

Special Public Meeting of Witless Bay Council

January 30, 2022

Attending:

Mayor Trevor Croft
Deputy Mayor Lorna Yard
Councillor Ralph Carey
Councillor Gerard Dunne
Councillor Nancy Burke
Councillor Jacob Hayden

Regrets: Councillor Alex Troake

Acting Town Clerk – Barbara Harrigan

1. Mayor Trevor Croft called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

2. Appointment of Town Clerk (For meeting)

2022-18 Deputy Mayor Yard/Councillor Gerard Dunne
Move that Council appoint Barb Harrigan as acting clerk for meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Agenda of January 30, 2022

2022-19 Deputy Mayor Lorna Yard, Councillor Gerard Dunne
Move that Council adopt the agenda of January 30, 2022.
Motion carried unanimously.

4. **2022-20** Councillor Ralph Carey/Deputy Mayor Lorna Yard
Move that Council make application for cost-shared funding. Town's share is 25% (40,000.00) and ACOA 75% (\$120,000.00) through ACOA for Financial Assistance Canada Community Revitalization Fund – Project name, Community Outdoor and Accessibility Revitalization Initiative.

Discussion: Deputy Mayor Lorna Yard

I've been in close contact with town staff on this application this week so I'd like to provide a little bit of background on this application and explain why we had to call a special public meeting to approve it. This is an application for a program that involves 75/25 funding from ACOA for a community outdoor and accessibility revitalization initiative. (75/25 meaning the ACOA contributes 75 per cent and the town contributes 25 per cent). Basically if we contribute 40K we get 120K for this project.

This was an application that was completed by a former CAO for the town, but, unfortunately it was never finalized with a signature and submission. We were only made aware of this application last week when ACOA contacted us and asked us if we were still interested in submitting our application.

And so fortunately for us, our current town staff jumped right in to update the information and application and we thank them on behalf of the town for pulling this together on such short notice.

The scope of this application is centered on the main recreational area in town around the pool/puffin centre/ball-field. We hope to use this funding to provide further upgrades to this area, which, I imagine will be especially relevant given the flooding damage we saw there today and are still assessing. One of the key words in the title of this application is accessibility. If Witless Bay is going to be a progressive town, we have to create more accessible outdoor recreational areas, based on inclusive and universal design systems, for all residents, including those with disabilities or other barriers which may prevent them from enjoying outdoor spaces in our town.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Amendment to the 2022 Town of Witless Bay Tax Structure, Rates & Fees

2022-21 Councillor Ralph Carey/Deputy Mayor Lorna Yard

Move that Council amend the Town of Witless Bay Tax Structure, Rates & Fees to include Tourism Businesses operating seasonally, 5 mills and amend the Minimum Business Tax (Heavy Equipment/Construction from \$5000.00 to \$2500.00)

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment

2022-22 Councillor Nancy Burke/Councillor Jacob Hayden

Move that Council adjourn the meeting at 8:07.

Motion carried unanimously.