

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Ways and Means Committee held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. In attendance were Mayor Myron Dyck, Deputy Mayor John Funk, Councillors John Falk, Kevin Stott and Chris Wiebe, G. Jim Buys (CAO) and Audrey Neufeld (recording secretary).

1. Niverville Chamber of Commerce executive representatives joined the committee meeting (7:00 a.m.) and reviewed the following topics with Council:
 - a. Requested an update on the Niverville Business Forum being held on December 9th. Chamber representative Helen Sparrow will provide a brainstorming ice-breaker game with Council leading several table top discussions followed by a brief survey.
 - b. Communities of Niverville branding. Chamber is looking for suggestions on how the Chamber could be involved. Council stated that currently it is examining the scope of the project to ensure it is broad in its application and not focused on any one special interest group. Using the “where you belong” Town slogan is open for consideration.
 - c. REAP follow-up – Chamber indicated it plans to meet with Ritchot Chamber on developing business opportunities on a regional level. Council indicated it has plans to network with other municipalities as opportunities present themselves.
 - d. Where You Belong Promotional Video – Chamber is working on getting the video to play on their website home page as well as looking for other opportunities around Town where the video could be displayed.
 - e. Economic Development Officer – Following up on an election statement by certain councillors, Chamber asked if the matter is being pursued. Council indicated it would review the position of economic development officer during their 2015 planning session.
 - f. Adding members to Council – Chamber inquired on another election statement as to the possibility of adding 1 or 2 councillors. The Municipal Act provides that a council may change the number of councillors by by-law. The by-law must be passed 180 or more days before the next general election to take effect at the next general election. Chamber suggestion to engage at sub-committee level with non-elected candidates who may wish to volunteer their service.
 - g. Chamber asked for status of Community Campus development with Council responding that this matter will be discuss during their planning session. Consideration needs to be given to determining the percentage of supportive residents needed to move forward with the aquatic centre project or any project.
 - h. Chamber is interest in seeing a new School/Daycare facilities. Council reported that the Hanover School Division’s current addition at NES will work towards

achieving the provincial 20/20 mandate (20 children/class). Chamber was directed to encourage parents to lobby the Province/HSD trustee for a new school.

- i. First Impressions Community Exchange – Exchange took place between Niverville and Stonewall with gaps in services identified and a community plan of action needed to be developed. MAFRI is willing to be involved. Provincial grant deadline is December 15th and Chamber will encourage specific businesses to take part. Chamber to provide copy of Stonewall's evaluation for Council's planning session.
2. Staff members Ryan Dyck (Operations manager) and Chantel Gadiant (Recreation Director) joined the meeting.
 - a. Reviewed in contract form the terms of current agreement with CIS. Blocks of time have been rented to CIS for 2014/2015 season. Dressing room policy has proved to be efficient for ensuring the timely departure of players from the dressing room. There will be significant scheduling challenges due to competing ice times in the 2015/16 with staff to take initiative in spring 2015 to address. (Dawn Penner joined the meeting)
Staff are requesting a policy directive from Council to determine the allocation guidelines for priority for ice times. Council to review at planning session.

Suggestion was made for using an outdoor rink to supplement ice times. Ryan/Chantel to meet with user groups (CIS/Ringette) to determine how they can share ice time. Suggestion was given to consider charging a premium rate for prime time ice.

Ryan to research a price for a cover-all that would be suitable for use with an outdoor rink and also for indoor soccer.

- b. Curling Rink – policy decision required from council on percentage of subsidy (current 53%, proposed 50%) on rates. Council to review how to manage limited resources (short/long term goals) – planning session.

Staff request to have NCC contract reviewed at the end of the season (March) rather than waiting until the start of the next season with Council's policy setting direction.

Chantel to market curling opportunities and contact the Chamber to see if interest can be generated in a business curling bonspiel. Other options including working with community youth groups.

- c. Programming – need support from HSD for joint use agreement. Jim to follow up with Randy Dueck (*Kevin Heide is the HSD contact person*) to ascertain current status of HSD’s compliance with provincial directives.

Suggestions for new classes include banking 101, filing your own income tax or business plan writing.

- d. General arena report:
 - 1. Arena’s upgraded hot water system is apparently providing an increase in ice quality. Other improvements relating to ice making techniques and staff training have resulted in no concerns with ice quality to date.
 - 2. Policy for bleacher heater use will remain as is. Policy is posted with staff to direct inquiries to the policy.
 - 3. Olympia was repaired prior to the season. Unfortunately several breakdowns have occurred with a rental unit being acquired during down time. Operations manager looking to Council for policy as to at what point will the cost of repairs necessitate replacement. Cost analysis on repairs will be provided in due course.
- e. Equipment – Current general policy is working to replace equipment on a 20 year interval though some equipment due to limited use would provide exceptions. Council’s consensus is that equipment replacement should be determined on a case by case basis based on cost/benefit analysis only.
- f. Outdoor rinks on lakes – currently staff time/wages are the main considerations for the feasibility of maintaining rinks on the lakes as lakes due to design, collect snow every time it blows. Councillor Wiebe agreed to provide specs for ice thickness. Council likes the idea of using lakes as a community winter attraction for special occasions.
- g. Office Complex – Council to discuss a long term solution to the shortage of working space and storage. Suggestion to use shed for temporary solution to storage challenges was after discussion, not deemed as a favourable alternative.
- h. Arena TV/Scheduling Software – Chantel recommended using Sport Engine as the software for displaying scheduling at the arena (whiteboard proving to be unsuitable). Suggestion was for Chantel to visit a community where this has been implemented to see how user friendly the software is and bring a report back to Council.
- i. Accounting Software – staff have been conducting research for new accounting software as current software has challenges/limitations. Cost estimates are between \$40,000 to \$75,000. Staff noted a requirement for software upgrades to

ensure a degree of consistency so that all departments can communicate with each other. I.T. consultant to determine what upgrades are required for 2015 budget.
(Ryan, Chantel, & Dawn left the meeting)

3. Re-zoning request – Council reviewed the Heritage Lane Builders request to re-zone 6 & 12 2nd Street S., a rezoning of lands which was previously considered in 2014. Consensus was that permission will be given to move forward with a two-step process, giving first reading to the by-laws at the December 16, 2014 Council meeting, with the public hearings to be scheduled for 2 different dates.

4. Chris Wiebe – Kevin Stott

That Committee move into camera to discuss matters respecting which discussion in public would prejudice the municipality's ability to carry out its activities or negotiations.
"Carried"

5. John Funk – John Falk

Councillor Wiebe was excused due to a perceived conflict of interest.
"Carried"

Councillor Wiebe rejoined the meeting.

6. Kevin Stott – John Falk

That the meeting of the committee of the whole be adjourned that Council resume its former order of business.
"Carried"

7. The committee meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.