

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

Present: Roger Gallant, Ann Arsenault, Roger Arsenault, Colette Gallant,
Paul Gallant, Phil LeBlanc

Also Present: Pierre Arsenault, Administrator

Absent: Yolande Gallant

1. Called to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm, following the closing of the Public Meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Phil LeBlanc and seconded by Ann Arsenault that the agenda be accepted as presented. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ann Arsenault and seconded by Paul Gallant that the Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2022 be accepted as presented. **Motion Carried.**

4. Follow-up to Minutes

a) Club 50 Solar Panels

Roger Gallant reported on the meeting with Jeff Rogers from *Hansen Solar Energy*. Jeff explained their proposal of putting 42 solar panels on the top of the Club 50 roof, which would give a maximum efficiency of producing about 17-18,000 KiloWatts per year. He explained that essentially it was the maximum the 200 amp electrical panel would service, and the Club 50's annual usage needs were estimated at 22,000 KiloWatts. In order to produce more, the electrical panel should be upgraded to a 400 amp service, which could always be done in the future. He pointed-out, however, that any excess electricity produced would not be reimbursed by *Maritime Electric*. An updated quote was also submitted for the project. There were some questions and a discussion on the proposal, with it noted that while all the electrical costs would not go away, they would be substantially reduced.

Motion: To approve the *Hansen Solar Energy* solar panel project proposal of \$39,335 as quoted plus HST for the Club 50 building, plus an extra 15 year extended warranty option for the microinverters.

Motion moved by Colette Gallant and seconded by Roger Arsenault.
Motion Carried

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b) Sewer Utility Issues

Roger Gallant reported that there was a blockage problem at 9007 on Rte 11 so the resident called a plumber. The plumber unblocked it and said the problem was near the road from a dip in the line, determined to likely be the responsibility of the sewer utility. The line plugged-up again a few days later and the sewer utility's operator came to video tape it. They determined there was a lot of grease near the connection so they properly had it cleaned it. It was discussed that residents should be notified next Newsletter to contact the municipality if they had blockage issues near the road so that they could be addressed properly.

c) Club 50 Rental Space

Roger Gallant reported that *A La Cuisine* was looking for a firm future rental price to expand their space before moving ahead with the renovations. It was estimated the proposed changes amounted to about 450 sq. ft. in total space. There was a discussion on the rental rates and what would be appropriate.

Motion: To rent out the kitchen area space including the expanded renovated section to *A La Cuisine* for a one-year lease at the rate of \$500 a month plus HST.

Motion moved by Paul Gallant and seconded by Ann Arsenault.

Motion Carried

Roger Gallant also reported that the Music Room group decided not to expand but to keep their existing space. He explained that the group had an extra person there this winter and the expanded area would serve them better, but the extra costs were deemed to much so the extra person would no longer use the facilities.

d) Official Plan Public Meeting

Roger Gallant reported on the Public Meeting with it noted that there were no further comments or issues on the proposed revised Official Plan & Zoning Bylaws so that its adoption could proceed.

First Reading:

The *Rural Municipality of Abram-Village Zoning and Development Bylaw 2022-01* was read a first time at the Council meeting held on the 16th day of March, 2022.

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Motion: Whereas Council has requested its Planning Board review and revise the Community of Abrams Village 2003 Zoning & Subdivision Control Bylaws according to the *Planning Act*, and whereas they have done so with a new document titled *Rural Municipality of Abram-Village Zoning and Development Bylaw 2022-01* which has also been updated to reflect the amendments for PID 602607 adopted on December 17, 2021, be it resolved that the *Rural Municipality of Abram-Village Zoning and Development Bylaw 2022-01* first reading be approved.

Motion moved by Colette Gallant and seconded by Phil LeBlanc.

Motion Carried

5. Financial Update

There were no further questions on the 2022-23 fiscal year proposed budgets, so they will be approved at a Special Meeting at the end of the month.

6. New Business / Other

a) Sidewalk Road Erosion

Roger Gallant reported that there was substantial water run-off issues from Rte 165 to Rte 11 (Cannontown Rd. to the new sidewalk extension). The storm sewer drains and many culverts were plugged with ice, so that the melting snow ran along the side of the road and over it to dissipate near 8867 on Rte 11 into the field behind the property. There was also substantial erosion of the soil section between the new sidewalk and road, which would need to be fixed. It was pointed-out this section had been freshly dug while doing the sidewalk section, likely causing it to wash out. Roger Arsenault said that the main drains should be marked before the winter and have someone dig them out to clear whenever the snow starts to melt to help alleviate the problem in the future.

b) Other

Roger Gallant reported that the *Evangeline Figure Skating Club* was looking for a donation - \$25 for bronze, \$50 for silver, or \$100 for gold prizes.

Motion: To donate \$100 to the *Evangeline Figure Skating Club*.

Motion moved by Paul Gallant and seconded by Colette Gallant.

Motion Carried

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Roger Gallant reported that the FPEIM was holding its next Annual Meeting on Monday April 25th if anyone else was interested to attend.

Roger Gallant reported on issues with the Club 50 entrance such as being old and not wheelchair accessible. Roger Arsenault said it was not suitable to modify to have a ramp for wheelchair accessibility, as it would need to extend far into the parking lot area. It was suggested a better option would be to install a new door on the side of the Club 50 building on the North side with a ramp parallel to the building extending to the parking lot. An architect or engineer would likely be needed to design this, with it noted that they all seemed busy at the moment with various infrastructure projects. There was also a discussion on sprucing-up the old entrance, with a suggestion to get someone to come take a look and make suggestions on how best to do this.

Roger Gallant reported that the Evangeline Rink was now opened over 10 years, so their sewer rates should be reviewed and increased. He explained when the rink was re-built after the fire, the sewer bill should have gone-up but that the municipality agreed to maintain the old rate for 10 years as its contribution to the rebuilding project. Roger was going to check with them to confirm this.

Paul Gallant reported on the trouble trying to contact someone from the province to address the unsightly property at 8741 Rte 11.

Roger Arsenault reported that some areas on the Wendell Gallant Rd. seemed dark at night, asking if there should be more lights installed. It was pointed-out there were not as many lights as on Rte 124 and they were not as bright as there was no sidewalk to light-up. It was also mentioned that residents should be consulted before proposing to add more lights or have more powerful bulbs, as some may not want them.

7. Correspondence

a) Jobs For Youth Employment

An E-Mail was received on March 11th from the Province on now accepting summer student employment applications until April 15th.

8. Next Meeting

A special meeting is to be held Friday March 31st to adopt the proposed budgets and finish the 2nd Reading and adoption of the updated Official Plan & Zoning Bylaws. The next regular Council meeting is to be held Wednesday April 20th 2022 at 7:00pm.

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9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Roger Gallant, Mayor

Dated

Pierre Arsenault, Administrator

Dated