

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ABRAM-VILLAGE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2022**

Present: Roger Gallant, Ann Arsenault, Roger Arsenault, Paul Gallant,
Yolande Gallant

Also Present: Pierre Arsenault, Administrator

Absent: Colette Gallant, Phil LeBlanc

1. Called to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02pm, noting that the previous Meeting of January was cancelled due to new Provincial Lock-Down Regulations not allowing for public assembly to limit the spread of COVID.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Yolande Gallant and seconded by Roger Arsenault that the agenda be accepted as presented. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Paul Gallant and seconded by Roger Arsenault that the Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2021 be accepted as presented. **Motion Carried.**

4. Follow-up to Minutes

a) Lot Sales

Roger Gallant reported that the sale of Lot 16-2 was completed and a development permit issued to construct a home on it for sale. Roger also reported that 2 interested parties were interested to move forward with purchasing Lots 16-8 and Lot 16-1. Therefore all the subdivision lots are now either sold or spoken for.

b) Club 50 New Drainage Ditch

Roger Gallant reported that a ditch was dug next to the Club 50 on the north side to allow for proper draining of melting snow run-off.

c) Club 50 New Outside Lighting

Roger Gallant reported that *Gallant Electric* changed a couple of lights in the front and back of the building to provide better lighting at night.

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d) New Administrator Prospects

Roger Gallant reported that they held an interview with the interested candidate for the position and were satisfied with the responses. There was then a discussion on whether the municipality should join the partnership arrangement to hire for this position, with the annual anticipated cost of \$15,000 being Abram-Village's appropriate share for 10 hours per week of work.

Motion: To approve partnering with the *Rural Municipality of Wellington* this summer to share a new Chief Administrator Officer for a cost-sharing rate of \$15,000 annually plus employee expenses.

Motion moved by Yolande Gallant and seconded by Roger Arsenault.

Motion Carried

Roger Gallant also reported that the municipality had to choose a 3rd party to partner with the two municipalities, as there was not enough work to support a full-time position without them. A subcommittee of the Administrators of Wellington & Abram-Village, plus Councillor Shawn Bernard from Wellington, met to assess three interested organizations. One of the parties, the *Centre-Expo*, dropped out when realizing it required more than the allowed 15 hours per week, leaving the two remaining organizations *Le Festivale Acadien* and *Acadie IPE* (formerly *l'Association Touristique Evangeline*). Roger Gallant and Ann Arsenault declared a Conflict-Of-Interest in selecting one of these participants, therefore they removed themselves from the decision. It was explained that the subcommittee had a survey questionnaire completed and followed-up with an on-line meeting or phone call to make a recommendation as to the most likely suitable fit. The subcommittee decision was to nominate *Acadie IPE* as the 3rd party from a number of criteria, mainly the simplicity of anticipated duties and a sustainable funding situation.

Motion: To approve *Acadie IPE* as the 3rd partner for sharing the administration services of a new Chief Administrator Officer with the *Rural Municipality of Wellington* this summer.

Motion moved by Yolande Gallant and seconded by Paul Gallant.

Motion Carried

5. Financial Update

An updated fiscal report was presented and reviewed. It was reported that there was 1 development permit issued in the month of December for a new single-family home in the subdivision and 1 development permit issues in the month of January for an accessory structure extension. Drafted budgets of the 2022-23 fiscal year were also distributed for discussion before adopting them at next month's Council Meeting.

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6. New Business / Other

a) Evangeline ATV Club Presentation

Peter Mellish, executive director of the *PEI ATV Federation* and Jean-Paul Gallant, president of the local *Evangeline ATV Club*, came to make a short presentation to Council on a pilot project to allow for limited ATV use on some roads in the municipality. The goal was to provide access between many of their trails and link with other community trails for promoting ATV tourism among other objectives. It was pointed-out ATVs were gaining in popularity and that current rules forbidding them from traveling on roads presented a challenge for them to access many trails. For Abram-Village, they identified part of the Cannontown Road (Rte 165) and Rte 124 from there to the outskirts of the municipality on the way towards Urbainville. On March 5th in Kensington they are to hold a public meeting with invited guest speakers to further explain their provincial vision, as it involves several communities and is to promote all of PEI as an ATV friendly jurisdiction for tourists as well. It was pointed-out there are about 450km of existing trails and 9 regional ATV clubs throughout the Island, with trail pass sales of 350 from 2015 growing to 2,700 in 2021. The Province would need to change existing traffic laws to accommodate the ATVs, therefore support from the Municipalities was being sought.

Motion: To support the *PEI ATV Federation* and *Evangeline ATV Club* to allow them limited access to provincial roads in the municipality to link-up with their trail networks.

Motion moved by Paul Gallant and seconded by Yolande Gallant.

Motion Carried

b) CSLF Move Outside Community

Roger Gallant reported that the *Conseil Scholaire de la Langue Francaise* (CSLF) was re-thinking of moving-out of the community, pending some possible programs or support to remain in the community.

c) Sidewalk Snow Clearing

Roger Gallant reported that the sidewalk snow machine broke-down as it started clearing the sidewalks from old hydraulic hoses that had to be replaced. The machine was otherwise working well and residents were noted still using the sidewalks once cleared.

d) Sewer Utility Issues

Roger Gallant reported that there were problems at the lagoon lift pump station, where a pump was jammed due to “wipes” being thrown in the sewer. Notice to residents will be mailed to advise them that these wipes should instead be thrown-out as waste.

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e) Club 50 Electrical Cost Increases

Roger Gallant reported that last month's electric bill for the Club 50 building was the highest it ever was at around \$1,300. There was a discussion on what may have driven up the usage, including the tenants and new heat pumps. An electrician was asked if it might be related to the new heat pumps, and they advised it should not be (unless the heat-pumps were turned very low or off, then cranked-up high several times).

f) Club 50 Solar Panels

Roger Gallant reported that a representative from *Hansen's Electric* was to come tomorrow morning at 10:30am to outline a proposal for solar panels at the Club 50.

g) Club 50 Rental Space

Roger Gallant reported that *A La Cuisine* proposed to build a new 15'x10'x7' extension wall to provide more space outside the immediate kitchen area. There would be no electrical components inside the wall and he was looking to hire a contractor to do this. He also indicated he'd like to do some of finishing work himself, which was determined OK as long as done in a suitable manner. Later in the Spring he also intended to hire an electrician to install extra electrical plugs along the main wall.

Roger Gallant also reported that the music group were looking to build an expansion wall as well to extend their rental space area.

h) Official Plan Public Meeting

Roger Gallant reported that the Official Plan and Zoning documents were revised by *Brighter Communities* and sent to the Province to confirm if satisfactory. Once that is determined, the municipality must move forward with a final Public Meeting to once again give residents the opportunity to review. It was decided to hold the Public Meeting on Wednesday March 16th at 6:30pm as well as to present the proposed 2022-23 budgets.

i) Other

Paul Gallant asked if there was any further word from the Province on the unsightly property at 8741 on Route 11 but there was not.

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7. Correspondence

a) Municipal 2022 Elections Reminder

An E-Mail was received on January 10th from the Province to remind Councils there would be municipal elections on November 7th, 2022.

8. Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held Wednesday March 16th 2022 at 7:00pm.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Roger Gallant, Mayor

Dated

Pierre Arsenault, Administrator

Dated