this time.

RCMP Report:

Cpl. Blackadar addressed Council and gave the RCMP report for the month. Much of his report revolved around the continuing incidence of DUI and some of the measures being taking by the RCMP to counter them.

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

a) Councillor Doucette

Councillor Doucette did not have a written report for this month but circulated a “terms of reference” developed for the new Wellness Centre Board. He stated that the Wellness Centre (WC) construction was proceeding well and congratulated the WC office staff (Kathy Sandford and Rita Donahoe) for their excellent work. Along with Councillors Robertson and MacFarlane and CAO Daggett, Councillor Doucette attended the FPEIM semi-annual in Stratford where the majority of the meeting revolved around the newly appointed Commissioner and his mandate to examine and report on Municipal Governance on PEI. Councillor Doucette also reported that he and Councillor Taylor had met with the Montague High School “SWITCH” group and will be inviting a member to sit with them as they review the recommendation in the Provincial non-smoking report. Councillor Doucette finished his report by stating that, although he was in favour of the three Mayors (Montague, Georgetown and Souris) meeting, he was concerned with the “boondocks”, “marginalization”, and “Hicksville” comments as reported in the

paper.

Mayor McGowan stated that the Mayors recognize the respective strengths of their Towns and want to build on them.

b) Councillor Crawford

Councillor Crawford stating the following items within his portfolio:

Festivals and Events – the fireworks were great and the Tree Lighting went very well. Councillor Crawford thanked Kathy Sandford and all those other individuals who helped out. Councillor Crawford also said that the “Purple Ribbon” unveiling at Town Hall went well and he spoke on behalf of the Town. He wished the Mayor’s husband, Dusty all the best as he was in Saint John after suffering a heart attack and stated that our thoughts and prayers were with him. Councillor Crawford told Council that the Ribbon could be removed if necessary.

Street Lights – they had inquired about removing some of the downtown streetlights but have been advised by TPW not to move any for safety reasons.

Christmas Lights – Councillor Crawford stated that he was pleased with how well they looked and thanked the Maintenance Dept. for all their work in retrofitting the fixtures.

Communities In Bloom – Councillor Crawford asked permission to enter the Town once again in the competition and received agreement from all.

Councillor Crawford also stated that he felt it was a good idea for the Mayors to meet but doesn’t want to get painted with the same brush as the other Mayors whose communities may not have received similar support as Montague over the past few years. He doesn’t want to “cut our nose off to spite our face”. He hopes that the Mayor will be cautious and speak on behalf of Council. Mayor McGowan stated that she would.

c) Councillor Taylor

Councillor Taylor’s report is attached as Appendix “A”. She highlighted the following areas in addition to her report.

Events – has met twice with Amanda Purchase re: holding events during the Canada Games. The “Purple Ribbon” unveiling went well and Maxine MacLellan did a great job arranging it.

Councillor Taylor expressed some dissatisfaction with the decision not to put the application in for funding for the Rec. Director position as she feels we need someone to co-ordinate the events around the Canada Games.

NOT PROCEED

Moved by Councillor Taylor to make decision regarding the Rec. Director prior to our next Council meeting in January so we can “fast forward” this decision and get things done either way.

Mayor McGowan stated that we are not prepared to make the motion at this time. When questioned by Councillor Taylor, Mayor McGowan stated that she would not hear the motion at this time.

Councillor Taylor stated that she was concerned that this issue not be “placed on the back burner”. Mayor McGowan said it would be discussed before the next

meeting.

Councillor Taylor finished her report by stating that she was concerned about the joint meeting of the Mayors and would like to see focus on the positive including a positive approach with the Province.

d) Councillor MacFarlane

Councillor MacFarlane's report is attached as Appendix "B". He also wished Dusty all the best.

e) Deputy Mayor Mabon

Deputy Mayor Mabon gave the following reports from his portfolio:

Economic Development – things are happening but much of it can't be discussed at this time as it has not been made public.

Museum – may tap into the Island Communities Fund.

Public Works – tenders had been let for the Yeo Crescent work and the work was to be completed by Dec. 19th.

He also stated that he had attended the following events: APM building opening; CBCL Christmas party; Energy Savings announcement, making note that there are funds available to help seniors; Christmas Tree lighting; and the Island Communities Fund announcement. Deputy Mayor Mabon also commented on the Christmas lights and clarified from where they came originally (joint project between the old Chamber of Commerce and the Town).

f) Councillor Robertson

Councillor Robertson's report is attached as appendix "C". She also wished Dusty all the best.

Public Comments/Concerns:

Merrill Scott – wanted to clarify his position with respect to the Rec. Director position. He reported that rumours had stated that this "highly paid" position would be paid for by the Wellness Centre and he just wanted to emphasize that, although he feels the position may be warranted and he is not against having someone, it was not included in the business plan and therefore should be paid for by the Town if created. He said that Council should apply for the position soon as it may take some time to get approval. He also stated that he felt the new Wellness Centre Board should be put in place soon and should include several members of the Community Welfare League. He said that some potential new Board members had inquired what would be expected of them if they were to serve.

Councillor Doucette explained that they hoped to get 50% of the Rec. Position funding from HRDC and split the other 50% between the Town, the Province (Amateur Sport) and WC.

Mayor McGowan inquired when they would be expecting the Rec. Coordinator to start work. Councillor Taylor and Doucette and Merrill Scott agreed that, even if we received approval for funding by March, we still have to advertise for the position, interview candidates, and select a candidate which may take until July. That is why they feel it is necessary to apply for the funding in the near very future. Councillor Taylor was

only concerned that the Canada Games go well and she feels that we need someone in a paid position to help co-ordinate them.

Councillor Crawford questioned if we would be jeopardizing receiving any funding by delaying the application. Councillor Doucette did not think so. Merrill Scott said that getting the application in would at least mean it was there.

Mayor McGowan congratulated Merrill Scott for all his hard work and requested that she be kept abreast of all Committee meetings as an ex-officio member.

Information for Council/CAO Report:

- 1. RCMP Report**
As written.

- 2. Animal Control Report**
As written.

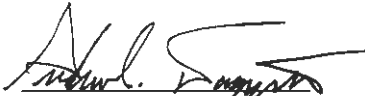
- 3. CAO Report**
As written.


Adjournment:

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

Motion Unanimously Carried (08-141)

This meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.


Andrew Daggett
CAO


Pat McGowan
Mayor