

**AQUAFORTE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
August 8th, 2023**

ATTENDEES: Mayor – Deborah Windsor-Hynes
Deputy Mayor – Jerome Croft
Councilor – Elizabeth Croft
Councilor – Earon Kavanagh
Town Clerk – Aaron Croft

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Windsor-Hynes called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion to accept the agenda as presented for August 8th, 2023 by Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft, 2nd by Councilor Earon Kavanagh. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-76

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

a. Public Meeting – July 11th, 2023

Motion to adopt the minutes of Public Meeting – July 11th, 2023 by Councilor Liz Croft, 2nd by Councilor Earon Kavanagh. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-77

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

a. Federal Gas Tax Application

Clerk informed Council that the application was approved on July 19th, 2023 for \$64,125.00 of \$70,714.50. Remaining \$6,589.00 to be paid by The Town which will be recovered through GST/HST rebate. Tender for project not required as value does not exceed \$105,700 or \$264,200 for Capital Works Projects. Motion to contact initial contractor, Trevor Elliot Contracting, for estimated start date by Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft, 2nd by Councilor Earon Kavanagh. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-78

b. WorkplaceNL Training

Clerk informed Council of the \$100.00 cost for a mandatory training course required by WorkplaceNL. Motion to pay for training course by Councilor Earon Kavanagh, 2nd by

Councilor Liz Croft. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-79

c. ActiveNL Funding Opportunity

Council discussed submitting application for funding but decided any project ideas may be impacted by renovations and upgrades to the community center in the coming fall. Clerk informed Council of October 31st, 2023 deadline for applications. Council will revisit when dates for renovations have been confirmed.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Our Lady of Fatima Park Committee** – \$9,632.12
- b. **Recyclables** - \$84.30

6. FINANCES: (Report given by Town Clerk)

Accounts Receivable:	\$ 6,807.50
Accounts Payable:	\$12,401.53
Bank Balance:	\$68,378.77

Motion to accept the Financial Report as presented by Councilor Earon Kavanagh, 2nd by Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-80

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Incoming

- Reply – Dept. of Transportation – Areas of Concern

Clerk informed Council that the brush has been cut from the speed limit sign on Loop Rd. North end. Other brush cutting on Spout Hill, throughout the community, and by Southwest Bridge will be completed in the future. Clerk also informed Council of follow-up email sent to Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Engineering Division for an update on the wash-outs below the St. Phillip's Anglican Church and on White's Turn, but received no reply as of meeting time.

b. Outgoing

- None

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Request from Resident – Loop Road

A resident on Loop Road has requested the Town consider installing "Children At Play" signs on Loop Road after several close calls this summer. Council discussed requesting approval from the Department of Transportation to reinstall speed bumps in the area as

well. Clerk will contact the Department of Transportation and request the "Children At Play" signs be installed by the department and request approval to reinstall the speed bumps currently owned by Council.

b. Billing New Residents

Council was informed of several residents living in the community that have not been billed for Poll Tax for 2023. Council discussed pro-rating the billing or billing for the entire year. As residents have been known to be living in the community all year, council decided to bill the residents for the full year. Motion to bill for the full 2023 year by Councilor Earon Kavanagh, 2nd by Councilor Liz Croft. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-81

c. Cose v. Town of Aquaforte

Council discussed issuing payment to settle legal dispute. Motion to issue payment and send a letter to plaintiff, and notify lawyers of the same by Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft, 2nd by Councilor Earon Kavanagh. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-82

d. Utility Distribution Lines

Councilor Earon Kavanagh brought forth the issue of abandoned and decommissioned distribution lines through out the community. Council discussed the dangers of these lines being left in areas that could be a danger to the public and wildlife. Motion to send letters to the utility companies with assets in the community to have decommissioned and abandoned distribution lines removed and cleaned up by Councilor Earon Kavanagh, 2nd by Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-83

e. Southern Shore Climate Initiative Update

Clerk informed Council of report by Engineering Students presented to the Southern Shore Joint Council on August 1st via zoom meeting. All assessment work has been completed and reports forwarded to Municipalities Newfoundland Labrador and Engineering Division of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Aquaforte local roads rated "failed" for both road surface rating and drainage rating. Information collected by students will be available to assist with potential future projects.

f. Gahan's Hill Cemetery

Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft raised the issue of the Cemetery at Gahan's Hill needing landscaping maintenance and suggested Council hire someone to clear the area. Mayor Deborah Windsor-Hynes informed Council that this cemetery is a family cemetery on private land and it would be inappropriate for Council to pay for any maintenance repairs. Mayor Windsor-Hynes suggested the Town focus on the public cemeteries that

are in dire need of maintenance and repairs. Clerk will verify that the cemetery committee no longer exists, and will then put a call out to the community via social media and mailed flyers to residents to form a new Cemeteries Committee.

g. Crown Lands Application

Council discussed Crown Land in the area of old McNamara Ball Field being available for grant and potential uses. Area ideally located for potential campgrounds and other amenities appealing to users of the East Coast Trail system. Motion to submit application to Crown Lands for grant for potential future development by Councilor Liz Croft, 2nd by Councilor Earon Kavanagh. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-84

h. New Horizons for Seniors Funding Opportunity

Clerk attended information session for program funding on August 1st. Grants up to \$25,000 available for projects focusing on seniors led by seniors. Deadline for applications is September 14th, 2023. No project ideas for this program currently. Council will revisit applying for funding when community center upgrades have been completed

9. NEXT MEETING: September 12th, 2023, at 3:30pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:03pm by Deputy Mayor Jerome Croft, 2nd by Councilor Liz Croft pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ref.#AC2023-85

Deborah Windsor-Hynes
Debbie Windsor-Hynes – Mayor

Aaron Croft
Aaron Croft – Town Clerk

Date: Sept 12, 2023

Date: Sept 12, 2023