

VILLAGE OF MINTO
MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Minto Village Council was held in the Council Room at 7:00 PM on December 8, 2009 with Mayor Barnett presiding.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Michael Richardson (DM)
Wendy Robichaud
Jane Wasson
Dwain Barton

PRESS: Sandra Hennessey, Daily Gleaner and Brenda Despres, Grand Lake Mirror

PUBLIC: Lucinda Barton, Mary Beth Pert, Mary Faith Mazerolle, Jennifer Swift, Tammy, Brooke & Paige Hickey-Legere, Cory Heagney, Troy Sullivan.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Barton that the minutes of special meetings of November 10th, 12th, 18th, 23rd, 25th and 30th and the regular council meeting of November 10th be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

RCMP: Cst. Fahie attended the meeting. During the month of November, members of the Minto and Chipman detachments responded to 128 calls for service. Of those, 42 were within the Village limits. Cst. Fahie wanted to wish everyone a safe Christmas and remind people to be careful not to overload circuits during this holiday season.

Deputy Mayor Richardson advised that the Corporal has not been very visible in the Community and he has concerns regarding this. Cst. Fahie advised that since September the Corporal has been at the Oromocto detachment, however as of today he has reported back to the Minto office.

Deputy Mayor Richardson feels that prior to September he wasn't very visible; it seems to be an ongoing thing. He would like to see him attend more community events and the council meetings. Cst. Fahie advised that he will relay this information on to the Corporal, and suggested that council arrange a person to person visit with the Corporal or Inspector O'Malley to discuss this further.

Councillor Barton personally thanked the RCMP for their presence during the Junior "B" games. Their presence seems to be effective.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILLOR WASSON:

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: fundraiser for John & Doreen

Logue, the annual bazaar held at MEMS, read pledges at the Resource Centre Christmas Telethon, attended the Christ in Christmas service at Holy Rosary Church and attended the Fire Department Christmas Party. Council had a budget meeting and 2 meetings with CUPE members regarding a new contract. There was also one other special council meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: There was 1 meeting in the past month. Developments are being discussed but everyone is anxious for a concrete announcement. Both Minto and Chipman are waiting for plans that will bring new jobs to this area.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: Four (4) development permits, and two (2) demolition permits issued for the month of November.

MINLAK: During the month of November total recyclables were 5950 kgs.

Met with the principal of the High School to review renovating the former gymnasium.

DEPUTY MAYOR RICHARDSON:

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: Chipman/Minto growth committee meeting, 2 special meeting of council, health & safety meeting, 3 meetings for union contract negotiations, Remembrance Day ceremonies, greetings on behalf of Village at Resource Telethon, provincial budget at Legislature with His Worship, Christmas Tree Lighting, public hearing on amendments.

W.G. BISHOP NURSING HOME REPORT: The Home remains full with a waiting list. Staff has picked out a floor plan best suited for the Home and we are presently waiting for a quote. The Fall Memorial Service was held on November 15th and was very well attended. In addition to the Family Christmas Dinner a Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th and a New Year's Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 31st at 1:00 PM.

QUEEN'S NORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER: Footloose Walking program finished on December 1st and was a huge success. Over 40 people turned out for the event. Prizes were awarded for the greatest mileage, weight loss challenge and some were drawn randomly for participants. The program goal was to walk across Canada. The total mileage was close to 25,000 km – making it over half way around the world!!

Diabetes Education began on October 5th and wrapped up in November with an education session hosted by Ryan Quinn, pharmacist in Chipman and Minto.

Free Info Session on Sleep for the Community entitled, “The ABZzzz of Sleep” is planned for Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 PM with psychologist Dean Snow. Anyone who has difficulty sleeping or has specific questions about rest and sleep will find this session extremely beneficial. Register by calling 327-7800.

Free Yoga Sessions are being offered on December 8th at 5:00 and 6:45 PM for the community. Pre-registration is required and there are still available spots in the 5:00 PM session. An 8 week session running January – March 2010 is being arranged at a cost of \$80.00 for anyone interested.

A Smoking Cessation Program is being run by RT Heather Giroux out of the Chipman High School. Her recent smoking trivia game was popular with the students although it is too early in the program to determine the end results.

Health Canada's Grand Lake Drug Strategy Initiative is currently in Phase two; Identifying Positive Youth Focus messages. There have been numerous youth focus groups held at the schools and in the community. These focus groups have been youth driven. We are moving into Phase 3 which is Planning and Initiating Action.

Community Development Education Day for Zone 3 Health Centers was hosted at Queen's North on December 1st. Bruce MacPherson, Dr. Bill Morrison and Gordon Skead presented the framework for Community mobilization and reviewed some data sources by which to draw out our local population's health data. This data will be used by the team at Queen's North when developing programming and setting goals for the upcoming year.

Any ideas for seminars for the community? The Queen's North staff wants your help as we plan for programs for the upcoming year. If you ever think of a session or a topic that would be beneficial for your health and the health of this community, please contact the Health Center.

Staffing: We are still recruiting for RN's to cover the Palliative Unit. We had one person apply from out west but this fell through. We are presently posting for a Nurse Practitioner and have combined this posting with Oromocto First Nation and QNCHC. Hopefully this will help us to be more successful in recruiting.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE: Health & Safety Committee meetings have been held. Inspections have taken place for the month.

MINTO SENIORS CLUB: Congratulations were extended to Doris Chase on her new position as President of the Minto Senior's Club. The election of officers was held at the club on December 3rd. The new executive is as follows:

President	Doris Chase
1 st Vice	Bill West
2 nd Vice	Gary Mossman
Treasurer	Marlene Morrell
Secretary	Shirley Quigley

Board of Directors: Ron Chase, Dave Courser, Matt Glenn, Mae Medel, Goldie Power, Florence Crawford and Armand Caterini.

MINTO COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER: The kids are enjoying the computers, cooking class and movie nights that are being offered on Tuesdays. We would like to thank our “mystery santa” for our new projector.

On Saturday, January 16th a babysitting course will be offered at the Youth Center from 9:00 – 4:00 for ages 11 and up. Also, for youth and adults we are offering 2 day First Aid and CPR courses on the following dates: January 23 & 24, March 27 & 28 and May 15 & 16, 2010.

Beginning in January we will be having dances on the third Saturday of every month and depending on interest we will be having activity nights with the Clay Café, Science East as well as guest speakers. Just a reminder that every Tuesday is “Dinner and a Movie Night” and we are open on Wednesday’s for homework club and Friday’s is “free night” as well from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

We encourage parents to come in and check us out as we have implemented new rules and regulations for the center to make it a safe environment for everyone. We will be hosting an open house in the New Year, the date will be announced in January. For further information on any and all upcoming activities please phone Susan at 327-9809 or Joy at 327-6019.

CLOSURE OF NB COAL: Deputy Mayor Richardson stated that NB Coal will cease operations at month’s end. He would like to thank management and employees past and present for all their hard work and dedication over the years and for contributing so much to our area. A special thank you went out to Andy Cormier for all his hard work in making sure that all employees retired with dignity and provide them with the financial stability to be able to retire. To the other employees who have found employment within NB Power; good luck in your new roles.

This will undoubtedly have an absolute effect on our village and its businesses. Our responsibility and energy must now turn into bringing new industry and employment opportunities to our area. The new growth committee that has been formed with municipal, provincial, federal and business leaders is working hard to solicit new industry to replace the jobs that will be lost as a result of the closure. This committee has met numerous times and I have every confidence that our hard work will come with positive results. We must now seize this as an opportunity to diversify and bring a new identity to our area. As our village slogan states, “Proud Of Our Past, Planning Our Future” – we are definitely proud of our past but we must now plan our future.

SEWER REPORT: Sewer tests done, marked road for sewer disconnect, flushed sewers on Hill Street and Chestnut Street, cleaned lagoons, pump repaired on lift station at lagoon, UV lights cleaned, worked with surveyors on new sewer expansion, checked on demolition sewer permits, cleaned lagoon, worked with ADI on communication problems on Scada system.

COUNCILLOR ROBICHAUD:

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: meeting with Coastal Graphics, Remembrance Day Ceremony and supper, two union negotiation meetings, benefit for John & Doreen Logue, ringette meeting, MC'ed at the Resource Center telethon, several special meetings, Grand Lake Minor Hockey Skate-a-thon, several committee meetings, several meetings with the Fire Chief, monthly fire department meeting, Minto High School Christmas concert, public hearing, and had the opportunity to attend the torch relay in Oromocto at the base.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Six calls received, 1 false alarm, smoke in the bathroom, ambulance assist, one house fire, two structure fires. The Fire Department is now operating out of the new fire hall. The fire department had their special needs party at the new hall recently. The annual Christmas party was held on December 5th. Congratulations were extended to the firefighter of the year – George Collette. Troy Kierstead was welcomed as the newest member of the Fire Department.

ARENA: Several meetings have taken place with Goguen and Company regarding our arena expansion. Council will be meeting tonight to discuss further some of the decisions and plans will be announced soon.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS: The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 4th. A special thank you goes out to Durand Dicarlo who cut down and donated the tree in memory of his father. The annual Christmas skating party is this Sunday the 13th at the arena from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Santa will be in attendance. The Minto Elementary Christmas Concert is this Thursday night at 6:30 pm.

BEAUTIFICATION: The Village advertising sign is finally lit. The new Christmas banners purchased last year seem to be working better this year and look very nice.

COUNCILLOR BARTON

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: Remembrance Day Ceremony, several special council meetings, Christmas telethon, election of officers at the Seniors Club, and the Village Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

DOG REPORT: 3 calls for the month and traveled a total of 330 kms.

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Starting early November, Minto Elementary Middle School classes began visiting the library on Thursday afternoons for a library orientation session.

Students commenced their visit with a tour of the library.

Our November 27th Coffee Morning speaker was Nicole LeBlanc, QNCHC Dietician. Nicole's presentation focused on food labels and the role they play in making healthier food choices.

Delighted to have a local guest author Laura Young read from her book "Memories of the

Good Old Days” at our Christmas Tea held on December 1st. A light lunch was served followed by games such as Name that Christmas Tune and a Christmas Quiz.

A Family Christmas Celebration was held on December 2nd. The children were eagerly waiting to see the puppet show performances *Christmas with Morris and Boris* and *Santa Meets a Dragon*.

The Book Lover’s Discussion group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30 PM to discuss the book “The Thirteenth Tale” by Diane Setterfield. New members are always welcome.

Good news, Canada Post has extended the Library Book rate until the end of 2010. This rate enables libraries to mail books to other libraries at reasonable rates.

For the holidays, the library will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 26th & January 1st & 2nd.

GARBAGE COLLECTION: During the past month Alternate Waste had two new employees working the garbage truck who was not familiar with the Village route which caused them to do a lot of pick ups manually with their owe ½ tons.

MAYOR BARNETT:

He is pleased to announce that the village will be signing a new four year contract with the CUPE employees. He feels it is a fair contract for both sides. Mayor Barnett thanked the village staff and council for their time and dedication put into the negotiations.

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: CUPE contract negotiations, economic development meetings, solid waste meeting, budget meeting, special meeting on Nov. 23, RCMP meeting in Fredericton, announcement of the Provincial budget, torch light service at the Holy Rosary Church, seniors election, Village tree lighting, and the election of officers at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #12.

MAINTENANCE: Dug out wall at arena, extended culvert at vault for DOT, wrapped trees at Village office, unloaded calcium, cut bushes around yield sign on Northfield, repaired Birch Street holes at end of street, removed tree that fell on road on Bridge Street, repaired alarm system at shop, covered graffiti on High Street, installed stop sign on Jubilee Street, repaired washout on Chestnut Street, worked on equipment getting ready for snow, ditched and repaired culverts on Upton Street, lowered manhole on Theatre Street, repaired washout on Cedar Street, put up Christmas tree and put lights on it, put up Christmas banners, brought cold mix into shop, new tires installed on backhoe, repaired road cutter.

PALLATIVE CARE: Mayor Barnett advised that the Palliative Care Unit was shut down in February 2009 when council was told it would be for three or four months, and it is still not open. It is time for Premier Shawn Graham to step in and listen to the concerns of the people of Minto and Chipman. We need action now; we want the dignity and right to die in our Village of Minto with our family and friends by our side. We have waited long enough, we want our palliative care unit back open before the end of the year.

Deputy Mayor Richardson advised that he feels it would be a good idea to meet with the Minister of Health again regarding our Palliative Care Unit.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR AT 7:25PM.

Member of the Figure Skating Club wanted the opportunity to address full council on her written request regarding ice time allocation for Wednesday night. The figure skating club are requesting council to consider giving back an hour of ice time that they had previously given up, even though it has been picked up by the old timers. Mayor Barnett advised that this item will be discussed later as an agenda item and that a decision will be made tomorrow.

CHECK DISBURSEMENT LISTS:

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Barton that the Sewer Fund Check disbursements for November in the sum of \$20,362.50 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Richardson advised that he would like a letter sent out to Minister Landry regarding the provinces priority pavement projects for 2010. He would really like to see a commitment from the province to pave Main Street. Mayor Barnett advised that a letter will go out requesting a meeting as well.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT: Bart Stack has made a request to join the Minto Volunteer Fire Department.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Robichaud to accept an application for Bart Stack, provided he pass a medical exam and provide a criminal record check.

Motion Carried.

NEW YEARS EVE LEVEE: Councillor Barton will enquire with the Legion to ensure that a cover charge will not be charged by the legion before council commits to hosting the New Year's Levee there. Councillor Barton will find this information out tomorrow and advise council during a special meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Carl Bailey has requested tables & chairs, barricades, garbage barrels, and staging & steps from the Village for the weekend of June 5th for the Relay for Life event. He has also requested that the Village consider the possibility of the event

being held inside the arena in case of rain. Mayor Barnett advised that he talked to Mr. Bailey and advised that the arena will be under construction during the summer of 2010, so the arena would not be available as their backup facility, however everything the various items listed above will be made available and delivered to the site for the Relay for life event.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RURAL PLAN TO EXCLUDE X-RATED MATERIAL/STORE: The clerk advised that after talking to Bernie Hoganson from the Department of Environment, Community Planning Section, changes can be made to the Rural Plan to exclude an x-rated store/material from being allowed in the Village of Minto, however every citizen must still be able to make such a request to PAC but a public hearing must be held and consent given by Council to allow such an establishment. The Clerk will put together an amendment to the plan and present it to council at the next council meeting.

TRANSFER TO RESERVES: 2nd payment of 2009 Gas Tax Rebate has been received. Total of \$82,000 must be transferred to reserves for paving project in 2010 as per the Gas Tax Agreement.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Barton to transfer \$82,000.00 from General Operating Account #498-16 to General Capital Reserve #21874964 to be used in 2010 for paving projects as part of the Gas Tax Agreement.
Motion Carried

TRANSFER FROM RESERVES: Remaining Gas Tax funds have been received. A total of \$4,800.00 will be needed from the General Capital Reserve to complete the energy savings / sidewalk projects.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Richardson to transfer \$4,800.00 from General Capital Reserve #17056810 to General Capital Account #579-16 to complete the energy savings / sidewalk projects.

Motion Carried

REQUEST FROM MARY FAITH MAZEROLLE regarding ice time allocation for Wednesday night. The figure skating club are requesting council to consider giving back an hourly ice slot time that they had previously given up even though it has been picked up by the old timers. The new ice slots times are not working for them due to fact that all age figure skating are on the ice at the same time, which requires two coaches to be there as well during the new time slot. One coach unfortunately is not able to accommodate the new time slot.

It was consensus of council to allow the Figure Skating 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Wednesday evening and to move the old timers to there previous ice slot of 9:15 to 10:15.

ICE FEES FOR OUTSIDE MINOR HOCKEY TEAMS: Councillor Robichaud advised that the current list of ice time fees does not include any fee for outside minor teams.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Robichaud and seconded by Councillor Barton to charge a rate of \$55.00 an hour to outside minor teams.

Motion Carried.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER: The special council meeting scheduled for December 22nd will not be held due to the busy time of year.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Richardson that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 PM.