

*****Before “**calling the meeting to order**”, Mayor Stackhouse announced that Councillor Sharon Loder would be joining the Regular Council Meeting by social media.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Stackhouse called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**** Mayor Stackhouse announced again that Councillor Loder is joining the Regular Council Meeting by social media and made sure that everyone could hear her.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Steven Stackhouse
Councillor Doug Bobbitt
Councillor Paul Taylor

Deputy Mayor Patsy Shay
Councillor Harley Hunt
Councillor Sharon Loder – **Social media**

Assistant Clerk / Treasurer Robby Obermeier
Works Supervisor, Craig Dixon

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Steven Stackhouse called for a motion to approve the agenda.

M/S/C (Shay/Hunt)

**Motion to approve the agenda for the
January 15, 2019, Regular Council Meeting.**

DELEGATIONS:

RCMP Quarterly Report

Mayor Stackhouse noted that Sergeant Jim MacPherson was on agenda but couldn't make the meeting.

Citizen Request / Comments

Wayne Wilkins – Sidewalks – Mr. Wilkins read his request to Council and stated that since he filed his request, he has spoken with the Works Supervisor, Craig Dixon, and answered all his questions he would like to withdraw his request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Steven Stackhouse called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 11, 2018.

M/S/C (Bobbitt/Taylor) Motion to approve of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 11, 2018.

Mayor Steven Stackhouse called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on January 3, 2019.

M/S/C (Bobbitt/Taylor) Motion to approve of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on January 3, 2019.

Councillor Bobbitt commented that this "Special Meeting of Council was the Swearing In Ceremony for Mayor Stackhouse and Councillor Taylor, and he wanted to once again, welcome both Mayor Stackhouse and Councillor Taylor on board and so far 2019 is looking good and very promising. I'm very pleased with your comments as Mayor in the KCR and very confident in your abilities to carry this Council forward!

Deputy Mayor Shay stated she agreed with that also!

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no items of business from previous meetings before Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Operations:

M/S/C (Taylor/Hunt) Motion to approve the December 2018 bills for payment:

Water & Sewer	\$107,049.58
General	\$ 53,318.52

Accept Committee Reports:

Mayor Stackhouse called for a motion to accept the following committee report:

M/S/C (Bobbitt/Taylor) Motion to accept the Operations Committee

CORRESPONDENCE:

Across Town for Crosswinds – 2019 Marathon

Correspondence was received from the organizing committee for the 2019 Across Town for Crosswinds Marathon. There are various levels of sponsorship for this race / event. Deputy Mayor Shay made the following motion:

M/S/C (Shay/Bobbitt) Motion to purchase the Water Station Sponsorship package at a cost of \$150.00 in support of Across Town for Crosswinds Marathon.

New Brunswick Command – Royal Canadian Legion

A request was received from the New Brunswick Command – Royal Canadian Legion to purchase an advertisement in their annual publication. Council declined the offer.

BY-LAWS:

By-Law # 131-19 A By-law to Amend Rural Plan Bylaw # 125-14.

An amendment to the Rural Plan By-law # 125-14 is being proposed to rezone a property from Rural Area to Residential 2. As such it is mandated that Council establish a date, time and place for a public hearing.

M/S/C (Bobbitt/Taylor) Motion to establish the date, time and place for a public hearing as resolved below:

Be It Resolved that as per Section 111 of the Community Planning Act, Village Council hereby sets the public hearing for the consideration of comments to the proposed by-law, By-law # 131 - 19, to re-zone lands having Property Identifier 30290886 from Rural Area to Residential 2 for Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 at the Village Office, 1067 Main Street, commencing at 7:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Works Supervisor – Probation Period

Craig Dixon, Works Supervisor has completed his 3 months probationary period and the following motion is needed.

M/S/C (Shay/Bobbitt)

Motion to change the employment status of Craig Dixon from probationary to permanent full-time status complete with Village pension & benefits, effective January 15, 2019.

Mayors comments:

Mayor Stackhouse spoke on the following:

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the debt the Village owes to the 4 councillors for setting aside their own interests and needs to ensure the Village needs were met. and I would also like to thank the current councillors for their patience and guidance in the coming months as I grow into this seat. I'm sure I will make a lot of errors and omissions and I'll look to you for a little guidance.

Second, I would like to acknowledge the exemplary job the maintenance staff are doing in keeping the sidewalks safe to walk on as well as all the other duties they have. In the KCR there was an article on how the Town dropped the ball on the last snow storm and with that social media blowing up with peoples making comparison to the more efficient job the Village of Sussex Corner was doing then the Town of Sussex.

Third, I would like to address some letters that was addressed to the editor (KCR).

1) In the Dec 11 edition there was a question as to whether a firm was hired to find a replacement for Mr. Smith and why didn't the Village accept their recommendations.

Answer - There was a firm hired and we did follow their recommendations. A person was hired, but after notice was given to his current employer, he was given a very generous offer from them and decided to not to leave. The firm's second recommendation was given the opportunity but his "salary package" was more then the Village could pay.

2) Hiring of Danny Gladstone.

Answer - Mr. Gladstone was not talked into taking the position. He was interviewed for the Works Supervisor position, but he didn't have his water certification, he asked if there were any other openings and the Clerk/Treasure position was mentioned.

3) Hiring accounting firm for the 2019 budget

Answer – No accounting firm was hired to do the budget, this was done by the Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, Robby.

4) Lowing of standards or requirements for the Clerk Treasurer Position.

Answer – Absolutely not!

As you can see some of these things can be answered in advance. If you want to call the Village or call me personally with your question(s) we will get you the answers! I truly applaud everyone in taking such an interest in their municipal politics and if you have any questions to please contact me, that is why I'm here but I can not promise you're going to get the answer that you want but I can promise you that I will follow through.

5) There was reference made to the "raise" that Council approved.

Answer – This so-called raise was put in place as a result of a 33% tax break being taken away all across Canada, this so-call raise happened only because of the 33% tax break that we lost, and that would mean our take home salary would be reduced by that amount. So, this is the only reason why Council approved the 25% increase in pay was so Council

and Mayors salaries would remain the same as it always was. This removal of the tax break was widely publicized and affected all villages, towns and cities in Canada. Some Village, towns and cities approved an increase by 29% and more, but our Village did NOT. In the Village of Sussex Corner, it has been more than 10 years since Mayor or Council has had any increase in salary.

6) Electronic Meetings.

Answer - Councillor Loder attended the meeting using electronic means. An investigation proved this to be acceptable.

7) and the last point I want to speak on...

All of Council and myself included felt that the following statement offered "a bit of slam" against us... **statement made:**

"the residents who run for office have the integrity honesty and the fortitude to right the wrongs the present council has done"...

I take umbrage at this remark!! It suggests that myself, Paul Taylor and my brother Gil Stackhouse do not have these qualities. I assure you we do have these qualities as do the rest of the members of council. I applaud the effort to contact the KCR to vent your frustrations but a lot of "this" could have been able to be lessened without ever going to that point. One of the things that I want to do is challenge everyone in the Village of Sussex Corner to find one positive thing to say about this village about this Council, about the businesses that operate within the Village. It is so easy to find things to criticize about and we WILL make mistakes... believe me I will make mistakes, we "all" will and we'll over look things or we'll do something not 100%..but...I challenge everyone here to find one positive thing about the Village of Sussex Corner and I believe we will move in a better direction with a better image of the Village. So, remember a lot of these "issues" can be brought up to either myself or any other members of Council. One thing that I did say in the KCR for the New Year edition (QA), I wanted Council to be "approachable and accountable" ..and we will be!

All we ask is that we have the opportunity to look at all the wrongs "you" think are happening, but you have to remember I'm new here, so I don't know what the "wrongs" are. And if we, as Council, are doing something wrong, I want to know... so with the help of the residents of Sussex Corner we can deal with all those and make sure no one goes un-noticed.

ADJOURNMENT:

M/C (Taylor)

Motion to adjourn the Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Robby Obermeier
Assistant Clerk / Treasurer

Steven Stackhouse
Mayor