Town of Norman Wells Minutes Regular Council Meeting #20-15 Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 7:00pm **Norman Wells Community Hall** Zoom

Present:

Frank Pope

Mayor

Alexis Peachey Pascal Audet Jean-Paul Bernard **Deputy Mayor** Councillor Councillor

Trevor Smith

Councillor (telephone)

David Wever

Councillor

Jim Boyle

Councillor (telephone)

Staff:

Cathy Clarke

Senior Administrative Officer

Alex Millet Hugo Pabke Recreation Director/Acting Public Works Manager **Utilities Manager**

Misty Rayner

Finance Manager

Jennifer Waterhouse Johannie Lapierre

Governance & Community Engagement Manager

Development Officer

Randy Sinasac

Fire Chief

Delegation

Dr. Renee Close

Karea Peachey

Superintendent Sahtu Divisional Education Council

Chair Sahtu Divisional Education Council

Guests:

Chris Chivers Cindy Collier

1. Call to Order 7:00PM

Declaration of Conflict of Interest 2.

Councillor Audet stated for the record that he is not a rental property owner in the Town of Norman Wells therefore there is no conflict of interest for him with items 8e and 8f related to utilities payments.

Councillor Audet declared a conflict of interest with items 4/8a and item 12a. Councillor Bernard declared a conflict of interest with items 4/8a, 8b/8c/8d and item 8e.

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting, dated June 2nd, 2020 is hereby adopted.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-01

Moved by:

Councillor Wever

Seconded by:

Councillor Audet

Motion Carried

Councillors Audet and Bernard left the meeting at 7:07PM

Delegation

Dr. Renee Close

Superintendent Sahtu Divisional Education Council

Karea Peachev

Chair Sahtu Divisional Education Council

Dr. Closs provided an overview of the funding formula for bussing and the tendering process for the bussing contract. Funding is allocated based on a set of criteria and not the real cost. In the past the SDEC has been able to absorb the shortfall with limited impact to school programming but with cutbacks in the budget for the 2020/21 school year it will be much harder to do this without impacting programming. While school boards have the option to charge for bussing as per the Education Act, it is the SDEC's position that this puts students at risk and created inequities therefore they will not consider this option.

Discussion around if school attendance is mandatory to the age of 16, could this not be used as leverage. Dr. Closs shared that it has been a known discrepancy for some time. DEC's, principals and superintendent's have raised they issue many times. It was also an issue raised during the last territorial election. Continue to advocate for change. Funding should be flow in/flow out meaning DEC's are compensated for the real costs for things such as bussing. Bus funding is based on enrolment numbers. Due to declining enrolment the gap between funding and the actual cost is more significant this year. There have been conversations about the Education Act being reopened for revisions. This would be a year out at a minimum.

Councillor Wever reminded Council of the support the Town is already providing to education and stated he believes that the Town is honouring the commitment made in the Strategic Plan. The Town has programming at the arena, recreation centre and youth & elder centre. It funds programming at the library and staff volunteer at the school breakfast program.

The SAO believes that there is a definite chance it would qualify under the gas tax program but can not guarantee. Concern raised that if start paying will be expect to keep paying. Councillor Wever asked if the DEC would consider asking users to match dollars contributed by the Town. Dr. Closs reiterated that position would not change, the DEC does not support applying user fees for the bus service. There have been issues in Yellowknife and Hay River where user fees have been charged. In accordance with Beneficiary agreements, beneficiaries cannot be charged any fees. This would create greater discrepancies, especially for those families in DOT and families struggling financially.

It was asked whether the DEC has considered any fundraising options. Dr. Closs stated that they had not.

Council raised that they could use the money owed by GNWT on taxes as leverage on the DEC's behalf.

Dr. Closs concluded that the bus service would be provided no matter what. She understands that Council may need time to discuss.

Mayor Pope inquired about the bussing situation in Fort Good Hope. Dr. Closs confirmed that Yamoga covers the shortfall between the funding provided and the cost to provide the service. Yamoga also purchased the bus.

Dr. Closs stated that they hoped to not cut staff. Will look at programming, resources and foods programming. Likely the shortfall will be spread out over a number of programs and school operations.

Mayor Pope suggested that if the DEC put some fundraising plans in place that Council could match. He requested that the SAO work with the SDEC on a letter about this situation to the GNWT. Could will discuss and provide a response quickly.

Councillors Audet and Bernard returned to the meeting at 7:30PM

5. Departmental Reports Second meeting of each month

6. Committee Reports

- a) Recreation Committee available upon request
- b) Economic Development Committee available upon request
- c) Town Planning and Land Use Committee available upon request

7. Minutes

a) Regular Meeting of Council #20-14

Resolution

Adoption with the addition of missing names of Councillors who moved and seconded the motion to leave the in camera session in item 13a.

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, dated May 19th, 2020 are hereby adopted.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-02

Moved by:

Councillor Peachey

Seconded by:

Councillor Wever

Motion Carried

b) Committee of the Whole #20-06

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Committee of the Whole Meeting, dated May 12th, 2020 are hereby adopted.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-03

Moved by:

Councillor Peachey

Seconded by:

Councillor Bernard

Motion Carried

c) Committee of the Whole #20-07

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Committee of the Whole Meeting, dated May 27th, 2020 are hereby adopted.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-04

Moved by: Seconded by:

Councillor Peachey

Councillor Wever

Motion Carried

8. Old Business

Councillors Audet and Bernard left the meeting at 7:35PM

a) Sahtu Division Education Council Bussing Request

Resolution

Council elected to defer decision on this item

Councillors Audet returned to the meeting at 7:39PM

b) Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby gives First reading to the Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-06

Moved by:

Councillor Peachey

Seconded by:

Councillor Audet

Motion Carried

c) Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby gives Second reading to the Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-07

Moved by:

Councillor Wever

Seconded by:

Councillor Audet

Motion Carried

d) Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05

Resolution

Point of clarification requested regarding third reading. Confirmed that Council still had could proceed with third reading as all of Council in attendance even though one Councillor declared a conflict of interest with this item and stepped out. Ruling accepted by SAO.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby gives Third reading to the Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-08

Moved by:

Councillor Wever

Seconded by:

Councillor Peachey

Motion Carried

e) Utilities Arrears - Enforcement

Resolution

Inquiry if owners have signed the utility account applications for all of the renter accounts (90+). The Finance Manager confirmed that yes; all applications have owner signatures as required.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes #20-15 June 2, 2020 Page 4 of 6

Date amended from July 1st to August 1st to allow Finance Department time to prepare some communication materials and for changes to be made to the by-law. Appeal process will be discussed at the new Committee of the Whole meeting.

Question raised about cases where new occupants are taking advantage of utility accounts that have not been closed. SAO will investigate whether these accounts can be terminated.

Amendments to the by-law will be included on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby approves the recommendation to transfer utility arrears more than 90 days past due to Property Tax accounts effective August 1, 2020.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-09

Moved by: Seconded by: Councillor Wever

Councillor Peachey

Motion Carried

Councillor Bernard returned to the meeting at 7:30PM

f) Utility Arrears - Review of By-Law #19-10

Discussion

Review of by-law to be included in the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

9. New Business

a) GNWT Leased Properties

Discussion

The SAO reported that putting together a letter as nothing has changed. They will proceed with including the GNWT properties in the list published in the newspaper. They are considering withholding the school taxes.

The Development Officer has been working on this file for over a year. The working group has been meeting since January and little progress. She stated that even if the names on the properties were changed, they are still in arrears.

b) Contribution Agreement - Federal Gas Tax Funding

Resolution

It was stated for the record that the money that Prime Minister Trudeau announced for municipalities was money that had already been committed. It is not new money.

Gas Tax funds can only be used for certain projects, restricted in use of these funds. Cannot borrow from these funds to cover operations.

Council is in agreement to sign the contribution agreement and join the NWT Association of Communities in pushing the federal government to provide funding to municipalities.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into agreement with the GNWT MACA for the amount of Six Hundred Six Thousand Dollars (\$606,000) for Federal Gas Tax Funding.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-10

Moved by:

Councillor Peachey

Seconded by:

Councillor Wever

Motion Carried

10 Council Forum

Councillor Smith requested an update on dust control plans for the non-chipseal roads. The Acting Public Works Manager said that working on a plan. It took 15 cubes of DLT last year to treat 3KM. Investigating options, looking at calcium chloride (Yellowknife uses this product). The SAO added that in planning stages only and that the Town is working with HRN. Dust control has a big impact on the budget. Concern raised about the use of calcium chloride in Norman Wells. The SAO reminded Council Stantec's report that identified DLT as a contributor to the drainage issues on Mackenzie Drive. Administration will do further research on the options.

Councillor Smith also shared that a softball league will not be run in Phase 1 but the committee will meet if and when the NWT moves to Phase 2 to discuss.

Councillor Boyle - none

Councillor Peachey inquired about nominees for Citizen of the Year.

The Councillor also requested an update on the status of the work being done on The Great Trail. The Recreation Manager said that work is on going on the trail. Public Works can only do work when the trail is dry. As sections are completed they will be opened.

Councillor Peachey inquired about the weigh scale calibration. Calibration was scheduled at the end of the winter road season but was cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restriction.

Councillor Peachey also stated that work needs to begin on the Council policy and proceedures and by-law enforcement. The SAO updated Council that the Town is approaching this by-law enforcement first from an educational perspective. Councillor Peachey noted that the Town has never had a landfill by-law so education and engagement of the community is needed. The SAO shared with Council some of the approaches that are being used to educate and engage the community. This includes posting information on the website/facebook, mailouts, quizzes to engage community in topic. The video made of the Public Works Foreman received over 600 views on Facebook. Normally the Town could host Town Halls for some of these topics but that is not an option right now due to COVID-19. Councillor Peachey acknowledged the work the Development Officer has done on community engagement with regards to the landfill by-law and the Community Plan.

Councillor Bernard inquired if the household waste area could be moved to the other side of the landfill as one side is lower. The Acting Public Works Manager and the SAO said that could look at it. HRN is currently working on moving the steel and building an access road for household waste. Councillor Bernard also inquired about when the revised budget would be ready. The SAO anticipates the middle of July.

Councillor Wever shared with Council that the Community Plan survey is now out. He also mentioned that he thinks the work on the trail looks very good. Councillor Wever also suggested that Council request the GNWT to waive the 25% contribution amount for projects. The Yukon is currently doing this. He recommends getting other communities on board to pressure the GNWT. We should speak to the NWTAC and suggest a letter from all 33 communities.

Councillor Audet request that the action item list be returned.

Mayor Pope requested that the Recreation Committee get something going for Canada Day. Mayor Pope also inquired if it would be possible for residents with large loads of garbage to contact the Town first so that someone could meet them up at the landfill to direct them where to dump. Mayor Pope would like to speak to Infrastructure to fix the highway signage. Finally Mayor Pope issued a challenge to Council to assist with clean up of some outstanding areas. Imperial Oil is willing to put a crew out on Friday morning to clean up along Canol and the dump road. All in favour.

11. Correspondence to Council

a)

12. Correspondence from Council

- a) Norman Wells and District Chamber of Commerce Councillor Audet pointed out for the record that his name should not have been included on the communication as he had declared a conflict of interest and was a part of the discussion/decision.
- b) Norman Wells Trans-Canada Trail Society
- c) Yamouri Inn
- d) Snowbirds

13. In Camera

a) Legal

'Be it resolved the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby go in camera the time being 8:39PM.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-11

Moved by:

Councillor Wever

Seconded by:

Councillor Audet

Motion Carried

Regular Council Meeting Minutes #20-15 June 2, 2020 Page 6 of 6

'Be it resolved the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby leave in camera the time being 9:40PM.'

Motion:

No. 20-15-12

Moved by:

Councillor Audet

Seconded by:

Councillor Wever

Motion Carried

l4. Adjourn

9:40PM

Frank Pope Mayor Cathy Clarke

Senior Administrative Officer