

VILLAGE OF MINTO
MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Minto Village Council was held in the Council Room at 7:00 PM on November 8th, 2011 with Mayor Barnett presiding.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Michael Richardson (DM)
Jane Wasson
Dwain Barton
Kris Austin

PRESS: Sandra Hennessey, Grand Lake Mirror

PUBLIC: Alton Morrell, Ronald Bird.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Richardson that the special meeting of October 22nd, two special meetings of November 1st, meeting on November 8th, and the regular council meeting of October 11th, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

Mayor Barnett stated that a few months ago members of our council met with the Minister of Health about our health center. Council told the Honorable Madame Dube about our Health Center and how improvements are happening at our health center by offering new programs that were having a positive affect on our community, such as, Heart and Diabetic Clinics, Harvest Fest, etc. and we also talked about Palliative Care. The minister also shared her concern about the Palliative Care, and we left the meeting feeling pretty good about the Palliative Care. Then came the announcement about the closure of our Lab and Palliative Care. Mayor Barnett made up an announcement that he read aloud stating that "Citizens of Minto will die because of the closure of our lab. The death notice will read that Eric Barnett dies at the DECH on such a date and time. It will not say Eric Barnett should be alive and well. It will not say that if the lab was open a blood sample would have been taken, processed in Minto and Eric Barnett could have been treated at the Health Center."

When money is put ahead of lives, people will die. No money will be saved as both Lab Techs will be working, just not in Minto. If the Alward government is serious about money, cut out the big fat paycheck to the top officials of Horizon Health, not the Doctors, Nurses or patients.

It is time to treat rural New Brunswick's citizen's right. Minto has an older population. Maybe the Alward government's plan on paying off the debt is by increasing the Ambulance's going to the DECH. It is time to take the bull by the horns, Premier Alward and cancel all cuts to the Health Care in rural N.B.

Mayor Barnett is very disappointed in the closing of the lab. The Doctors have voiced their

concerns in a letter sent to the Province stating “A chart review of over 1000 patients revealed that without the lab we would be forced to order approximately 270 unnecessary ambulance transfers to Fredericton, 260 patients would be unnecessarily brought back in follow up the next day, and the courier would have been paid to bring stat blood to Fredericton 355 times. All of this in one year.”

RCMP: Cst. Fahie attended the meeting. During the month of October, members of the Minto and Chipman detachments responded to 112 calls for service. Of those, 36 were within the Village limits. Halloween had no reported acts of vandalism or anything else criminal. Citizens on Patrol group were out in full force. Congratulations were extended to the Senior Girls Soccer Team; parade in the streets was fantastic.

Stat's from the Criminal Analyst were provided to the department last week, which shows that from January to September the stats shows that they are down 64% of calls, and 17% in property crime in the Village limits.

The speed unit should be here in the next couple of weeks. There have been reports of speeding on Northside Drive by the Knights of Columbus / Daycare Center, as well as Highway 10 by First Choice Auto.

Mayor Barnett advised that earlier this evening council met with Sgt. Rene Bernard regarding the Village being down 2 officers for two months, and is looking for re-imburement. Mayor Barnett has requested a schedule of officers hours & overtime during this 2 month period.

Councillor Barton advised that the Grand Lake Moose will be playing this Saturday afternoon instead of the evening.

There will be a meeting held in Chipman on November 18th at 10:00 am to meet the new Sergeant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILLOR WASSON:

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: meeting with Calvin Tillman from Dish, Texas who gave a good summary of his town's experience with hydro-fracking. Attended a special meeting with our council, Chipman council and our MLA concerning changes at the health center; changes that are not good. Attended a growth committee meeting to get an update in business initiatives being made in the Minto-Chipman & Grand Lake area.

MINLAK has sent 8800 kgs for recycling since our last meeting. Councillor Wasson did miss Minlak's October meeting, but was involved in interviews to hire a new counselor/administration person. Also there is one new client at Minlak. Councillor Wasson was sorry to miss the

promotion exercises for the older worker initiative but hears it was a great success.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: Our development officer continues to check on derelict and unsightly properties in the Village. In October there were 2 demolition permits and 5 building permits issued. The total construction value of the building permits were \$105,300.00

PAC: 2 PAC meetings in October to look at variances for 2 locations.

PUBLIC LIBRARY: As part of the Art in the Library series, the library is hosting an exhibit entitled "Paint & Pixels", the Art & Photography of Brenda Despres. This is Brenda's first solo exhibit showcasing her creativity with acrylics and her view of the world from behind the camera. There are nearly 30 paintings on display, along with albums containing samples of her art and photography. Public viewing will be held from November 1st until December 17th during library open hours.

We hope you will join us for Coffee Morning with Brenda Despres on Friday, November 18th at 10:00 AM for a discussion on art and photography.

Our monthly Book Club will be discussing *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake on December 14th at 6:30 PM. New member are always welcome.

A Giant Used Book Sale is being held at the library from now until November 16th. We have a great selection of used books for sale at awesome prices. Funds raised from this sale will be used to enhance the library collection with new titles.

A Children's Christmas Party is planned for Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 PM. Activities include face painting, a craft, songs and games.

Classes from Minto Elementary Middle School will begin visiting the library on Thursday, November 17th. Parents are encouraged to register their child for a free library card to allow them to borrow items during their visit to the library.

DEPUTY MAYOR RICHARDSON:

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: Youth center meeting and breakfast, meeting with Richard Petrie, meeting with Calvin Tillman-Ex-Mayor of Dish, Texas, special meetings of council, meeting with MLA Ross Wetmore, announcement at Community College, Health Advisory Board, and met earlier this evening with Sgt. Rene Bernard.

MINTO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Total fire calls for the month-7---2 false alarms, sprinkler activated by smoke, jaws of life request, search for missing person, car fire and smoke from oil furnace. Deputy Mayor Richardson thanked members for their work in fire prevention week in attending local schools and daycares to provide important information.

MINTO COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER: The youth center breakfast at the Minto Legion was a success with news from the provincial government, and MLA Ross Wetmore of funding of \$10,000. Deputy Mayor Richardson would like also like to thank the Grand Lake-Gagetown PC riding and Executive President Ian Baird for the donation of \$250.00. Tiffany Allen is our new Chairlady of the board. The haunted house was well attended and we appreciate all the support from Councillor Barton and the Grand Lake Moose.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER: We received news from the Horizon Health Network that as a result of \$4.2 million in cuts ordered by the provincial government that these cuts were going to affect our Queens North Community Health Center. As part of the announcement our palliative care unit which has been closed since Feb 18, 2009 will not be re-opened. This has affected four nursing positions. We have been told that there are options for these positions through redeployment. There have also been cuts to two lab technicians' positions in the lab department. The total cuts to these services is approx \$400,000 in savings to the health budget. Minto and Chipman councils met with our MLA Ross Wetmore and voiced our displeasure on the attack to rural health care. We have been informed that there are options on the table that are currently being looked at in regards to these cuts. Deputy Mayor Richardson would like to ask our citizens to speak up and voice their displeasure in these latest cuts. We must stop the centralization of services and save rural NB. The required materials for the x-ray equipment have been ordered and most have been rec'd. The electricians are scheduled for this week and painters next week. There is steel work to be done on the ceiling for installation of the new x-ray equipment. Training will be required for staff once this is done and everything will be operational in December.

NB POWER GS SITE PLANS: Deputy Mayor Richardson would like the committee formed by NB Power with municipal council members from Minto and Chipman and other members of the public to inquire about the future plans for the soon to be ex-site of the former Grand Lake Grand Lake Generating Station. I would suggest that a monument be set up on this site to remind people of what was at this location. A portion of this site should be used as a picnic type area for the public and as a great place to view Grand Lake.

COUNCILLOR BARTON

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: all special meetings of council and, the annual Freddy Fulton Memorial event.

DOG REPORT: Dog Constable dealt with several complaints during the month of October.

Congratulations were extended to the Senior Girls Soccer Team. He also wanted to congratulate the Boys Soccer Team for being Regional Champs.

RECREATION: Halloween haunted house was a great success. The hockey team will be donating \$200.00 to the Minto Youth Center.

Junior "B" games are going over very well; they have an average fan base of around 200 this

year. The Junior "B" will be hosting a stand-up comedy show this Saturday evening at the Minto Legion.

COUNCILLOR AUSTIN

SEWER REPORT: Lowered manholes on Northside and Post Road, sewer tests done, done a number of sewer inspection for new hook-ups, Inspected three demolitions, Algae cleaned from lagoon, cleaned sewer, monthly sewer tests done, cleaned equipment, cleaned UV lights.

GRAND LAKE LABOUR FORCE will be hosting a wrap up meeting on November 15th, 2011 at 5:30 pm at the Chipman / Minto Lions Club.

CONGRATULATIONS were extended to Paints and Pixel Projects taking place in the Library – very impressive.

Councillor Austin has another concern as well, besides the Health Care issue, and that is the recent cuts to the Department of Transportation and the plows. He mentioned that in a report put out by the CBC, a Professor from St. Thomas University stated that Rural NB is being bullied. We are once again having cuts to essential services to Rural NB. He would ask as a member of council of a municipality to see cuts start at the top before front line services.

Councillor Austin thanked former Mayor Calvin Tillman on his presentation on his experience with hydro- fracking.

MAYOR BARNETT:

Mayor Barnett wanted to remind everyone that on Remembrance Day the parade line up will be at 10:30 am at the police station; the parade will start at 10:45 am and end at 11:00 am at the legion cenotaph. The Remembrance Day dinner will be served at 6:00 pm.

CIVIC RELATIONS: Meetings and functions attended: met with Jules Fasquel, meeting with Village solicitor, met with former Mayor of Dish Texas regarding hydro- fracking, met with Minister Margaret Ann Blaney along with the Minto Growth Committee, met with the Minister of Business Paul Robichaud, met with MLA, Ross Wetmore along with the rest of Council and all members of Chipman council, meeting with NB Power, Youth Center Breakfast, NBCC announcement regarding a new course being offered, and all special meetings of Council.

POVERTY MEETING to be held November 16th @ 6:30pm at the Chipman/Minto Lions Club with interested citizens to discuss issues surrounding poverty.

TIPPING FEES from the Fredericton Region Solid Waste Commission will remain the same for 2012, the current rate being \$74.00 a metric tonne.

MAINTENANCE: Repaired a number of driveways, installed children playing and slow signs,

repaired 3 storm drains on Queen Street, installed steps and railings at the arena, cleaned leaves from the storm drains, removed air conditioners, removed tree on Birch Street, pot holes repaired, repaired windows at VAS and installed new floor in office at arena.

ARENA is now up and running.

ARENA MAINTENANCE REPORT: Replaced toilet seat in No. 7 dressing room, turned breakers on for heaters in dressing rooms, changed burnt out lights in walkway by front boards, changed burnt out lights in Coke Clock and set time, fixed netting on goalie nets, put door knobs on doors in dressing rooms 5 & 6 and made keys, Put vice on workbench in Olympia room, put tarp over staging, put barricades up for fire lane, put new starter on Olympia, put new propane filter on Olympia, fixed flush in #6 dressing room, made wish list for 2011-2012 season and fixed door jam in # 5 dressing room. Anyone not paying attention to the Fire Lane will be towed away. Emergency vehicles need to be able to get around the parking lot.

CHRISTMAS PARADE will be held on Dec. 2nd beginning at 7:00 pm.

RELAY FOR LIFE is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Mary Miller or Carl Bailey.

Congratulations were extended to the 2011 Provincial Champs Senior Girls Soccer Team. This Thursday evening at the Minto Centennial Arena, between the 2nd and 3rd period of the Midget Comp Game, all of the ladies from the Soccer team will be introduced and acknowledged.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR AT 7:55PM.

Citizen wanted to know how the current open shafts in the Minto area will be affected by hydro-fracking, will they cave in? Mayor Barnett advised that during a recent meeting with Gary Merseau, Gary mentioned that the hydro-fracking will not cause the shafts to cave in due to the distance past the shafts (mile and a half) that the fracking process goes.

CHECK DISBURSEMENT LISTS:

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Austin that the Sewer Fund Check disbursements for October in the sum of \$18,139.19 be approved as circulated.

Question was raised to the item marked “not tendered” by the Fire Department. Deputy Mayor Richardson advised that Chief Miller says this was an over site, and would not happen again.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Councillor Austin that the General Fund Check Disbursements for October in the sum of \$94,420.79 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

HYDROFRACKING: Councillor Austin states that council has been discussing hydro-fracking for a while now, and he knows it is a divisive issue in many ways, but he would like to put a motion of the floor to call for a moratorium on testing and hydro-fracking within the municipal boundaries of Minto until we are convinced it can be done safely and properly.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Austin and seconded by Councillor Barton to call for a moratorium on testing and hydro-fracking within the municipal boundaries of Minto until we are convinced it can be done safely and properly.

NAY VOTES BY COUNCILLOR WASSON AND DEPUTY MAYOR RICHARDSON

Motion Carried.

PEPSI PROPOSAL: The Clerk explained that this proposal was submitted as a result of Grand Lake Minor Hockey Executive member request to Pepsi. Council has requested the Clerk to contact Coke to enquire if they are also willing to submit a proposal at this time for council to consider.

GRAND LAKE RELAY REQUEST for the use of the arena on June 2nd to host the annual Relay for Life event, along with the assistance of the village staff in setting up the stage and tables/chairs on June 1st, 2012.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Barton to provide the arena facilities free of charge on June 2nd, 2012, as well the assistance of the village staff in setting up the stage and tables/chairs the day before.

Motion Carried.

SHANNON & BUFFET QUOTE: Shannon & Buffet provided a quote of \$7,995.00 + HST to perform the municipal audit of the Village of Minto for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Richardson to accept the quote from Shannon & Buffet at a cost of \$7,995.00 + HST to perform the municipal audit of the Village of Minto for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

Motion Carried.

PROCLAIM RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WEEK: Mayor Barnett proclaimed that the week of November 13 – November 20, 2011 to be Restorative Justice Week in the Village of Minto.

FIRE DEPARTMENT VESTS: Chief Miller would like council to consider purchasing the department vests from the General budget, not the Fire Department Budget for use during an Emergency Mock Disaster.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Barton to approve the purchase of the fire command vests, and that the funds will be used from the Emergency Measures budget.

Motion Carried.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – TIME & PLACE:

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Richardson to hold the annual village Christmas party at TJ Garden on December 9th, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Barton that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 PM.