

Town of Badger

Minutes of the regular public meeting of the Badger Town Council held
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Members present:	Mayor:	Ed Card
	Deputy Mayor:	Dennis Butt
	Councillors:	Nicholas Blackwood Stephanie Greene Michelle Noseworthy

Also, present:	Superintendent of Works:	Scott Luscombe
	Town Clerk/ Manager:	Pansy Hurley

Absent:	Councillors:	Ann Marie Young Natasha Beaton
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Discussion:

1. Mayor Card welcomed Mr Scott Luscombe, Superintendent of Works, to the meeting. Mr Luscombe gave his report.
 - Scott advised that the water system is working good. The lift stations are working good. No issues with the new pumps installed in the main lift station on Main Street.
 - Machinery is working good. Scott said he would like to have a mechanic inspect the John Deere loader to make sure there are no problems with the machine. General discussion. It was agreed to have an inspection completed on the John Deere loader as part of annual maintenance.
 - The salt truck is working good.
 - Scott was advised that they were doing a good job with snow clearing.
 - Discussion on having a dumpster at the Depot in the Fall of the year to allow people to dispose of debris. Scott said that if the debris is sorted it would cost less. You would need someone at the site at all times. Discussion on the costs involved with renting a dumpster and the fee that would be charged to residents for this service.

There being no further discussion Mr Luscombe left the meeting at 6:40pm

Discussion:

2. Mayor Card advised that Fire Chief Gus Loder is unable to attend tonight's meeting. Fire Chief did advise Mayor Card that pumper #2 is out of service. Jamar Transport is scheduled to complete the necessary work.

Adoption of Minutes:

1. Mayor Card asked if there were any errors or omissions to the minutes of the regular public meeting of Council held January 12, 2021 which were circulated with the agenda for tonight's meeting .

Motion #005-2021 S. Greene/M. Noseworthy

Resolved that the minutes of the regular public meeting of Council held January 12, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Vote:

**In Favor 5: E. Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
 S. Greene; M. Noseworthy**

Opposed 0:

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Business arising:

1. No business arising.

Correspondence:

1. Letter received from Susan Power, Principal of Avoca Collegiate, thanking the Town for its part in them receiving the 30 chrome books from Marathon Gold.

Correspondence continued:

2. Information received from Symone Hunt regarding an opportunity for sports and recreation in our community. There is a 20 minute survey that she would like residents to complete and that have an opportunity to win 1 of 6 \$250 Visa Gift card. Town Clerk/Manager will contact Ms Hunt to get information that will be posted on Town's Facebook page. Mayor will make follow-up call with Ms Hunt.
3. Mayor Card advised that a letter of support was sent to ROCK Networks Inc supporting their initiative to actively seek out rural broadband solutions for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
4. An email was received from Mark Duggan of Bell Canada seeking support for their application to the Universal Broadband Fund this will allow Bell to improve broadband access that supports connectivity needs for residents and businesses in our area. Letter of support will be written. The letter was written to Bell regarding the unsatisfactory service we are presently receiving.

Finances:

1. Mayor Card explained that the total cost of the project to replace the pumps in the lift station on Main Street was \$71,630.05. We did apply for Gas Tax for funding for this project and received \$34,064.00. Mayor advised that we have applied for a special assistance grant to cover the total cost of the project \$71,630.05. We have also applied for a special assistance grant to repair the sage in the main sewer line on Sunset Drive. There has been no reply to date. Mayor said he spoke to Chris Tibbs regarding the issue.
2. The Town Clerk/Manager presented the accounts payable dated February 9, 2021 in the amount of \$20,570.49 for disbursement as presented. Discussion held.

Finances continued:

Motion #006-2021 N. Blackwood/S. Greene

Resolved that Council approve the accounts payable journal dated February 9, 2021 in the amount of \$20,570.49 for disbursement as presented.

Vote:

**In Favor 5: E. Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
S. Greene; M. Noseworthy.**

Opposed 0:

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Reimburse Petty Cash. Discussion held.

Motion #007-2021 N. Blackwood/S. Greene

Resolved that Petty Cash be reimbursed by \$70.10 (lunch for meeting held January 28, 2021)

Vote:

**In Favor 5: E. Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
S. Greene; M. Noseworthy**

Opposed 0:

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Each councillor received a copy of the Financial Statements 2019; Annual Expenditure Report Gas Tax Funding 2019; Tax Recovery Plan & Tax Receivable Summary; as well as, the Representation Letter, Audit Planning Letter, Engagement Letter and Auditor Findings Management Letter prepared by Town's auditor, Lori Mercer, CA. General discussion held on these items. Ms Mercer has not confirmed the dated for 2020 audit. Discussion was held on all financial documents received from our auditor, Lori Mercer, CA. Concluding with the following motions.

Finances continued:

Motion #008-2021 M. Noseworthy/S. Greene

Resolved that Council adopt the Town of Badger 2019 Financial Statements as presented by our auditor, Lori Mercer, Professional Accountant.

Vote:

In Favor 5: E. Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
S. Greene; M. Noseworthy.

Opposed 0:

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion #009-2021 N. Blackwood/S. Greene

Resolved that Council adopt the Town of Badger Annual Expenditure Report Gas Tax Funding 2019 as presented by our auditor, Lori Mercer, Chartered Professional Accountant.

Vote:

In Favor 5: E. Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
S. Greene; M. Noseworthy.

Opposed 0:

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion #010-2021 N. Blackwood/M. Noseworthy

Resolved that Council adopt the Town of Badger Tax Recovery Plan and Tax Receivable Summary as presented by our auditor, Lori Mercer, Chartered Professional Accountant.

Vote:

In Favor 5: E. Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
S. Greene; M. Noseworthy

Opposed 0:

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Other Business:

1. Deputy Mayor Butt said that a resident asked him about the Town having a Fall Clean-up. General discussion on having a dumpster at the Town Depot for a week in the Fall. If you separate the debris the cost would be less. You would need someone to monitor the drop-off. It was agreed that maybe we could do one week and have residents drop off their debris with no road side pickup. Check will be made on the cost for drop-off and dumpster rental.

2. Councillor Greene brought up the issue of COVID-19 funding that the Town missed out on due to an email that got missed because the Town Manager was on annual leave and the Relief Clerk did not had access to the email. This issue comes from a discussion that was held on Facebook. Councillor Greene said she was not here to blame anyone but the Town lost out on \$150,000 in funding as well as a \$10,000 for the arena and \$2,000 Sports and Recreation grant. Councillor Greene felt obligated to bring this issue to Council. Mayor Card explained that the Town Manager was not away on leave and did forward him an email about the funding which went to his junk mail first. He said there was only a 2 week window for submitting the application with the deadline being December 7, 2021. He said in dealing with issues with the pumps in the lift station, sewer line problems and preparing the 2021 Budget there wasn't time to get the application submitted. Councillor Greene asked why a group text wasn't sent to Council advising of the funding.

With regards to the Relief Clerk not having access to the townofbadger@gmail.com Town Clerk/ Manager said that was the first email address the Town had and that's the one she uses similar to when all councillors had town emails. The Relief Clerk used the Info@townofbadger.ca which is noted on the Town's Website. Town Clerk/Manager will forward emails to the Relief Clerk at info@townofbadger.ca The Town Manager said the last time she was away from the office the Relief Clerk had access to the email because it was open for the entire time. Mayor Card explained that the Relief Clerk does not do all parts of the Town Clerk/Manager's job. Mayor said an email was sent to Chris Tibbs to see if there was anything

Other Business continued:

we could do maybe submit a late application. This funding is on an 90/10 cost shared based and Council will have to decide what it wants to do. Discussion on going forward and dealing with funding grants. Town Clerk/Manager does not research grants other than summer student employment. It was suggested that maybe we could have the Relief Clerk take a day or two a month and research government website looking for funding. Councillor Greene had information on a funding program called "Second Harvest". Mayor Card said that he received a call from Kellie Karpan offering to do a proposal for the Town to apply for "Second Harvest" funding. General discussion and some councillors felt that the Town could apply and the Relief Clerk could complete the application.

Councillor Greene asked Deputy Mayor Butt if he had looked for funding for the proposed dressing room project at the Stadium. He advised that he had not.

Councillor Greene had information for funding under the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Councillor Greene spoke to Kristy Sheppard coordinator for the funding. Ms Sheppard suggested we submitted our application for the April 2nd deadline. Ms Sheppard is willing to do a presentation with Council on the application process. It was felt that the Relief Clerk could work on this application for Council during her time doing researching for other funding that may benefit the Town. General discussion continued.

3. Councillor Noseworthy said this is "Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week" and we have to decided what we are doing for them this year. Last year we sent coffee and a tray of sandwiches from Robin's. Deputy Mayor Butt felt that maybe more could be done this year. A lengthily discussion was held on what to do this year given COVID-19 restrictions. It was agreed that a sandwich tray, a desert tray and coffee/tea etc as well as a one hundred dollar (\$100) Robin's gift card be sent to teachers and staff of Avoca Collegiate. Council Noseworthy will look after delivery.

Adjournment:

Motion #011-2021 N. Blackwood/M. Noseworthy

Resolved that there being no further discussion Council will now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Vote:

**In Favor 5: E . Card; D. Butt; N. Blackwood;
S. Greene; M. Noseworthy.**

Opposed 0;

Abstained 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

Mayor

Town Clerk/Manager