

# 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting The Electors of the Village of Bible Hill June 6, 2016

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Electors of the Village of Bible Hill was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Village Hall, 69 Pictou Road. The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm.

Seated at the head table were: Chair Tom Burke, Deputy Chair Lois MacCormick, Commissioner Donna Van Kroonenburg, Commissioner Dale McLeod, Commissioner Kevin Kennedy, Grant Thornton Auditor Laura MacLaughlin, and Solicitor Daniel Roper of Burchell MacDougall.

Also present in the hall were: Bible Hill Parks and Recreation Director Cody Brown, Murray MacCormick, Charlie Boyce, Michael & Elaine Moore, Nancy Loomer, Colchester County Councillor Christine Blair, and Bible Hill Fire Chief Dwane Mellish.

## **Approval of the Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**

*Moved by Charlie Boyce*

*Seconded by Murray MacCormick*

*That the minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Electors of the Village of Bible Hill be approved as circulated.*

*Motion carried.*

Chair Burke introduced the head table and welcomed those present to the meeting.

## **Reports of Commissioners**

- **Deputy Chair MacCormick - Transportation Services Report**

Deputy Chair MacCormick reported on Transportation Services. The overall budget was \$311,811 in operating expenditures and \$850,000 in capital expenditures. Our year-end actual was \$315,464 in operating expenses and \$738,519 in capital expenditures. The actual expenditures for snow removal were \$45,717 for the contract and \$12,010 for the materials. The Village budgeted for \$90 000 in sidewalk and crosswalk maintenance and our actual cost was \$79,559. The sidewalk project on Saywood Drive of over one kilometre was the largest that the Village has ever taken on its own with a cost of \$738,000. We are pleased to have provided this upgrade to the residents of Saywood Estates as they have waited many years for this to be completed. The Village continues to provide street lighting and we have remained under contract with Nova Scotia Power. Lights are being switched over to LED fixtures as they burn out. Our expenditures for streetlight in 2015 -2016 period were \$108, 000.

Deputy Chair MacCormick is also Bible Hill's representative on the Board of the Association of Nova Scotia Villages that provides a united voice for villages in the province. The next Annual General Meeting for the ANSV is in Greenwood/Kingston in September.

- **Commissioner Kennedy - Protective Services Report**

Commissioner Kennedy reported on Protective Services in the Village. The Bible Hill Fire Brigade provides fire protection services to our community and, through mutual aid, to neighboring communities. The Village of Bible Hill provides the vehicles, building, and equipment used by the brigade. This has been a long-standing relationship that goes back to the incorporation of the Village in 1953. The operating budget for the brigade in the last fiscal year was \$215,621. In addition, over \$80,000 was spent on the purchase of capital equipment for the brigade. Meridian Farms through Cheering for Charity and Colt Sale contributed around \$5,000 to the brigade. Like all volunteer fire brigades in the Province, our brigade is having difficulty keeping a full roster of fire fighters. We continue to work together to find new ways of getting new members. This year at the recent Fire Brigade Awards Banquet several members were recognized. Robert Young Jr. was named Firefighter of the Year, Travis McMaster received the Training Award, Paul Hanham was named Active Honorary Member, and Charles Wight was posthumously named Officer of the Year. This year we initiated a new program called "Adopt a Hydrant" which encouraged residents to "adopt" a hydrant and keep it clear of snow during the winter months. The School Crossing Guard Program is very well managed under the direction of the captain - George Hughes with five regular crossing guards and one spare crossing guard. The RCMP have been very supportive of our program and are very willing to monitor a station if they are having trouble with motorists ignoring the guards. With the construction started on the new elementary school on the Bible Hill Central Elementary School property, we will need to do a re-vamping of our school crossing guard program. A number of children currently walking to school will be bussed and new walking routes will be developed.

- **Commissioner McLeod - Recreation Services Report**

Commissioner McLeod spoke on Recreation Services in Bible Hill. Funding was received to build the new Natural Playground at the Bible Hill Recreation Park. The playground was built primarily in December with all items scheduled for install in June for a grand opening June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Province of Nova Scotia, the County of Colchester and Bible Hill all provided the funding to complete the project. Combined with last year's upgrades and a facelift for the basketball court, the Bible Hill Recreation Park is now an attractive and very well used resource. Last year, the Village hired 4 staff members to run 7 weeks of summer day camps hosted at the Village Hall and Bible Hill Junior High School. This past winter was not very conducive to outdoor skating due to a combination of warm temperatures and rain, both outdoor rinks only saw a few days of good skating conditions. The Bible Hill Village Hall continues to have many user groups taking advantage of it. Girl Guides, Scouts, the Bible Hill Garden Club, Bible Hill Fire Brigade, and Maggie's Place are among the groups that receive free use of the hall. Exercise classes are being offered in yoga and zumba, and there is also a very successful Senior Fitness Program. Last year's renovations have been well appreciated by the community. This year, in addition to the very successful trailblazer after school program funded by the Province of Nova Scotia's Health and Wellness and Chignecto-Central Regional School Board, we were able to add a new program at Bible Hill Junior High called Girls Hike to Thrive. This female only program had the best numbers we have seen at that school in years and was very well received. Last summer, our Recreation Director Brendon Smithson moved on to work with the Department of Health and Wellness, and in October, Cody Brown started as our new Director. He is enjoying his new role and is looking forward to an exciting summer.

- **Commissioner Van Kroonenburg - Environmental Services Report**

Commissioner Van Kroonenburg spoke on this year's Environmental Services within the Village. The budget was \$277,400 and our actual expenditures were \$267,790. The largest expenditure item in the budget was the sewer maintenance fee that Bible Hill pays to the Municipality of Colchester. The fee in the current year was \$212,000. Again this year, as required by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment, we conducted ground water monitoring at the former landfill site at the Bible Hill Recreation Park. We engaged the services of Dillon Consulting to do the work at a cost of \$9,929. All results continue to be within acceptable parameters. Bible Hill cost shared with the Municipality of Colchester on local flood control measures. We worked on two projects: stream bank stabilization along the Farnham Brook and the construction of a new drainage ditch between Pictou Road and the east end of Retson Drive. The drainage ditch project is scheduled for completion this summer. The Village share of these projects was \$45,794. Bible Hill has made application to the *Canada Infrastructure Project - Small Community Component* to complete the storm water upgrades at the Bible Hill Recreation Park. The purpose of this project will be to replace the last half of the deteriorating and undersized existing storm drain system underneath the former landfill site to the outfall near the Salmon River. In addition, work will be undertaken on Wright Avenue to build a new storm inlet structure and to replace the existing storm lines under the street. This project is in the million-dollar range and, if funding is approved, it will be 1/3 Federal, 1/3 Provincial, and 1/3 Bible Hill.

- **Chair Burke - Chair's Report**

Chair Burke gave a general overview of the business association with the operation of the Village of Bible Hill. June 2015 saw the beginning of the actual construction of the Saywood sidewalk and storm drain project. We welcomed Kevin Kennedy to the Village Commission in June last year and he has fit in very nicely around the Commission table. In June we also undertook the call for design and construction of our natural playground. We acknowledge and are thankful of the contributions made by Government of Canada, Colchester County and the Province to this project. The Canada Day parade and events at the Recreation Park were enjoyed by all. In September, the Village Commission hosted the Annual Meeting of the Association of Nova Scotia Villages and in September there was a sod turning ceremony for the new primary-to-Grade 4 elementary school that will be called Bible Hill Consolidated Elementary School. It will be constructed beside the existing Bible Hill Central Elementary School and will replace it, as well as the East Court Road Elementary School. The Village installed its first defibrillator in the hall and training was provided. A new Recreation Director joined us in October with the hiring of Cody Brown who has performed very well in his duties. Our Village Hall underwent some major expenses with the replacement of our air conditioning unit, the addition of new draperies, painting, adding an accessible washroom and re-locating the bar facility. Before the winter season was to set in, we did some much-needed sidewalk repairs. The Village financially partnered with the County to do flood control clean up along Farnham Brook and also is involved with the Pictou Road drainage problems between Pictou Road and Retson Drive properties. To end the calendar year we had a boiler in the Village Hall that needed repair and age had taken its toll on the heating system. The Village engaged an engineering firm to do design and prepare a tender call for their replacement. Work was awarded to J.C. Mechanical and was carried out over December and January at an expense of \$96,000. Our winter snow removal was much

lighter than the previous year but we still got our share. Fire hydrants are always a concern during the winter to ensure that they are accessible in the event of need. Perhaps the last major event was our Annual Volunteer Awards that were held in April. This event recognizes volunteers who have made a difference in our community and we thank them for their continued efforts. This year's budget passed without a tax increase.

### **Other Reports**

- **Laura MacLaughlin CA, Grant Thornton - Audit Report**

Mrs. Laura MacLaughlin of Grant Thornton reviewed in detail the Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

- **Fire Chief Dwane Mellish, Bible Hill Fire Brigade Report**

The Bible Hill Fire Brigade provides fire and emergency service to the Village of Bible Hill as well as its mutual aid partners in the core of Colchester County. The Brigade currently has 30 active volunteer members and operates under an organizational structure of administrative and fire ground officers. The year had an average number of emergency responses. The Brigade did respond to a number of significant emergencies both within our district and as mutual aid responses. Total recorded losses \$2,904,500. Two major fires were the main contributors to the loss - the Main Street Variety store/pizzeria in April and the Dal AC Ruminant Animal Centre feed facility in August. The brigade did in-house training as well as having several members participate in additional training sessions including Basic Fire Fighters courses from the County Association, Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, Fire Department Information Conference (FDIC), Pumper Operation, First Aid, fire control, Mobile Burn Unit as well as the extra Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The Brigade continues to take pride in the emergency service as well as non-emergency services it provides to the Community of Bible Hill. The Brigade, as many volunteer services are, is facing a challenge to attract new members. The number of volunteer members available at certain times is lower than we would like. As a risk management strategy the formalized automatic aid arrangement with the Truro Fire Service is working well. For all significant fire emergencies in Bible Hill, Truro Fire Service will continue to co-respond with a pumper and operator.

### **Adoption of Reports**

*Moved by Christine Blair  
Seconded by Charlie Boyce*

*That the reports given this evening be adopted.*

*Motion carried.*

### **Miscellaneous Business**

There was no miscellaneous business this evening.

**Adjournment**

*Moved by Christine Blair  
Seconded by Charlie Boyce*

*That the meeting be adjourned.*

*Motion carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Chair Burke

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Clerk and Treasurer Christianson

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Recording Secretary Curry

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