

**REGULAR GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 22, 2015**

A Regular General Meeting of the Council of the Town of Stephenville was held in the Council Chambers at 12:13 p.m. on October 22, 2015.

Present: Mayor Tom O'Brien, Chairperson

Councillors: Laura Aylward  
Don Gibbon  
John Finn  
Darlene Oake

Absent: Deputy Mayor: Mike Tobin  
Councillor: Justin House

Also Present: Town Manager, Mike Campbell  
Town Clerk, Carolyn Lidstone

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR GENERAL MEETING,  
OCTOBER 8, 2015**

Motion – Gibbon/Aylward

No. 15-237 That the Minutes of the Regular General Meeting of October 8, 2015 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **POLL TAX**

Motion - Gibbon/Finn

No. 15-238 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and Poll Tax write offs totaling \$3,159.06 and adjustments totaling \$2,013.24 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### **WATER AND SEWER TAX**

Motion - Gibbon/Oake

No. 15-239 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and that Water & Sewer Tax adjustments totaling \$672.00 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

#### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR SEPTEMBER, 2015**

Motion - Gibbon/Aylward

No. 15-240 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and the Accounts Payable for September, 2015 totaling \$214,429.38 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

**REQUEST FOR GRANT,  
STEPHENVILLE DOME**

Motion - Gibbon/Oake

No. 15-241 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and that the Town of Stephenville give a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to the Stephenville Dome toward the cost of replacing the sound system and scrubber at the facility.

Carried Unanimously

**PERMITS AND MUNICIPAL PLAN**

**THE HEAVENLY ESCAPE,  
39 ST. CLARE AVENUE**

DATA: Request for a permit to utilize space and do minor interior renovations on the property located at 39 St. Clare Avenue to accommodate a mini spa.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Gibbon

No. 15-242 That the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic be accepted and The Heavenly Escape be granted a Permit to utilize space and do minor interior renovations on the property located at 39 St. Clare Avenue to accommodate a mini spa subject to conditions as outlined in the agenda data.

Carried Unanimously

**DR. STEW'S ENERGY WORKS,  
23 MAIN STREET**

DATA: Request for a permit to utilize space on the property located at 23 Main Street to accommodate a healing, pain and stress relief business.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Finn

No. 15-243 That the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee be accepted and Dr. Stew's Energy Works be granted a permit to utilize space on the property located at 23 Main Street to accommodate a healing, pain and stress relief business subject to conditions as outlined in the agenda data.

Carried Unanimously

**STEPHENVILLE – PORT AU PORT  
LIBERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
2 MAIN STREET**

DATA: Request for a permit to operate a Provincial election campaign headquarters from space in the building located at 2 Main Street.

It is recommended that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

As the Liberal Candidate, Councillor Finn declared himself in conflict of interest and left the Council table.

Motion - Aylward/Gibbon

No. 15-244 That the Stephenville – Port Au Port Liberal Headquarters be granted a permit to operate a Provincial election campaign headquarters from space in the building located at 2 Main Street. Subject to compliance with all town regulations.

Carried  
Councillor Finn abstained from voting

Councillor Finn returned to the Council table at the conclusion of discussion on this item.

**CHRISTOPHER & BEATRICE  
GALLANT,  
5 ROSS AVENUE**

DATA: Request for a permit to carry out renovations in the basement of the residence on the property located at 5 Ross Avenue.

It is recommended that this permit be granted subject to the provision of one additional parking space and compliance with all town regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Oake

No. 15-245 That Christopher and Beatrice Gallant be granted a permit to carry out renovations in the basement of the residence on property located at 5 Ross Avenue to accommodate a home based business (hair salon) subject to the provision of one additional parking space and compliance with all town regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**KENNETH YOUNG,  
2B BLANCHARD'S ROAD/  
NOEL'S POND**

DATA: Request for a permit to construct a single family residence, as per drawings submitted, on the property located at 2B Blanchard's Road in Noel's Pond.

It is recommended that this permit be denied as the property is located within the 1:20 AEP Flood Zone.

Motion - Aylward/Finn

No. 15-246 That Kenneth Young be denied a permit to construct a single family residence, as per drawings submitted, on the property located at 2B Blanchard's Road in Noel's Pond as the property is located within the 1:20 AEP Flood Zone.

Carried Unanimously

**WEST COAST VETERINARY  
SERVICES,  
129 CAROLINA AVENUE**

DATA: Request for Outline Planning Permission to erect a 10' x 4' sign and a 14' by 4' planter, as per drawing submitted, on the property located at 129 Carolina Avenue.

It is recommended that Outline Planning Permission be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Gibbon

No. 15-247 That West Coast Veterinary Services be granted Outline Planning Permission to erect a 10' x 4' sign and a 14' by 4' planter, as per drawing submitted, on the property located at 129 Carolina Avenue subject to compliance with all Town regulations.

Carried Unanimously

**COAST CLOTHING,  
134 MAIN STREET**

DATA: Request for a permit to relocate a retail clothing business on the property located at 134 Main Street.

It is recommended that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Oake

No. 15-248 That Coast Clothing be granted a Permit to relocate a retail clothing business to 134 Main Street subject to compliance with all town regulations.

Carried Unanimously

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Mayor O'Brien referred to an article in the Western Star, last Saturday, regarding the Waste Management Program in which the chair of the Waste Management Board referenced the Provincial Waste Management Program being halted because of lack of funding. Mayor O'Brien stated that this statement was not accurate. Last week, the Board was informed that the plans for the transfer stations are moving ahead, the details for the contracts are being fine-tuned, and contracts valued at approximately \$40 million dollars should be awarded next week.

Mayor O'Brien stated that this certainly indicates that the Provincial Waste Management Program has not been halted. Also the Bay St. George Waste Management Board has been advised that the six sites will be coming on stream during 2016 and 2017. Following that, it is anticipated in 2017 that the Western Regional Waste Management Board will be in a position to have trucks on the road doing curb side collection to all the communities. Education will be done on recycling and composting in that regard.

It is anticipated to have a three to four stream garbage collection process. The article also stated that the Bay St. George Waste Management board is moving forward to reduce the amount of waste that is going into the system. New money being used to explore this issue was excess money left in the system for this purpose by the participating municipalities.

### **2016 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS**

Councillor Aylward stated that she has been getting numerous complaints about the new 2016 assessments. She felt Council should look at some way of lowering the mil rate when preparing the 2016 budget.

Mayor O'Brien stated undoubtedly it would be part of the budget discussion. He noted that during the

last three times the assessments were increased, the Council lowered the mil rate; and he certainly felt that this Council would be reasonable to its residents. He noted that across the board, the increase in residential assessments averaged 17%. However in certain areas the assessments required questioning because of the large increases. The Municipal Assessment Agency has already been questioned on these anomalies. Mayor O'Brien stated that Council will act responsibly as they have full control of the mil rate.

Councillor Aylward stated that she will be questioning the new Provincial Government about the process used to assess properties by the Municipal Assessment Agency. She stated that there is no way people are going to be able to pay their taxes and live in their own homes if these increases continue.

Councillor Finn noted that the MNL is also questioning the new assessments and referred to a recent interview with Craig Pollett, the Executive Director of the MNL.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion – Gibbon/Aylward

No. 15-249 That the meeting adjourn at this time,  
12:34 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

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**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE CONFIRMED**