

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gillies called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Steven Gillies
Councillor Harley Hunt
Councillor Patsy Shay

Deputy Mayor Ben Whalen
Councillor Sharon Loder
Councillor Faith McMillan

Works Supervisor Rod Holland
Clerk Treasurer Don Smith

Administrative Clerk Robby Obermeier

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Mayor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

M/S/C (Whalen/Shay)

**Motion to approve the agenda for the
September 15, 2015 Council Meeting.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M/S/C (McMillan/Hunt)

**Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular
Meeting of Council on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.**

M/S/C (McMillan/Hunt)

**Motion to approve the minutes of the Special
Meeting of Council on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.**

M/S/C (McMillan/Hunt)

**Motion to approve the amended minutes of the
Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday,
September 9, 2015.**

Deputy Mayor Whalen said he would like to see the minutes reflect he had stated that in the future he would like to see a copy of the tender package, in advance, for any project that came before Council for approval. The changes will be made and circulated to Council for their information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trout Creek – WAWA – Remove Debris

Mayor Gillies said the Village recognizes the concerns of the citizens with respect to the ongoing potential for flooding from Trout Creek and like the citizens wants to implement measures to reduce the risk. One such measure is the removal of impediments in the creek that could potentially lead to blockages and in turn flooding. He said this needs to be addressed as soon as possible and called upon Council for support to do so. Deputy Mayor Whalen asked where the money was to carry out the work. Mayor Gillies said, if necessary, the money could be transferred from reserves. The Deputy Mayor also asked who would be called upon to actually perform the work. The Mayor responded that the Village would obtain 3 quotes and go from there.

M/S/C (Loder/McMillan)

Motion to prepare and submit a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit application for the removal of trees from that portion of Trout Creek that rests within the Village boundaries including any trees in the creek, leaning into the creek and in immediate risk of falling into the creek.

Councillor Loder said she is aware of a local citizen that has a drone and could possibly help identify the items to be removed from the creek. She was asked to investigate.

Amalgamation – Plebiscite

Mayor Gillies said the Village has spent a great deal of time and energy on this issue and considers the exercise to have been very valuable to-date as it relates to the future of the Village of Sussex Corner. He said the time is now for the Council to decide upon calling for a plebiscite or not. He called upon each member of Council to express their thoughts before calling for a motion.

Councillor Hunt: He said he would support going to the people via a plebiscite but wants to meet with Town Council to discuss the potential merger and the wants / needs of the Village (e.g. proportion of tax revenue to be spent in the Village and maintaining the tax rate in the Village for a period of time).

Councillor McMillan: She too believes in the right of the people of Sussex Corner to vote in a plebiscite. However, she did say that she has struggled, and continues to struggle, with some of the answers or lack thereof to questions asked by the Village and feels that some of the information was misleading. She said she wants to protect the residents of Sussex Corner and ensure as much as possible that they are well informed prior to voting.

Deputy Mayor Whalen: He began by saying, in general, the Village needs to sit down with the Town and generate a public document that commits a potential future Council to measures or conditions that assure the residents of Sussex Corner are protected go forward. This document should also include stipulations that protect our assets. He does support giving the people the right to have their say. He said he thought the feasibility report was very slanted towards amalgamation and questioned some of the benefits. He said in the proposed motion for the plebiscite it refers to “accepted” to which he said the Village had accepted or received the report but that did not imply agreement with the findings. He said the mention that amalgamation would be beneficial to both communities is more applicable for the Town than the Village. With reference to “access to Elections NB” he said when the exercise began he was of the understanding the province (Elections NB) would be responsible for the plebiscite exercise at no cost to the Village whereas that is not the case at present. He was also concerned, given that the recent elections have seen low voter turnout, that 50% + 1 is low for a level of support to proceed with amalgamation.

Councillor Loder: She said she has no problem with a decision to ask the people to decide on amalgamation or not. She is concerned that all residents should be strongly encouraged to get out and vote whether for or against. The future of the Village will be in their hands. She did say that the residents of Sussex Corner have contributed greatly for a number of years to make the Village what it is today and measures should be taken to see that any increased revenue generated from development in the area of Sussex Corner should remain and be spent here.

Councillor Shay: She said her thoughts had been captured already by the input of others but she strongly urged everyone to go to the polls and vote.

Deputy Mayor Whalen commented that he was very disappointed that no one from the Kings County Record was present for this important meeting. Mayor Gillies agreed. A representative from the Kings County Record did arrive near the end of the meeting.

M/S/C (Whalen/Shay)

Motion that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Village of Sussex Corner Municipal Council engaged a working Steering Committee to undertake a Feasibility Study and have been meeting since June 2015 to share and study the interest regarding an amalgamation project with the Town of Sussex;

WHEREAS a Feasibility Study has been accepted by the Village of Sussex Corner Municipal Council and has been forwarded to the Province of New Brunswick for the amalgamation of the Village of Sussex Corner and the Town of Sussex, and that the study demonstrated that this amalgamation would be beneficial to both the Village of Sussex Corner and the Town of Sussex;

WHEREAS there was public consultations regarding the amalgamation of the Village of Sussex Corner with the Town of Sussex to create a larger municipality;

WHEREAS the population of the two municipalities involved are desirous of holding a plebiscite on November 09, 2015 to vote either in favour or against this proposed amalgamation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Sussex Corner Municipal Council approves the Feasibility Study submitted by the Steering Committee which has demonstrated that this amalgamation would be beneficial to both the Village of Sussex Corner and the Town of Sussex;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Sussex Corner Municipal Council proceed with a plebiscite under the authority of Subsection 68(1), and Subsection 68(2) of the Municipalities Act, R.S.N.B. (1973) Chapter 22 and amendments thereto, to determine if the majority of those eligible electors of the Village of Sussex Corner who vote in the plebiscite are in favour of the proposed amalgamation, on the same date and time to coincide with a similar vote within the Town of Sussex asking the same question;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Sussex Corner Municipal Council access the assistance of Elections NB to organize and hold the plebiscite;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Sussex Corner Municipal Council is in favour of the amalgamation if a majority of 50% + 1 of the eligible electors within the Village of Sussex Corner who vote in the plebiscite, vote yes to the following question;

"Are you in favour of the amalgamation of the Town of Sussex and the Village of Sussex Corner as a new municipality?"

Yes ____, No ____

Êtes-vous en faveur de la fusion de la Ville de Sussex et du Village de Sussex Corner en une nouvelle municipalité?

Oui ____, Non ____

Mayor Gillies said the decision is now in the hands of the residents of Sussex Corner. We need to ensure they are informed and encouraged to vote, vote, vote. He said the next step for the Village is to arrange a meeting with the Town to sit down and discuss the needs of the Village should amalgamation become a reality.

Each member of Council agreed to meet and discuss the amalgamation issue including the plebiscite and to prepare and issue a brochure to the citizens of Sussex Corner to provide more information on the subject.

REPORTS – COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL:

Administration and Finance

Councillor McMillan presented the report from the September 14th meeting.

M/S/C (Shay/Loder)

Motion to approve the August 2015 payments:

General \$ 50,329.56 Water/Sewer \$ 7,587.44

M/S/C (Whalen/Shay)

Motion to extend the agreement with John Dysart Ltd. for snow plowing and removal services for a two year period from November 1, 2015 to April 30, 2017.

M/S/C (Whalen/Loder)

Motion to extend the agreement with Devine Sanitation Ltd. for solid waste collection services for a two year period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

M/S/C (Loder/McMillan)

Motion to acquire the services of CBCL Limited at a cost not to exceed \$9,800.00 plus HST to complete a study and submit a report that addresses stream bank stabilization including radius of curvature and provides options for corrective / preventative action including costs and sources of funding and once the study has been completed the Village will immediately seek funding for all or part to perform work to Trout Creek as recommended in the report.

M/S/C (Loder/Whalen)

Motion to authorize the purchase of an advertisement in the Kings County Record paying tribute to a Sussex Corner resident who serves on the Sussex Volunteer Fire Department.

Flood

Councillor Loder presented the report from the September 3rd meeting. There were two requests (1) trees in Trout Creek – resolved above and (2) information regarding sale of homes in Cunningham Subdivision – information already made available to Council.

Works, Water and Sewer

Councillor Loder presented the report from the September 14th meeting. There was a suggestion to acquire and place new boarder timber at the three playgrounds. There was some question as to where the funding of \$10,000 to do so was to be found. The report stated it could be found from some other account line if needed. The Works Supervisor provided a verbal report on the condition of Parsons Brook saying it didn't need a lot of work but a WAWA will be required. He was directed to prepare and submit the WAWA. It was also noted in the report that a sign be erected on Post Road restricting the use of Jake brakes. The Works Supervisor said Post Road is a provincial highway so DOTI would have to approve the placement of such a sign.

Accept Committee Reports

M/S/C (McMillan/Loder)

Motion to accept the Administration and Finance, Flood and Works, Water and Sewer Committee reports.

REPORTS – OTHER:

Chamber of Commerce

Councillor McMillan said the Chamber held a meeting recently with a guest speaker from the Royal Bank who spoke on the economic trend and outlook for the future.

PotashCorp Civic Centre (PCC)

Councillor Shay said the Board held a meeting August 24th with a good turnout. Pool is currently down for cleaning. There is an Open House scheduled for September 16th for people to visit and ask questions and become informed of what is going on at the PotashCorp Civic Centre.

Region Service Commission (RSC8)

There are no summer meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence before Council.

BYLAWS:

There were no bylaws before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Flood Committee - Member

There was some confusion as to the membership of the Flood Committee. Mr. Bill Cox had been appointed to the (former) Flood Committee in January of 2014 but is not shown as a member of the (current) Flood Committee. He had not received any communication to inform him he was no longer a member. Mr. Cox and Councillor Hunt had asked that a letter be issued from the Mayor to clarify the situation. A motion was placed on the floor by Councillor Hunt and seconded by Councillor McMillan to send a letter to Mr. Cox as requested but was subsequently rescinded as Mr. Cox indicated he was no longer interested in serving on the committee. Councillor Loder apologized for the confusion.

Sussex Corner Sports Field

Deputy Mayor Whalen reminded Council he had prepared and circulated a draft Sussex Corner Sports Field Development Plan for Council's consideration. He asked Council pass a motion to accept the plan, review its contents and prioritize the recommendations therein by yearend. Councillor Loder said she wanted to be clear this did not commit the Village to any spending at this point.

M/S/C (Whalen/Shay)

Motion to accept the draft Sussex Corner Sports Field Development Plan with Council to prioritize the recommendations contained therein by yearend.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M/S/C (Shay/Loder)

Motion to adjourn the Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:03 p.m.

Clerk / Treasurer

Mayor