

Special Session of Municipal Council
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March 1, 2022

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Minutes of the special **Municipal Council** meeting held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom Teleconference, in accordance with the Direction of the Minister under a Declared State of Emergency (*see attached*).

Present: District 1 – Bruce Prout, present
District 2 - Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, present
District 3 – Alan Parish, Warden, present
District 4 – Clyde Barteaux, present
District 5 – Lynn Longmire, present
District 6 – Alex Morrison, present
District 7 – David Hudson, present
District 8 – Michael Gunn, Deputy Warden, present
District 9 – Wendy Sheridan, present
District 10 – Brad Redden, present
District 11 – Diane Le Blanc, present

Also Present CAO David Dick; Municipal Clerk Carolyn Young; other staff W. Atwell, N. Barteaux, L. Bent, D. Campbell, N. Comeau, C. Mason, J. Young, and; and 1 member of the public.

New Business

CAO David Dick noted that senior staff had met regarding the Bridgetown area community rate. The Warden invited comments by staff Nancy Comeau, Janice Young, and Dawn Campbell, regarding service levels in the community of Bridgetown.

A document had been circulated that sets out how the rate was calculated. It hasn’t been updated since 2015. No point in looking at the numbers, but it shows how it was calculated as a net of expenses and credits.

The Warden invited councillors to ask only questions of staff to provide them with clarity and additional information, not to provide opinions at this time.

Point of Order

Councillor Redden raised a point of order as there is no motion on the floor and the Warden is restricting opinions. How can we restrict what anyone wants to say? Warden Parish noted his is trying to organize the day so we can get to the end. WE have had meetings and documents have been exchanged, and he wants to ensure everyone understands the facts. Happy to continue on this premise.

The document being discussed can be found as **Schedule A** to the minutes (see attached).

The Warden noted that the fairest process is that each councillor speaks and CAO comments. 8 options are on the table. Council will vote until there is a majority option.

Option 1 - Leave only Fire Department Operating Grant, and Fire Department Long Term Debt.

Option 2 Fire Department Operating Grant, and Fire Department Long Term Debt, **plus** Streets and Sidewalk Winter Maintenance.

Option 3 Fire Department Operating Grant, and Fire Department Long Term Debt, Streets and Sidewalk Winter Maintenance, **plus** Principle & Interest on buildings.

Option 4 Fire Department Operating Grant, and Fire Department Long Term Debt, Streets and Sidewalk Winter Maintenance, Principle & Interest on buildings, **plus** Principle & Interest on equipment for winter maintenance.

Option 5 – No community rate applied

Option 6 – Continue community rate as is

Option 7 – Hudson option – all debt \$65,920 for current year.

Option 8 – Staff recommendation from February 15th,

To recommend that municipal council approve the continued use of the Bridgetown Community Area Rate with the following costs to be included in the rate for 2022/23:

- Debt payments for each of the following Bridgetown-specific assets:
 - Payments on Fire Hall #1 due to expire in 2022/23
 - Payments on the Bridgetown Sewer due to expire in 2022/23
 - Payments on the Bridgetown Buildings due to expire in 2022/23
 - Payments on the Bridgetown Town Hall due to expire in 2024/25
 - Payments on the Hurricane Fire Truck due to expire in 2027/28
 - Payments on the Fire Hall #2 due to expire in 2028/29; and
- Fire Capital Operating Costs as determined and approved the Bridgetown Dissolution Committee and approximating #36,820 annually; and
- Maintenance costs on the Town Hall estimated to be \$35,000 annually; and
- The total charged to the Bridgetown Community Area Rate (BCAR) for the next budget year would be \$137,740, representing an area rate of \$.00203, adding \$202 to each assessed property value of \$100,000 (currently \$492,617 and .007204 respectively); and
- The corresponding increase to the base rate based on costs not allocated to the BCAR would increase taxes per \$100,000 from \$1,025 to \$1,031.

It was moved by Councillor Redden, seconded by Councillor Connell, that municipal council add a 9th option – in that that each individual item from the 8 options be debated individually.

Councillor Sheridan moved, seconded by Councillor Longmire to amend the motion to add ‘and to include discussion on everything included in the community rate today (recreation, planning, debt, general operations, streets and sidewalks, fire services, less shared services revenue)’.

The Question was called on the amendment. Motion carried, 9 in favour, 2 against.

The Question was called on the motion as amended to read:

MOTION 220301.01 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Add 9th Option

It was moved by Councillor Redden, seconded by Councillor Connell, that municipal council add a 9th option – in that that each individual item from the 8 options be debated individually, and to include discussion on everything included in the community rate today (recreation, planning, debt, general operations, streets and sidewalks, fire services, less shared services revenue)’. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 220301.02 Bridgetown Area Community Rate –Consider Option 9 First

Councillor Morrison moved, seconded by Councillor Longmire, that municipal council consider option 9 first. Motion carried unanimously.

Lunch

The Warden declared a lunch break from 12:18 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. with all returning as previously noted.

The Warden noted that debate would proceed regarding what should be included under each heading. (Recreation, Planning, Debt, General

• *Recreation*

Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Remove Recreation

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Longmire, that there be no expense included for recreation in the Bridgetown Community Area Rate.

Point of Order

Councillor Morrison noted we are not to be speaking about the figures, only discussing the principal of the matter. Warden Parish agreed, discussion is to be on the principal only.

Point of Order

Councillor Connell noted that if the Warden is discussion his position as a Councillor, he should not be in the Chair.

Deputy Warden Gunn took the Chair at 1:15

Point of Order

Councillor Barteaux noted we are discussion Recreation right now. The Deputy Warden allowed Warden Parish to continue.

Point of Order

Councillor Connell noted that Council has said that we would discuss each item. If the councillor wanted to speak he needs to follow the process. The rest of us keep on topic. Deputy Warden Gunn asked the Warden to keep his remarks to Recreation. He will have a chance to speak on the rest as they arise.

Warden Parish resumed the Chair at 1:20 p.m.

The question was called on the motion

MOTION 220301.03 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Remove Recreation

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Longmire, that there be no expense included for recreation in the Bridgetown Community Area Rate. **Motion lost.** 5 in favour, 6 against.

Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Include Recreation

Councillor Connell moved, seconded by Councillor Sheridan, that a portion be added to the community rate for recreation.

It was moved by Councillor Sheridan, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc, to amend the motion to include what is currently included in the rate.

The CAO noted we don't know that.

The question was called on the amendment. Motion carried 8 in favour, 3 against.

The Question was called on the motion as amended to read:

MOTION 220301.04 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Include Recreation as Currently Included

Councillor Connell moved, seconded by Councillor Sheridan, that a portion be added to the community rate for recreation, to include what is currently included in the rate. Motion carried, 7 in favour, 4 against.

• *Planning*

MOTION 220301.05 Bridgetown Area Community Rate - Remove Planning

It was moved by Deputy Warden Gunn, seconded by Councillor Longmire, to strike the planning section from the Bridgetown Area Community Rate. Motion carried unanimously.

• *Debt*

Staff noted that this includes loans for fire department (3) buildings, streets and sidewalks, town hall renovations and Church Street.

Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Include Debt

It was moved by Councillor Sheridan, seconded by Deputy Warden Gunn to include all debt charges in the Bridgetown area community rate.

Councillor Hudson moved, seconded by Councillor Longmire, to amend the motion by including only the debt information previously received from staff - Fire Hall Debt 1, Bridgetown Sewer Debt, Bridgetown Building Debt, Town Hall Debt, Hurricane (truck) Debt, Fire Hall Debt 2. **Motion lost.** 1 in favour, 10 against.

The Question was called on the original motion:

MOTION 220301.06 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Include Debt

It was moved by Councillor Sheridan, seconded by Deputy Warden Gunn to include all debt charges in the Bridgetown area community rate. Motion carried, 9 in favour, 2 against.

• *General Operations*

Staff noted this includes administration costs of buildings (former Town hall and public works buildings.) and some of the operations. The number prepared in 2015 was to help cover costs of administration and council and CAO time spent, finance costs, buildings, library, town hall public works. General operations for public works is their building upkeep.

Bridgetown Area Community Rate - General Operations Not Included

It was moved by Councillor Redden, seconded by Councillor Barteaux, that general operation expenses not be included in a Bridgetown Area Community Rate.

Councillor Connell moved, seconded by Deputy Warden Gunn, to amend the motion to add the inclusion of costs for maintaining Town Hall. Motion carried, 7 in favour, 4 against.

The Question was called on the motion as amended:

MOTION 220301.07 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – General Operations Only to Include Maintenance of the Former Town Hall

It was moved by Councillor Redden, seconded by Councillor Barteaux, that general operation expenses not be included in a Bridgetown Area Community Rate, except for costs to maintain Town Hall. Motion carried, 8 in favour, 3 against.

Recess

The Warden declare a brief recess from 2:10 p.m. – 2:22 p.m.

• *Fire Services*

Staff noted they had recently met with fire services regarding enhanced services provided in the former town because of the density of population and the commercial district. It can be calculated quite accurately.

MOTION 220301.08 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Include Enhanced Fire Services

Councillor Sheridan moved, seconded by Deputy Warden Gunn, to include enhanced fire services in the community rate. Motion carried, 9 in favour, 2 against.

• *Streets and Sidewalks*

Staff noted this includes winter and summer maintenance, annual paving program (patching) street sweeping, maintenance of sidewalks, snow clearing, ditch cleaning, general mowing, parking lot maintenance.

MOTION 220301.09 Bridgetown Area Community Rate – Include Streets and Sidewalks

It was moved by Deputy Warden Gunn, seconded by Councillor Connell, that streets and sidewalks be included in the Bridgetown Community Rate. Motion carried, 8 in favour, 3 against.

In-Camera

It was moved by Councillor Prout, seconded by Councillor Redden, that municipal council meet in-camera in accordance with Section 22(2)(e) contract negotiations of the *Municipal Government Act*, from 3:14 p.m. until 3:55 p.m.

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councillors Longmire and Prout, the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Warden

Municipal

Clerk

Direction of the Minister
under a Declared State of Emergency
(Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*)
20-008

Under my authority in Section 14 of the Emergency Management Act, I order that this Direction (20-008) repeal and replace the Direction regarding municipal meetings issued on March 22, 2020.

During the Provincial State of Emergency declared on March 22, 2020, and under the authority provided to me in Section 14 of the Emergency Management Act, in addition to any other directives I have issued and not repealed or otherwise terminated, I direct that all municipalities and villages in the Province:

1. **Effective at 8am on July 29, 2020**, may hold meetings exclusively in person if all the following conditions are met:

- i) the total number of persons present does not exceed a gathering limitation imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order;
- ii) all physical distancing requirements or other requirements imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order are met.

2. If the conditions set out in (1) cannot be met, the municipality or village must not hold meetings exclusively in person and must instead hold the meeting partly or wholly as a virtual meeting by video or telephone, and ensure that all of the following conditions are met:

- i) the total number of persons present for any in person portion of the meeting does not exceed a gathering limitation imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order; and
- ii) for any in person portion of the meeting, all physical distancing requirements or other requirements imposed in a *Health Protection Act* order are met.

For clarity, this direction does not apply to statutorily required meetings of electors for a village commission which are covered under Direction 20-007 issued on May 20, 2020.

Despite this direction, municipalities and villages are still authorized to continue making other operational decisions especially those required for service delivery.

Please note that these directions are in addition to any requirements established in a Medical Officer's order under the *Health Protection Act*.

A failure to comply with this direction could result in a summary conviction with fines between \$500 to \$10,000 for individuals and up to \$100,000 for a corporation per incident.

This direction will remain in place for the duration of the Provincial State of Emergency unless it is terminated in writing by me earlier.

Dated July 29, 2020.

Original signed by

Hon. Chuck Porter
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing