



Special Public Meeting of Witless Bay Council
July 9, 2020

Attending: Mayor Derm Moran, Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, Councillors Dale O'Driscoll, David Ryan, Vince Swain and Fraser Paul

Staff: Geraldine Caul, Town Clerk Manager
Barb Harrigan, Assistant Town Clerk

1. Mayor Derm Moran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of July 9th Special Public Meeting are amended as directed by council as follows:

Motion **2020-116** Councillor Vince Swain/Councillor Fraser Paul

Moved to adopt the Minutes of the July 9th, 2020 Special Public Meeting

Amendment: Mayor Derm Moran/Councillor Fraser Paul

Mayor Moran announced: *"It should be noted that it is a common practice which is universally recognized as acceptable that at meetings when the presiding officer asks for a vote, if no member of the group states they are voting against the motion or specifically states they are abstaining from the vote, then they are in favor of the motion. It should be noted that I did not make a statement that I was abstaining from the voting on the tabled motions on July 9th Special Public Meeting."* Mayor Moran directed that the amendment to the motion reflect "errors in recording" to reflect that he was in favor of all three motions.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt the minutes of July 9th Special Public Meeting as amended, carried unanimously.

2. **2020-111** Councillor Vince Swain/Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy

Moved to adopt the July 9, 2020 agenda.

For: Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, Councillors Dale O'Driscoll, David Ryan, Vince Swain and Fraser Paul.

Against: 0

Abstained: Mayor Derm Moran See motion #2020-116 above

Motion carried.

3. Assistant Maintenance Person:

Note: Mayor Moran's discussion is mostly in verbatim form.

Mayor Derm Moran reported that the item at hand is in relation to the assistant maintenance position. Mayor Moran offered a breakdown as to what took place, saying that the Town found

itself in a position where the maintenance personnel had returned to work after being off for over a month and a half, and continues to be even to this day, but he's on an ease back situation now. He said that Council found itself without somebody, and needed to take some action because we were behind on everything. He said that normally Council would advertise in the paper, do a screening process and do personal interviews with the individuals who would have applied, but due to the time factor Council couldn't carry that out because it would take approximately another month to do so, and as previously mentioned, Council was already pretty much a month and a half behind. He said nothing was being done in regards to road work, regular maintenance, garbage collection, ditching identified, road cleaning, potholes filled, etc, so Council needed to move on this pretty quick. He said, compounding to this situation was the pandemic, COVID-19; some councillors were not even in a position to do personal interviews because of COVID-19, so it was determined that Council would revisit the position that was advertised last year to see who was on the list and which way the candidates did line up, and see which one was available, and Council went with the 2nd individual; we checked with them and they did say they were available to fill in as the assistant maintenance position, not the actual maintenance position itself because that was still the position of the person that was off sick.

The Mayor said he wanted to note that all councillors agreed to go this route; it wasn't just the Mayor and it wasn't just one other councillor as has been somewhat stated. The Mayor said it was determined who the individual was that placed second, he was contacted and the individual did advise that he would seek the position. The Mayor repeated that all councillors did agree with this. He said that Council was advised that we do have to carry out a Special Public meeting in order to complete the procedures. Mayor Moran then called upon a councillor to make a motion in regards to the assistant maintenance position.

2020-112 Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy/Councillor Fraser Paul

Moved that the Town hire Tom Brinston as the assistant maintenance worker, effective June to September.

For: Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, Councillors Dale O'Driscoll, David Ryan, Fraser Paul and Vince Swain.

Against: 0

Abstained: Mayor Derm Moran See motion #2020-116 above

Motion carried.

Mayor Moran noted that this will be presented at the next public meeting on Tuesday of this coming week. Mayor Moran called for a motion to adjourn.

2020-113- Councillor Fraser Paul/Councillor Dale O'Driscoll

Moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

For: Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, Councillors Dale O'Driscoll, David Ryan, Fraser Paul and Vince Swain.

Against: 0

Abstain: Mayor Derm Moran See motion #2020-116 above

Motion carried.