

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting for the Hamlet of Taylor Beach
Saturday, May 14, 2022 10:00 AM
22 Lakeview Crescent

1. 10:00 Call to Order by Brian Holowatuk
2. Introduction of the residents and RM representatives. The name of those present is attached as per the signup sheets. Representing the Hamlet Board were Brian Holowatuk, Dwayne Heimlick and Laurie Low. Reeve Lee Carlson and RM Councilor Ron Palmer represented the RM. Minutes of the meeting were recorded by Shawna Holowatuk.
3. Approval of Agenda - Resident addition to add the subject of internet issues on Agenda. Brian confirmed that it was in the OTHER category. **Motion to approve Agenda with addition by Barb Kelly/ Carried**
4. Approval of Minutes of 2021 AGM from September 4, 2021– **Motion by Ron Kitchen to approve minutes as presented/ Carried**
5. Opening Remarks from Chair of the Hamlet Board - Brian opened with his thoughts regarding the state of the Hamlet:
 - Brian thanked everyone including the social committee for their participation in making the community better and moving to a common goal. Also, he extended the board's appreciation for contributing to clean up days, and how residents help to take care of things. We should be proud of volunteers –their work lowers the costs for Hamlet.
 - We have a great relationship with the RM.
 - This last year had another financial surplus and there have been multiple years of mill rate reductions. Our mill rate is likely the lowest in the province. The financial state of Hamlet is very strong. The current 2022 plan is to deal with increased costs and maintain our current mill rate. We reduced our mill rate for the last 3 years and the goal is to maintain 1.75 for the next few years. However, we will be seeing more increased costs for our share of the RM operations which may affect this going forward.
 - The board met approximately 7 times already this year.
 - Brian talked about the 2021 surplus being very strong. It does continue to grow and it is a challenge sometimes to complete projects as was the case in 2021. We predict that our upcoming construction projects will have a 10% increase in costs due to the cost of materials required. Road construction is a competitive industry but continues to cost more each year.
 - Our plan is to continue to complete capital projects each year and get the gas tax rebate.
6. Dwayne reviewed the Financial Details. The December 2021 Final Results were sent electronically to all the residents using the Hamlet Gmail account prior to the meeting. The 2021 budget compared to actuals:

- Revenue was down by \$4,000 from Gas Tax in 2021. We were not able to apply for the Gas Tax as two of our 2021 planned projects were not completed, we were not able to collect on gas tax grant – covid caused some things to not get done or to be done more slowly.

- Expense Budget Variances - a resident addressed the soft spots on Invercauld to Lee Carlson. This project was not completed in 2021 and resulted in a positive variance of \$28,000. Lee reviewed last year's cost sharing arrangement where the RM and the Hamlet would share the cost to resurface the road. Taylor Beach's share would cost 50% of the repairs and the RM would pay 50%. A resident noted that contribution from the Hamlet is not a requirement but the arrangement allows for pavement to continue to be used near the Hamlet. This project has been allocated for completion in 2022 to mill the old surface, repack and put a pavement top on it. Lee confirmed that milling the old surface into the base strengthens the base and adds stability.

- A resident raised a question: Why have RM Administration Expenses risen 30% which is significant? Brian replied that more staff are working in RM. Also as more financial review was done by the RM it was discovered that not all administrative costs were being passed along to the Hamlets. Time expenditures, with associated costs are being charged now that weren't charged before. Administration costs will likely rise with additional service charges and inflation. Lee Carlson confirmed that actual administration cost is mostly salaries and admin service charges which have increased. Since covid, costs have gone up substantially. RM fire services for the RM were \$17,665 in 2021, now this cost is budgeted to increase to \$31,975 in 2022. In 2019 fire protection costs for the Hamlet were \$933, then \$112 in 2020 and , then ended up \$1,766 in 2021 and going up substantially next year. Municipality police services used to be absorbed by the RM but now are being passed along to the Hamlets.

- Another resident commented that road repairs like those on the Taylor Street turnaround are required due to damage from larger vehicles – septic trucks gouge the pavement. How can we make large trucks responsible? Lee Carlson confirmed that the RM is limited to what we can do. Letter can be sent to the suppliers to try to minimize damage and lobby them but we can't stop them. It's not residential traffic that causes damage but it is the big heavy vehicles. Brian agreed that maintenance around that turnaround is going to be high unless we just gravel it and so we all must encourage large truck drivers to be respectful.

- Dwayne presented the 2022 Hamlet of Taylor Beach Budget – Taxable assessment is up from last year. The revenue from the Gas Tax will be applied for as a credit if we spend it on an approved project.

- Discretionary expense detail: Board expenses include the PARCs Convention if someone attends, Zoom subscription used for the online meetings and Survey Monkey used for the annual resident survey.

- We increased the amount allocated for volunteer gift cards to \$2,000.
- We built in budget money for the use of the road crew/maintenance.
- Our largest project will be for the milling and resurface of Invercauld where we allocated \$28,000.

- We have allocated an additional \$2,500 to last year's reserve amount for flood protection (land topography and water runoff modeling).

- There will be no reduction in costs for dust proofing from last year.

- We allocated \$800 for social club activities.

- The Lakeview Crescent road preparation project will be completed and we have budgeted \$6,500 for this.

- In discussions with the RM, it is believed that our share of increased policing and fire protection will total \$3,200.
- Lee Carlson confirmed that the RM Finance Committee has discovered that both the Hamlet of Taylor Beach and Pasqua Lake have not been paying their share of Governance expenses. This amounted to \$30,000 annually for the past 4 years. These costs have been passed along to the Hamlets this year. We added \$3,000 for governance in the budget for this cost.
- The Hamlet of Pasqua Lake continues to consider becoming a village. A resident asked if we were paying for the legal fees required to defend the RM for the nuisance complaints. Lee confirmed that the RM is absorbing these legal fees.
- A resident asked if land owners pay for the cost of Stars Ambulance. Lee confirmed that he would have to enquire. The Hamlet pays for the cost of fire protection services for the Hamlet.
- Total allocated costs for 2022 are expected to be \$61,500, we will reduce our Reserve by \$26,000 if the budget is spent as planned.
- Dwayne presented a summary of the gift cards distributed/held. The RM sent out \$1,095 and we have \$310 worth of cards in the office to be used yet.

7. The consultant we have hired to gather the information for the Environmental Project was scheduled to attend the AGM and provide a presentation of the work completed on the project and to meet with residents after the meeting. Unfortunately he was called away unexpectedly so he was unable to attend. The board will reschedule the meeting for later when we can. Brian confirmed that the work being performed consists of consolidating and mapping data using accurate ground level elevations and topography. The consultant has been measuring water inflows to calculate risk levels from watershed process and developing hydraulic models using creek flows and the land characteristics. We need to understand the Hamlet's current elevations and the risks. His initial conclusions have supported the risk mitigating value of the previously performed berm work recommended by the WSA. With this information, future projects will be recommended based on conclusions drawn from that data so we can protect ourselves in the future.

A resident questioned on how the data will be archived. Brian explained that the much of the data used was provided from the military. Brian confirmed that the Board's intent is to archive it and not to pay over and over again so the information will be shared with the appropriate agencies and the RM as much as is possible.

8. Social committee update –Lori Butterfield outlined upcoming activities planned including more Free Space Fridays and an event on July 1. Other potential ideas include a golf tournament in August, a fall potluck and perhaps a Christmas event. Suggestions are welcome. The Hamlet Board thanks Lori, Susan and Barb for their work.

9. Laurie reminded the residents that we need to use the signup sheet for the meeting and asked them to add new contact information so that we can continue to be in touch.

Laurie thanked the many volunteers who make this Hamlet so special. The work that the volunteers do saves us money so please nominate your neighbors when you see them helping out.

Projects – Laurie confirmed that the Invercauld project will go ahead this summer. Last summer we chose to stretch the useful life of the pavement that is there but now it is overdue for work. Lee also confirmed that there was a shortage of cold mix as well in 2021 but that it is going to be repaired this summer.

Projects – Brian outlined that Lakeview Crescent low spots will be built up.

Projects – Brian confirmed that the 3 year process to complete the dust proofing on Invercauld is complete so we plan to use grading only for ongoing maintenance. Both Elva and Victoria dust proofing will be completed again as well as parts of Lakeview Crescent and the section of road connected to Taylor Street. All of this should be completed with a budget of \$1000.

Projects – Brian confirmed that we will need to do something to change the road to the recycle bins and two residents offered suggestions to accomplish this. We will work with the individuals who have purchased the new lot adjacent to the existing road.

Projects – Laurie announced that a group of residents wished to present a proposal to the residents regarding a new recreational project which was first suggested in 2021.

- Lori Butterfield introduced the individuals working on a new community funded recreational facility (Wanda Smith-Windsor, Jim Paskaruk, Lori Butterfield, Lorrie Giesbrecht, Dawn Morin, and Kendra Morin).
- The plan was confirmed to have a facility which will provide activities for multiple age groups and interests, not just a playground. The initial structure will appeal to an age group between 2 to 12. It will be a multi-year project which will likely cost between \$40,000 to \$50,000 supported by Hamlet fundraising, resident contributions, grants, and private vendor sponsorships.
- Jim Paskaruk outlined the location of the facility in the RM owned land between Lakeview Crescent and Victoria Street. Lori confirmed her intention to the request to the residents that Hamlet Board provide \$10,000 for the project in the 2022 budget so that when a structure is selected that a deposit could be paid to lock in the cost while fundraising continues.
- A resident asked where the Stars Ambulance was going to land. Lori confirmed that there is adequate space to accommodate their use and that a consultant from Stars has been contacted to provide input into the best location for their landings.
- A resident asked if the \$10,000 would have to come out of Reserve. The resident reminded the group that in the event that we experienced another flooding situation like in 2009, a reserve of \$110,000 could easily be spent. A resident proposed that we do not allow the reserve to drop to an amount less than \$124,000.
- Discussion of the wording of proposed motion. **Motion by Lori Butterfield that Taylor Beach Hamlet supports the proposed site for a recreational facility and to make a \$10,000 contribution from the 2022 budget.** Discussion if the motion should not include the location in case Stars doesn't approve the location. Discussion on the road width of Victoria Street at 66 feet. Discussion regarding additional wording. Resident question if the removal of the \$10,000 from reserve requires RM approval. Brian confirmed that it does not. Discussion if there is a minimum reserve amount requirement. Lee confirmed that there no set legislation to direct reserve amounts but they

have the power to request changes to amounts held. Dwayne reminded the residents that our target was to maintain a reserve equal to 1 year's expenses which we are compliant with. Discussion to change the location. Change motion to "Preferred site".

Motion by Lori Butterfield that the Hamlet support the development and installation of a recreational area for community use at the preferred location and to approve funding of \$10,000 from the 2022 budget to move forward.

Vote by a show of hands: 29 For, 1 Opposed. Motion Carried. Adoption of this motion to spend \$10,000 at the preferred location with the money coming out of the 2022 budget.

Lee Carlson reminded the residents that the Hamlet Board cannot control the money for any project or donation. The money collected by donations will have to be held by the RM.

10. Brian reported to the group that an internet problem has been identified by residents living along Taylor Street. Some residents cannot get 10 Meg into their homes. Katepwa Village got quote for 25/50Meg internet service and the cost varied substantially with fiber quote \$2,000,000 and a copper wire solution costing 30% of that price. Fiber is future but the costs are very high. Wireless off the tower is a strategy that may allow others to get higher speeds than today in the next few years. Hamlet Board has request into SaskTel for higher speed offerings for the end of Taylor beach but the cost could be \$20,000 or \$200,000. Brian confirmed that everyone should be able to get a 10Meg service from SaskTel, if not it should be a trouble call into SaskTel. He reminded the residents that level of service is approximately 10Meg on a wired line not wifi.

11. Lee Carlson provided an update on the potential of using the new sewage treatment plant located outside of Lebret. It has been working well for 3 months and the Village is waiting for an engineering report to see if they have any excess capacity. The facility is owned equally by the Star Blanket First Nation and the Village of Lebret.

12. A resident enquired about the minutes from the last year's AGM. In the September 4, 2021 minutes, there was a discussion and vote regarding a change to the base taxes on undeveloped vacant lots. A resident asked why a Hamlet motion passed years ago to have a different tax base for developed vacant lots was not enforced. Brian confirmed that the motion to change the base tax was revisited in 2021 and defeated by a vote of residents. A resident reminded the meeting that the Hamlet Board doesn't have a lot of power. Lee Carlson confirmed that he didn't know why the original motion was not acted on but the RM sets the base tax and the Hamlet can ask for a change but the RM doesn't have to act on the motion. Brian acknowledged that governance had been missed.

13. A resident asked if the "No Swimming" warning signs had been approved by the Board. Laurie confirmed that signs had been ordered by the RM for the point and the two easements. The signs for the easements were installed on existing posts in the fall but the "No Swimming" signs will be installed this spring.

14. Election of a Board Member. Laurie confirmed that Brian's term expires in 2022. Laurie called for nominations. Dwayne nominated Brian. No further nominations. Brian is affirmed as a Hamlet Board member by acclamation.

15. Brian announced the decision that the next year's AGM be held on Saturday June 3, 2023 at 10 am. The date was moved from May to June based on several resident observations that a later date might allow non-permanent residents to attend if their properties are not winterized.

Motion made by Ron Kitchen to adjourn the meeting/ Carried

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm

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