



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council
The Town Council of Pouch Cove held
Monday, December 14, 2015**

PRESENT

Mayor:	Joedy Wall	Councillors:	Tish Williams
Deputy Mayor:	Mark Vardy		Robert Brink
			Roger Bill
			John Sainsbury
Town Manager/Clerk:	Barbara Tilley	Absent:	Rob Tizzard
Executive Clerk:	Susan O'Keefe		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor J. Wall called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

15-379 Motion: R. Brink/R. Bill

Motion to approve the agenda for December 14, 2015 as presented.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of Council held November 30, 2015

15-380 Motion: R. Brink/M. Vardy

Motion to approve the minutes of a Regular Council Meeting dated November 30, 2015 as presented.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

4. BUSINESS ARISING

There is no Business Arising from the previous minutes.

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

A. FCM Membership 2016

15-381 Motion: M. Vardy/J. Sainsbury

Motion to defer approval until more information on cost is obtained.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

B. Appointing of Commissioner

15-382 Resolution: J. Sainsbury/R. Brink

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Pouch Cove appoint Tom Strickland as the 2016 Commissioner to hear Appeals in correspondence with the Municipal Assessment Agency.

Resolution: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

2016 POUCH COVE MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTES

Our budget shows an increase in spending of 2.9%.

Our total expenditures are budgeted at \$1.978 million. This includes \$100,000 earmarked for capital costs.

It should be noted that our revenues include \$48,000 from leasing land for the Expro tool perforation project.

We are working with a new property assessments for this budget. Our total assessed value is up by approximately 20%. Some of that would be attributable to natural growth in the community and general inflation. As a council we must determine what portion of the increase is the amount that should be taken off the mill rate.

We reviewed our spending requirements for 2016 and beyond. We have an aging infrastructure including a large backlog of roads to be paved or repaired. We are looking forward to having our new water treatment plant. New federal regulations require expensive monitoring of our sewage flows and will likely require a treatment plant in the future.

The state of our infrastructure can greatly impact our finances, including spending on unbudgeted emergency repairs. In 2015 we had costs of \$242,000 on water and sewer repairs and upgrades which were more than twice what we had anticipated. We were able to absorb these costs because of \$150,000 in capital costs earmarked in our 2014 budget. We did not spend that money and then brought it forward in our 2015 budget.

We concluded that reducing our mill rate to 5.25 from 6.0 would be fair. We are removing the separate mill rate for commercial property. Instead all properties will have the same rate. We hope this will reduce confusion regarding property and business taxes. Instead we will increase business mill rate to 14 from 10. We have reinstated categories for parks and day cares with those business tax rates set at 20 and 5 mils respectively.

Water and sewer rates have not increased since 2010. We calculated that the current rates cover less than 50% of the costs of providing the services. As mentioned, we spent over \$242,000 on water and sewer repairs and upgrades in 2015. These numbers are not included in the annual costs. A large portion of these costs are part of the repairs necessary to qualify for the funding of our new water treatment plant. Others were incurred to simply keep the water running and provide adequate water pressure for the fire department.

We have therefore decided to increase water and sewer rates from \$160 to \$200 respectively.

We have proposed no other changes to the fee schedule.

C. Fee Structure 2016

15-383 Resolution: R. Brink/M. Vardy

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Pouch Cove adopt the 2016 Fee Structure as presented.

Resolution: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams

Against: J. Sainsbury

Councillor J. Sainsbury advised that he was not in favor of the proposed increase in the water and sewer fees.

D. Budget 2016

15-384 Resolution: R. Brink/R. Bill

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Pouch Cove adopt the 2016 Budget as presented.

Resolution: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

E. Vacation Payout

15-385 Motion: R. Brink/T. Williams

Motion to pay out Town Foreman's Vacation Time for 2015.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

F. Gas Detector (Revisit)

15-386 Motion: M. Vardy/J. Sainsbury

Motion to approve Hazmasters quote in the amount of \$7525.80 for two gas detectors and one bump station.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

G. RNCA – 25th Annual Community Guide

15-387 Motion: R. Brink/R. Bill

Motion to purchase a 1/10th page advertisement in the RNCA 25th Annual Crime Prevention Guide.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams

Against: J. Sainsbury

Councillor J. Sainsbury advised that he was not in favor of the advertisement as we could spend the money on other things.

H. Environment Committee – New Member

15-388 Motion: R. Brink/T. Williams

Motion to approve Gerry Walsh as a new member of the Environment Committee.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

15-389 Motion: T. Williams/R. Brink

Motion to approve Payables List dated December 14, 2015.

Motion: Carried

For: J. Wall, M. Vardy, R. Brink, R. Bill, T. Williams, J. Sainsbury

7. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

There is no Public Works Report for December 14, 2015.

8. LIAISON REPORTS

Library

- After-school program numbers have dropped, therefore the Library Board will not be seeking funding from the Town for the upcoming year.

ICSP

- The Town received a letter from the ICSP committee looking for the town's support to ask Cal LeGrow Insurance with a sponsorship of a Speed Sign to be shared amongst the towns on Pouch Cove, Bauline and Flatrock.
- Mayor J. Wall advised that we currently use the RNC speed sign whenever needed, they will deliver the sign, leave it for 48 hours, and remove it. The RNC will download the data and use it for determining extra patrol times etc., and this has been working well for the Town since we started using it. Mayor J. Wall will reply to the ICSP letter with these concerns.
- Ken Pittman was asked to speak regarding an update of the Inventory of Natural Assets. He attended a meeting with Stephen Decker of Grenfell College where he explained that the ICSP Committee may be able to avail of their students to do environmental studies and research regarding the above noted project.

Jack Byrne Arena

- There is a meeting Thursday December 17, 2015. The name of the arena will officially be changed during this meeting.
- The Craft Council's Christmas Fair had record breaking numbers in November.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water

- Councillor R. Tizzard was absent from today's meeting, however, Mayor J. Wall will ask him to provide an update on the Water Treatment Plant project.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Councillor R. Brink wanted to thank everyone for participating in the Christmas events. The Breakfast with Santa, Parade, Tree Lighting, and Christmas in the Cove went very well and were all well attended.
- Mayor J. Wall thanked Deputy Mayor M. Vardy for preparing/decorating the Town's truck and to him and Councillor T. Williams for participating in the parade. Also a Thank you to Councillor R. Brink for taking photos throughout the day, and the Town staff for making everything possible.
- Christmas Story Hour with the Mayor is Thursday at 3:30pm
- The first Council meeting of the New Year will be January 11, 2016 and every three weeks thereafter.
- Councillor R. Bill advised of his resignation of Council as of today, December 14, 2015. Mayor J. Wall acknowledged Councillor R. Bill, thanked him for all his time and work he has put in with Council, and wished him well.
- Mayor J. Wall would like to extend a Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year.

11. ADJOURNMENT

15-390 Motion: R. Brink/T. Williams

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

ben. 

Barbara Tilley
Town Manager/Clerk



Joedy Wall
Mayor