

## MINUTES

A public meeting of the Placentia Council was held Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at the Town Hall with the following in attendance:

<b>Mayor:</b>	Wayne D. Power	<b>CAO:</b> Ed O’Keefe
<b>Deputy Mayor:</b>	Keith Pearson	<b>Public Works Supervisor Harold Power</b>
<b>Councillors:</b>	Noella Collins	<b>Admin. Office Manager:</b> Mary Greene
	Frank Coombs	<b>Executive Assistant:</b> Debbie Gear
	Dan Greene	
	Frankie Nash	
	William Woodman	

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Mayor Power called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Housekeeping Items

Mayor Power recognized members of the Placentia Volunteer Fire Department who received long service awards at the recent annual dinner - 10 year awards were presented to Firefighters John King, Des Linehan, Larry Flynn and Gerard O’Reilly and a 15 year award was given to Firefighter Gerry Roche. The Newfoundland and Labrador Fire Fighting Long Service Medal for 25 years of service was presented to Firefighter Richard McGrath. Deputy Chief Lorne Collins was presented the Newfoundland and Labrador Fire Fighting 35 Year Bar and Fire Chief Wayne Power was presented the Newfoundland and Labrador Fire Fighting 35 Year Bar as well as the new edition service medal for 40 years service.

Staff members have also received long service awards recently from the Town of Placentia - CAO Ed O’Keefe for 10 years and Debra Healey for 30 years. As well, Debra Healey, Sharon Murphy, Rhonda Power and Debbie Gear received long service awards from the Professional Municipal Administrators.

Patrick (Paddy) Lake also participated in training and certification courses and recently received his Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification from the provincial Department of Environment & Conservation - Water Resources Management Division.

Council recognized the efforts of the Southeast Playground Improvement Committee who were successful with community support in winning 50 thousand dollars award from Aviva Community Fund in their category. Kudos to them.

The change on the political front was noted as well and a welcome extended to Sherry Gambin-Walsh as the newly elected member to the House of Assembly for our district. Mayor Power noted the Premier’s welcoming Ms. Gambin-Walsh into his cabinet with extensive portfolio duties and is looking forward to meeting with our MHA early in the New Year.

Congratulations was extended to all the foregoing.

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.

**Motion #15-232**

**Councillor Coombs/Deputy Mayor Pearson**

Be it resolved that the agenda for the December 15, 2015 Council meeting as presented prior to the start of the meeting is approved by council.

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 17, 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2015 were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no errors or omissions noted.

**Motion #15-233**

**Councillor Nash/Deputy Mayor Keith Pearson**

Be it resolved that the minutes of November 17, 2015 were adopted as circulated.

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

**BUSINESS ARISING**

An assessment of the ozone system in Dunville is being done by Avalon Controls; the Public Works Supervisor advised Council that the transformer has also failed. He expects a full quote for repairs in the near future.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Mayor Power, Chair; Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillor Dan Greene, Resource Person - CAO)*

**Recommendation**

**Fire Truck**

A conference call with 16 municipalities and Fire and Emergency Services was held to discuss the tender for new vehicles. This tender will go out this weekend and Councils will need a motion of Council to approve purchase. In an effort to be one of the first communities in line for a vehicle, the following motion was approved.

**Motion #15-234**

**Deputy Mayor Pearson/Councillor Greene**

Be it resolved that the acceptance of the lowest price for the cost of a new fire truck as recommended by Fire & Emergency Services up to the total cost share amount of \$100,000.00 is approved.

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

**CAO Recruitment**

A Request for Proposals for a human resources firm to conduct the recruitment process for a new Chief Administrative Officer will be prepared and circulated as soon as possible. Council is anxious for the recruitment to start and stated that it should be a neutral process. They requested that Council be updated on progress on January 12, 2015.

**Husky Energy Grant in Lieu**

Husky Energy has requested a meeting with the Town to discuss the existing grant-in-lieu. This meeting will be held early in January.

**Vale Agreement Extension**

An invoice will be sent to Vale in January for their extended use of facilities in Argentinia Industrial Park; when a response is received to that invoice the Executive Committee will approach the Town of Long Harbour to continue the agreement in place with them.

### **Forcemain - Bond's Path**

The quote to replace the forcemain in Bond's Path came in higher than expected and is beyond the Town's fiscal capabilities at this time. Repairs will continue as needed and emergency funding will be sought from the provincial government.

### **Budget Discussion**

There was some disagreement with the suggestion to impose fees for use of credit cards to pay taxes. It was noted that this fee is not included in the current budget before Council..

### **Meeting Attendance**

The Executive Committee agreed with the Culture and Tourism Committee's recommendation that all managers should attend Council meetings.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Councillor Dan Greene, Chair; Councillors William Woodman & Frankie Nash ; Resource Person - Administrative Office Manager)*

### **Recommendations**

#### **Accounts Payable**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve the Accounts Payable Transaction Journal dated December 2, 2015 in the amount of \$16,299.74.

#### **Motion #15-235**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Nash**

Be it resolved that the Accounts Payable Transaction Journal dated December 2, 2015 in the amount of \$16,299.74 is approved.

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

#### **General Account Cheque Register**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve the General Account Cheque Register dated December 2, 2015 for cheques numbered 023936 to 024016 in the amount of \$106,140.01.

#### **Motion #15-236**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Woodman**

Be it resolved that the General Account Cheque Register dated December 2, 2015 for cheques numbered 023936 to 024016 in the amount of \$106,140.01 is approved.

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

#### **Special Accounts Cheque Register**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve the Special Accounts Cheque Register for December 2015.

#### **Motion #15-237**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Nash**

Be it resolved that the Special Accounts Cheque Register for December 2015 is approved.

(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)

### **Visa Account**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve the purchases on the Visa statement dated October 6 to November 4, 2015 in the amount of \$420.86.

#### **Motion #15-238**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Woodman**

Be it resolved that the purchases on the Visa statement dated October 6 to November 4, 2015 in the amount of \$420.86. are approved.

(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)

### **Banking Line of Credit**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve the renewal of the Town of Placentia's line of credit of \$350,000 on the Royal Bank of Canada operating line of credit.

#### **Motion #15-239**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Nash**

Be it resolved that the renewal of the Town of Placentia's line of credit of \$350,000 on the Royal Bank of Canada operating line of credit is approved.

(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)

### **Interest Adjustment Agreement**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve entering into an interest forgiveness agreement on Accounts #SPARRA001, #SPARR001 and SPARR002 pending signature confirmation that the client will meet the payment in full arrangement and supply the Town with a letter confirming that business operations have ceased relative to the latter two accounts.

#### **Motion #15-240**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Nash**

Be it resolved that an interest forgiveness agreement on Accounts #SPARRA001, #SPARR001 and SPARR002 is approved pending signature confirmation that the client will meet the payment in full arrangement and supply the Town with a letter confirming that business operations have ceased relative to the latter two accounts

(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)

### **Interest Adjustment Agreement**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve entering into an interest forgiveness agreement on Account #SPARRD002 pending payment of the account in full within the terms of the agreement.

#### **Motion #15-241**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Woodman**

Be it resolved that an interest forgiveness agreement on Account #SPARRD002 is approved pending payment of the account in full within the terms of the agreement.

(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)

## **Invoice Approval**

The Finance Committee recommended that Council approve the payment of invoice #20150100029 to The Three Sisters Pub in the amount of \$1,717.55 plus HST for catering services on November 28, 2015.

### **Motion #15-242**

#### **Councillor Woodman/Councillor Nash**

Be it resolved that the payment of invoice #20150100029 to The Three Sisters Pub in the amount of \$1,717.55 plus HST for catering services on November 28, 2015

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Councillor William Woodman, Chair; Councillors Dan Greene & Frank Coombs; Resource Person - Public Works Supervisor)*

### **Accessory Building Permit Applications**

The Public Works Committee recommended that Council approve the following permit applications:

1. the application to extend an existing accessory building at #21 King's Lane,
2. a revised application to amend height of an accessory building at #27 Fort Louis Road,
3. the construction of two sheds and one gazebo at #31-107 Shaw's Lane; (the second shed (8'x10') was recommended for approval following investigation by the Public Works Supervisor.)

### **Motion #15-243**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Coombs**

Be it resolved that the following accessory building permits are approved by Council.

1. the application to extend an existing accessory building at #21 King's Lane,
2. a revised application to amend height of an accessory building at #27 Fort Louis Road,
3. the construction of two sheds and one gazebo at #31-107 Shaw's Lane; (the second shed (8'x10') was recommended for approval following investigation by the Public Works Supervisor.)
4. **(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

### **Crown Land Applications**

The Public Works Committee recommended that Council approve

1. Port of Argentia's application for crown land in Argentia formerly owned by the NL Railway pending Public Works approval.

2. the crown land application submitted by the resident at #54 Old Settlement Hill for land at Old Settlement Hill, Freshwater for residential development with the stipulation that the applicant accepts that this is not a permit to build.

**Motion #15-244**

**Councillor Woodman/Councillor Coombs**

Be it resolved that Port of Argentia's application for crown land in Argentia formerly owned by the NL Railway pending Public Works approval; and the application for crown land submitted by the resident at #54 Old Settlement Hill for land at Old Settlement Hill, Freshwater for residential development with the stipulation that the applicant accepts that this is not a permit to build are approved by Council

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

**Quarry Permit Applications**

The Public Works Committee recommended that Council approve the following quarry permit renewal applications:

1. Edward Collins Contracting - Point Verde (Area of site: 5)
2. Edward Collins Contracting – Point Verde (Area of site:4)
3. Dept. of Transportation & Works - Route 91 (Area of site: 2.5)
4. M. J. Hickey Construction – NS of McGrath's Resource Road (Area of site: 4)
5. M. J. Hickey Construction – 14 km from Route 100, S of R91, Southeast (Area of site 1.06)
6. M. J. Hickey Construction – S of R91, 16.2 km E of R100 (Area of site: 4.72)
7. Brown's Transport – 0.5 km east of Walsh Woods Brook, Southeast (Area of site: 5)
8. Maher's Heavy Equipment – Point Verde Downs (Area of site 0.5)
9. Farrell's Excavating – 5.6 km w Route 100-10 (Area of site 2.36)

**Motion #15-245**

**Councillor Woodman/Councillor Coombs**

Be it resolved that quarry permit renewal applications as follows are approved by Council:

1. Edward Collins Contracting - Point Verde (Area of site: 5)
2. Edward Collins Contracting – Point Verde (Area of site:4)
3. Dept. of Transportation & Works - Route 91 (Area of site: 2.5)
4. M. J. Hickey Construction – NS of McGrath's Resource Road (Area of site: 4)
5. M. J. Hickey Construction – 14 km from Route 100, S of R91, Southeast (Area of site 1.06)
6. M. J. Hickey Construction – S of R91, 16.2 km E of R100 (Area of site: 4.72)
7. Brown's Transport – 0.5 km east of Walsh Woods Brook, Southeast (Area of site: 5)

8. Maher's Heavy Equipment – Point Verde Downs (Area of site 0.5)
9. Farrell's Excavating – 5.6 km w Route 100-10 (Area of site 2.36)

**(CARRIED: Mayor Power, Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Nash, Greene, Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of the motion.)**

Councillors commented that the permit for Farrell's excavating should be terminated when the work on Route 91 is done. The amount of permits issued on the Point Verde downs was also discussed however these are renewals of pre-existing permits issued by the Province; Council made its concerns known a couple of years ago but the province has not taken any action.

### **Effluent Regulations**

The CAO noted that the cost from Biomaxx to install flow meters on two outfalls required by new effluent regulations includes monthly monitoring over a twelve month period. There will be no decision made until more information is obtained.

There was a comment from Councillor Collins that only one or two of the Town's fire hydrants are visible throughout the winter. It was clarified that Town staff work diligently to keep as many of the 300 hydrants clear as possible and that conscientious residents help with this process where they can in the interest of safety. As well, staff work to keep bus shelters open.

### **MUNICIPAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Councillor Frank Coombs, Chair; Councillors Dan Greene & William Woodman; Resource Person - CAO)*

Councillor Coombs offered a briefing on the Municipal Enforcement Officer's (MEO) report noting that there were a number of environmental issues and permits dealt with.

The complaint regarding noise, litter and parking problems relative to a garage operation in Dunville were addressed by the MEO. There is some level of noise that is just part of doing business. The MEO will contact the owner once again about cleanup.

### **CULTURE & TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Deputy Mayor Keith Pearson, Chair; Councillors Noella Collins; Resource Person - CAO)*

The Culture and Tourism Committee had some discussion on replacement of the flooring at the Arts Centre. That department is provided with their budget and it is up to the manager to prioritize and spend it as necessary.

The survey for the Townscape Masterplan was completed but responses were not satisfactory. The consultant will be here again in January to hold another public meeting.

A request is being considered for a Churchill photography exhibit at the Arts Centre in celebration of the 75th year since Sir Winston Churchill became Prime Minister for the first time.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Councillor Noella Collins, Chair; Councillor Frankie Nash; Deputy Mayor Keith Pearson; Resource Person - CAO)*

## **Award**

As noted earlier, the Southeast Playground Improvement Committee was the recipient of a \$50,000 grant as winner in the respective category of the Aviva Community Fund competition.

## **Arena Update**

An engineering and deficiencies completion inspection of the dasher boards will take place at the arena tomorrow. Painting of the mezzanine and corridor has started and a Linkages student is expected to start within the next couple of weeks.

## **Christmas Tree Lighting**

The annual tree lighting was a great success with about 300 people in attendance. Thanks went out to volunteers who assisted with serving hot chocolate and to the Fire Department who are always at the ready to assist.

## **Santa Claus Parade**

The Dunville Lions Club/Town of Placentia annual Santa Claus Parade was a big hit with 31 groups participating in the parade. Prize winners in the different categories were Dunville Boy Scouts, Dunville Girl Guides, College of the North Atlantic and Placentia Lions Club.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*(Councillor Frankie Nash, Chair; Deputy Mayor Keith Pearson; Councillor Noella Collins; Resource Person - CAO)*

Harvey's in Argenteia has been invited to attend a Lunch and Learn meeting with the Economic Development Committee. They have agreed to attend an information session in the new year.

## **BUDGET SPEECH (As presented by Finance Chair, Councillor Dan Greene)**

The Municipality of Placentia will complete its current fiscal year on December 31<sup>st</sup>. To date expenses are \$3,877,018.35 with an anticipated total expenditure of \$4,340,521.00 per 2015 budget forecasts.

The 2016 budget process commenced late October 2015 with an invitation extended to all Councillors, committees and management to review individually and collectively the 2015 experiences and the anticipated fiscal requirements for 2016. The Administrative Office Manager together with the CAO reviewed submissions and prepared a draft budget which was presented to the Finance Committee on November 26, 2015. This same draft budget was presented to Council on December 8, 2015.

## **2015 FISCAL YEAR**

As 2014 closed, the Municipality of Placentia was faced with some very harsh problems but I am pleased to say that Council and staff pulled together to overcome the residual negativity from different incidents. From the outset of 2015 Council and staff worked hard to reconfirm Council integrity and moved forward to realize some significant accomplishments. At this point I'll highlight some of the events of the last 12 months that resulted in major achievements and improvements for the Town of Placentia residents. Our Town Council and staff strive to be both proactive and reactive in addressing problems. I am pleased to report the following achievements during the 2015 fiscal year.



- In January Council awarded 1.1 million dollars for engineering and contractual work for shoreline enhancement and erosion protection stabilizing the wave wall on Beach Road and implementing some improvements to the boardwalk.
- New sanding equipment was purchased for the Public Works Department to improve the safety of all residents; a new dump was also purchased for installation on an existing vehicle.
- The Vale grant in lieu to the municipality was renewed for another year.
- The Town was faced with the deterioration and necessary replacement of not one but two reservoirs and was successful in securing funding of a little more than \$957,000 to award a contract for replacement of both the Jersey side and Freshwater tanks.
- Council approved the expenditure of \$373,679 to effect upgrades to the Hickey's Lane sewer line and to replace boards at PARC arena.
- \$1.4 million was expended for replacement of lines on a select number of streets in Freshwater, a project that went exceptionally well and I am pleased to say that we were successful in getting those streets paved during the construction season.
- A federal, provincial and municipal funding partnership has resulted in an ongoing project for the update of the Townscape Development and Cultural Heritage District Masterplan.
- Marketing objectives planned in 2014 have been implemented in this year with the installation of new entrance signage that created some controversy regarding language issues that were successfully resolved.
- The Town of Placentia has been approved for 80/20 cost share funding for a new firefighting vehicle valued at \$340,000, a long-awaited acquisition lobbied hard for by our Fire Chief.
- In September of this year Council approved an agreement between the Town of Placentia and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1761 for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2018.
- Consultants were engaged to conduct a forensic audit review and an operations/staffing study for the Town of Placentia, reports of which were reviewed with Council.
- Funding of 4.5 million dollars was approved by the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador for a new Regional Recreation Complex, a partnership between the Town of Placentia and the Placentia Lions Club.
- The Town's new Municipal Plan for the period 2014 to 2024 was approved and registered with the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs.
- Argentia Industrial Park continues to house a number of new business operations and although Husky has postponed their operations, we are confident they will return in the not too distant future.

In addition to the foregoing, committee members and staff hosted a number of successful events including but not limited to:

- The 11th\_ annual Dunville Lions Club/Town of Placentia Santa Claus Parade
- Winter Carnival 2015.
- A Volunteer Recognition event took place in April recognizing community volunteers for their continued good work in our town.
- The fourth annual Voices of Placentia Bay Festival took place in July.
- The Voices of Placentia Bay legacy display was launched in concert with the festival.
- The archaeology interpretation program continued in the Cultural Interpretation Centre throughout the summer.
- Staff applied for and received an award for Business Innovation from the Placentia Area Chamber of Commerce.
- We also received an award for designation of Roger F. Sweetman, of Placentia as a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Outport Merchant in the category of “Group of People with Provincial Significance” from the provincial Historic Commemorations Board.

Our vision remains to promote the Town of Placentia as a place to live, grow and work. All Town committees are developing strategies to work with industry and tourism partners to encourage growth and foster economic development and recreation advancement in addition to providing the basic services of water and sewer and infrastructure as per the Municipalities Act mandate. While the Town is not eligible for multi-year capital works until 2017, we will lobby for support under federal programs that could afford us the opportunity to move forward with capital projects in 2016.

Due to aging infrastructure particularly in Freshwater and Dunville, there have been numerous leaks and line breaks placing major strain on municipal spending. The ozone system in Dunville is aging and deteriorated which required regular repair and maintenance that was unbudgeted. Another unbudgeted cost in 2015 was the problem with the lift station in Bond’s Path and the breaks in the nearby force main. These have all been dealt with to some degree but will require further attention as the systems continue to age.

I am very pleased to report that everything we did accomplish during the 2015 fiscal year was done within the boundaries of the budget set this time last year. Once again, Council will close out this fiscal year without accessing funds available to us in bank overdraft protection. We continue to avoid cash flow deficit and reduce tax arrears which proves Council’s dedication to strong fiscal management.

The residents of Placentia continue to show their support of Council, with a tax collection rate in excess of 96% on current balances and a 29% collection of our taxes in arrears.

Continued sound monitoring of finances will be the standard for the 2016 fiscal year and improvements will be made where identified through self-examination and consultant recommendations. Tight controls will ensure that proper job costing is done, that expenditures are applied to proper accounts and that purchasing practices are monitored.

I am pleased at this time to present the 2016 Operating Budget for the Town of Placentia.

## 2016 FISCAL BUDGET

The following budget has been finalized and is being presented here tonight for Council's consideration.

Total Budget Expenditure is as follows:

General Government	\$ 995,338
Protection Services	187,952
Transportation	786,429
Environmental Health	1,035,185
Planning & Development	103,167
Recreation & Culture	440,152
Fiscal Services	908,729
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Total Budget Expenditure	\$4,456,953
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Some highlights of the 2016 budget are:

Expenditures for 2016 have increased by \$116,432 due largely to labour costs, community initiatives and fiscal responsibilities.

Most of the Province was alarmed this year to learn that Municipal Assessments increased significantly. Council recognizes this as a major blow to residents of the community and to alleviate the burden have reduced the rate for property tax from 8.5 mils in 2015 to 6.2 mils in 2016.

Council has taken into consideration the loss of revenues due to the termination of the agreement with Vale and the fact that Council cannot access any more Provincial Gas Tax revenues until 2018.

Council also reviewed the rates charged for water and sewer as alluded to in last year's budget. Due to the work ongoing to enhance the water quality for areas such as Dunville & Freshwater, an increase in water and sewer rates will be implemented in 2016.

Expenses in this year's budget were covered through revenues generated from business and residential development.

The following points are relative to the 2016 Tax Structure:

- Water rates will increase by \$20 with additional units increasing by \$5.00 per unit.
- Educational facilities water & sewer rates will increase by ½ mil,
- There is a reduction in commercial property tax by ½ mil and a reduction in business tax by ½ mil.

These are the only changes to the tax structure - there are no other increases to residential taxes. In addition business tax rates and permit fees will remain the same – without increase for the 2016 fiscal year.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that we as a Council must continue to lobby new growth in our area and encourage new housing starts while dealing with the day-to-day business of infrastructure management.

We will continue to work with other local agencies to promote new industry in Argonia, as well as business development throughout the community. We will continue lobbying for local hiring and purchasing preference on behalf of our residents and businesses.

And that, I think, concludes the highlights of the past year and the upcoming year.

I would like to thank the other members of the Finance Committee and management and staff for their hard work and dedication to preparing this balanced budget for presentation to you here tonight.

There have been a few unpleasant happenings at the Town Hall this year however Council remains fully committed to our staff who are not only employees but who are also hard-working and conscientious residents of this community and we remain committed to providing quality municipal infrastructure and programs for all residents of the Town of Placencia.

Mr. Mayor and Fellow Councillors: I present this Fiscal Budget for 2016 as prepared by your Finance Committee and town management for your consideration and approval.

As Chair of the Finance Committee I recommend the adoption of our 2016 Budget and Tax Structure as presented.

## **DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET**

**Councillor Coombs** stated that he will not agree to an increase in water and sewer tax of \$20.00 per household per year.

**Councillor Collins** made a number of comments :

- she objected to the fact that there was only one session to present the budget to Council...  
It was explained that the process is that the Finance Committee works on the budget and it's presented to Council for approval; it is normal practice to have only one presentation to Council before the budget is presented at a public meeting.
- she asked why there was only \$20k increase to the severance account for two people when there's a possibility a third or fourth person might retire...  
There are sufficient funds in the account to cover additional people and one of these is an insurance matter - this is a confidential personnel issue.
- she questioned why there was so much allocated for staff search  
The budget was prepared using high end figures - traditionally the consultant can ask for 20% of the wages of successful applicant; the entire budgeted amount does not have to be spent.
- she wanted to know why there would be another worker hired for the arena  
Should the current senior staff person at the arena decide to retire, there is no one trained to operate the machinery; it is imperative that a person be trained in operations immediately.

- she questioned why the Town would pay for brush cutting that is the responsibility of the Province Department of Transportation and Works.  
It was agreed that responsibility lies with the Province but they have not responded to the Town's continued request for the areas of Harbour Drive; Jersey Hill and Southeast near the Regatta Grounds. Council is concerned with the safety of residents and therefore allocated funds to do some cleanup in these areas in the spring.
- she noted Vale should be billed this year and if they leave then the AMA should be invoiced.  
Council invoices Vale each month on the basis of their tax agreement (that has expired but is still honored by the company); the Town will continue to invoice Vale until they leave Argentinia and intends to invoice AMA based on property values after Vale leaves.

Mayor Power interjected that Councillor Collins had exceed five minutes and had been given an additional time with Council's indulgence for her commentary, at this point she had exceeded ten minutes and the Mayor moved to the next Councillor.

**Councillor Woodman's** concerns included a request for clarification of some matters:

- why, if wages were supposed to have increased 4%, they appear to have increased 18%.  
The Administrative Office Manager replied that this is because of the terms of the union contract where some staff are entitled to step increases as well as the cost of living. There are also full wages included for the absent staff person off on sick leave who may (or may not) return to work.
- Councillor Woodman does not agree with the extra worker for the arena/maintenance  
Management pointed out that if the senior person at the arena retires there will be a requirement for someone with skills to run the equipment to take over. It is expected that someone with these skills won't work part-time.
- There is concern that there is nothing in the budget for repair of the waterfront area on Harbour Drive, Dunville even though a petition has been presented by residents and the request has been brought up over several years.  
Work on Harbour Drive is a major capital works project that requires a considerable capital investment. It is up to Council to choose what capital works project they want to apply for at any given time.
- Brush cutting should not be done by the Town.

**Deputy Mayor Pearson** had concerns with the following...

- If the Town brush cuts as suggested, it will be setting a precedent. He suggests contacting the new government to see if they will work on the issue.
- Council should charge a hook up fee for tying in new construction to the Town's water lines.
- If Vale is still on sight in January, there will be an unbudgeted revenue from them for \$25,000.
- Hiring of an arena/maintenance worker probably wouldn't happen until spring so wages could be partially adjusted down by about \$12,000. He later stated that he was unsure if the person would be needed for maintenance.  
The CAO explained that there is plenty of work for him to do that would free up the maintenance operator who has to do the work now and as well would cut down on the use of part time workers. This person can't be hired until it is determined what type new operating system will be installed for the Regional Recreation Complex.
- Dialogue should take place with the Regatta Committee before a decision is made to change their contribution from the Town.

- Recognizing the hard work of the committee and staff to prepare a balanced budget, he would still like to do so without increasing the water and sewer tax by \$20.00 per year per household.

**Councillor Nash** informed Council that the committee met several times on this budget and then again in Chambers. She noted:

- Increased budget costs are due largely to the Collective Agreement which Council voted on and unanimously accepted in September.
- council voted down an increase in honorariums to Council as a matter of principle.
- severance pay has to increase by \$20,000 because there are definitely two employees ready to leave and that could increase to four.
- the addition of a person at the arena is a real necessity to keep the place operational; there will be a doubling up of staff because of the anticipation that the current person will leave soon and training of a new person will be required. Councillor Nash stated that if he does, the town will be in a real predicament however all Councillors did not agree with that comment.
- if council thinks there's too much funding in recreation in this year's budget, look out for next year when the pool comes on stream.
- agrees that \$10,000 is a lot for brush cutting and understands concerns about precedent but questions what choice Council has when it comes to dealing with complaints and the concerns with safety of our residents.
- is not fond of increasing taxes but in order to meet the recommendations of the water study approved by council recommending a single source water supply to improve quality of water in Dunville it is a necessity.
- recognizes that this is not the best budget ever approved by the Town but she will be voting for it.

**Councillor Greene** notes that this budget is status quo.

- the only increase is \$20 **per year** - the first increase in 10 years - not even meeting the cost of living increases.
- will be surprised if the Town doesn't have to deal with leaks that will exceed \$50 - 70 thousand next year.
- council does not have enough in the budget to meet unforeseen problems.
- if the Town doesn't clear the brush, no one will.
- fully agrees with the budget presented.

**Mayor Power** thanked the Finance Committee and management for their hard work. He noted that:

- there was a lot of work done in the Town last year
- he commented on the fiscal framework that says we have to ensure we cover our costs - our tax rates have to reflect that
- the Town will have to look for funding and opportunities to leverage money for capital works projects.
- we are reducing the mil rate to offset increases in assessments which means some residential taxes are more, some less.

- there's very little in the budget for contingency issues - we have to be careful of that because there won't always be emergency funding.
- this will be a lean year but Mayor Power agreed that he will support this budget.

### **Vote on the Budget**

The following motions pertaining to the budget were tabled:

#### **Motion #15-246**

#### **Councillor Greene/Deputy Mayor Pearson**

Be it resolved that the motion to increase Councillors' remuneration by 4% or by a total of \$1,825.00 as per the budget presentation for the 2016 fiscal year was not approved.

**(Vote: 4:3 Mayor Power, Councillors Green, Coombs and Woodman voted in favour of remuneration; Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Collins and Nash voted against the increase which requires a 2/3 majority to pass.)**

#### **Motion #15-247**

#### **Councillor Greene/Councillor Nash**

Be it resolved that the budget for the 2016 fiscal year as reviewed by Council on December 8, 2015 and presented at the Council meeting of December 15, 2015 and with an amendment to reduce council remuneration account # 6126 by \$1,825.00 and increase consulting fees account #6073 by \$1825.00 was rejected.

**(Vote: 4:3 Mayor Power, Councillors Greene and Nash voted in favour of passing the budget; Deputy Mayor Pearson, Councillors Collins, Coombs and Woodman voted against approving the budget.)**

At approximately 9:05 p.m. the Mayor entered into a privileged session of Council and observers were excused from the gallery with an invitation to return when the meeting reverted to a public session if they so wished. Discussions were held on Councillors' concerns with the proposed budget and as a result the budget was referred back to the Finance Committee for consideration of a go forward plan.

The regular meeting of Council resumed at approximately 9:30 p.m.

### **CONCERNS OF COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Collins** commented that she is still not satisfied with the the construction of three new houses on Prince William Drive and uncertain they are being built as approved. She noted that all three applications have the same civic address on them and that three houses constitute a subdivision. She also didn't think that this was a duplex.

- The Public Works Supervisor replied that all construction on that site meets municipal regulations; this was checked and double checked by staff on several occasions. The applicant was actually asked to move the foundation back to meet the town's guidelines.
- Further, the applicant owned the parcel of land which was identified as one civic address on the Town's roll; when construction is complete, staff will submit a supplementary assessment form and the Municipal Assessment Agency will visit, d assign proper numbers to each property and assess the value of each.
- These three houses front on town maintained roads and are fully serviced therefore there is no subdivision development.

- The applicant did submit proper application for a duplex, it was examined by and recommended for approval by the Public Works Committee and approved by vote of Council.

Mayor Power advised Councillor Collins that while she was entitled to her opinion, staff followed direction approved by all Councillors including herself at the November meeting.

Councillor Collins said that she will be calling Municipal Affairs Planning on this and Mayor Power replied for her to go ahead and moved on to other Councillors for comments/concerns. She asked for the clerk to record that the Mayor had cut her off.

**Deputy Mayor Pearson** asked that the Municipal Enforcement Officer contact Darissa's garage once again to ensure the property is cleaned up and that they comply with municipal anti noise regulations. He also wished Council and staff a Merry Christmas.

**Councillor Nash** noted she is feeling burdened with the budget and asked for direction from Council. She also noted the recurring problem in Bond's Path; the CAO advised that Public Works are aware and will be working on it. There is no sewer on private property.

**Councillor Greene** also noted his concern on where to go with the budget. He complimented staff on their hard work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mayor Power** expressed his disappointment that Council could not approve the budget but is sure staff will move forward with revisions. He noted that Council and staff did a lot of work in the past year and he hopes there will be funding opportunities available to do as well in 2016.

**Mayor Power** closed the meeting wishing everyone the joys of happy season, safe travels and a Merry Christmas.

**CAO Ed O'Keefe** reiterated the wishes for a Merry Christmas and invited Council to a brief social in the staff room.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at 9:35 p.m.

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**Mayor Wayne D. Power**

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**CAO Ed O'Keefe**

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**Date**