

**MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2014  
TOWN OF TRAYTOWN**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Mayor**            John Baird  
**Deputy Mayor** Shannon Carter  
**Councillors:**   Colleen Denty  
                      Jason Patten  
                      Wilfred Janes

**Gallery:**        Guy Wells, Maxwell Kean, Donald Osborne, Jeff Patten, Michael Ralph, Phillip Hunter, Melvin Arnold, Donna Chaffey, Mark Chaffey, Barry Cramm, Daniel Garrett

**Mayor Baird called the meeting to order at 7PM**

**Councillor Patten moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of a petition against (Property Tax) seconded by Deputy Mayor Carter, all in favour, motion carried**

**Councillor Denty move to adopt the minutes of August 4, 2014 as presented, seconded by Deputy Mayor Carter, all in favour, motion carried.**

**PETITION**

A petition stating: "Petition To Traytown Council – We, the undersigned residents of Traytown wish to draw the attention of Traytown council to the following: We are not in agreement with nor desire property tax. THEREFORE, your petitioners request that the Traytown council not pursue this issue of property tax." was presented to council. The petition contains 89 signatures of "residents" of Traytown.

Council indicated the decision to implement property tax had already been taken because of various problems with administering the poll tax, including difficulties in tax collection, inequity in the system, lack of taxation on unoccupied properties, a continual increase in the number of residents requesting a poll tax exemption, and the need for more stable revenues for financing future infrastructure and operations. Government has informed Council that with Poll Tax the funding available will always be questioned because of the problems associated with collecting Poll Tax.

Summary of remarks from Gallery – Property Tax will divide the community and give the council too much power. Residents don't want Traytown Council to have the power to kick people out of their homes for not paying their property tax. The seniors in this town built this town and they already paid their taxes in the past, it is up to the younger ones to pay the way now. The people of Traytown don't want change, they want everything to stay as it is. If council needs more money, increase the Poll Tax but don't bring in Property Tax. Traytown is just fine the way it is.

Remark: Maybe Council should explain Property Tax to the residents so they have a better understanding why the Council is going in that direction.

Answer: Property Tax does not mean an increase in taxes it means a more stable tax for the community to pay for the day to day running of the town.

Remark: Who wants water? By the survey you did no one in Traytown wants Glovertown water.

Answer: We are not necessarily talking about Glovertown water. Property taxes are necessary for improving all services that the town needs.

Question: Will council make the decision to amend the motion to bring in Property Tax? That petition is only part of Traytown, the committee with the petition will be going to all the rest of the homes in Traytown and bringing in the rest of the list as soon as it is ready.

Question: If three people are paying in one home now, will that change with Property Tax?

Answer: Two people who own the home will get a Property Tax invoice together the third one if Traytown decides to keep Poll Tax would get a Poll Tax invoice.

Question: What are the charges going to be for vacant land?

Answer: The mill rate for all types of property, including vacant land, will be determined by Council after the Municipal Assessment Agency has submitted its report with the assessment of all properties in Traytown.

Remark: I call for the Mayor's resignation.

Answer: That is not going to happen.

Question: With regards to the roads it doesn't matter how much work you do on them, the contractor is going to have all the class A pushed off as soon as he grades. The roads are much too wide all over town.

Answer: We have to take the lowest tender received and it doesn't matter who the contractor is the same thing happens. The council is spending \$55,000.00 on Balsam Lane this year to upgrade the area from the brook to the bottom of Line Hill. The culvert crossing the brook will be looked at in next year's budget. Council has to have the ability to do projects in the town. The Town applied for Capital Works Project in the amount of \$286,000.00 this year but the government provided enough for a \$100,000 project. We need a more stable tax base if we want to access higher capital works funding in the future.

Council has received the petition and will review it.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM AUGUST 4, 2014**

WEB PAGE – Traytown has a new email address: [townoftraytown@eastlink.ca](mailto:townoftraytown@eastlink.ca)

FINANCE REPORT – Review of revenues and expenses from August 1 to September 1.

SEWER MAINTENANCE - Councillor Patten has talked to Mr. Ray Baker, Baker's Plumbing and Heating. Mr. Baker will service the lift station as soon as the town has purchased a pressure pump and water tank. Councillor Patten has ordered the pressure pump and water tank and will have Mr. Baker service the lift station as soon as it arrives. Mr. Elvis Feltham, Feltham's Construction has been too busy to service the manholes, Councillor Patten will keep trying to have the manholes serviced as soon as possible. The light requested for the lift station will need a pole to place the light on, the cost of the pole and the light will average around \$24 per month. The cost would be over three hundred dollars per year to be used maybe a couple of times. The council will not be purchasing the new light for the lift station at this time.

STREET LIGHT BALSAM LANE – a request has come in to the clerk for a street light on or near the turn on Balsam Lane around the area of the brook crossing the road. Work has been ordered for this area of road with the road upgrades. There has been a couple of accidents on Balsam Lane near the brook. Council will have two signs made showing sharp turn and will look at moving the street light in the area to give maximum light coverage.

AMALGAMATION FEASIBILITY STUDY – The Whey Group has informed council they will meet with the Town Clerk on Monday September 8, 2014 @ 2:00pm, the Traytown Council @ 6:00pm and the town meeting will be held at 7:30pm. Notices will be sent to each household in the community before the meeting is held.

QUARRY – Mr. William Oldford, Quarry Inspector has not provided the zoning law boundaries to the town as they have requested.

CLEAN UP WEEK – The town will have October 6-10, 2014 as the second clean up week.

CANADA POST – The hours of the Traytown Post Office have been cut to half days (9AM to 1 PM).

WARMING CENTER – Councillor Janes reports that the concrete pad has been poured and the electrical work is ready for hook up. The Canadian Armed Forces are doing the majority of the work and the center will be ready for this winter if it is needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MUNICIPAL CAPITAL WORKS PROJECT – ROADS** - DMG Engineering is working on the tendering aspect of the project and expects to have bids in by September 17, 2014.

**PROPERTY TAX** – Discussion took place about giving a presentation on Property Tax to the residents explaining the rates and special discounts for seniors etc. Council will look at this again when they have reviewed the property tax assessment from MAA.

**INSURANCE** - The town's commercial insurance will have to be renewed before September 17, 2014. The amount of the insurance is \$1,571.00. LeGrow's insurance would like to know if the town would like to purchase extra insurance for the town for errors and omissions that is not covered under the commercial insurance. The clerk will check with Mr. Edison Goodyear, Regional Director, Municipal Affairs for advice on purchasing this insurance. Staff and council are covered under the Municipalities Act 1999, do they need extra insurance?

**Councillor Patten moved to pay the Commercial Insurance, seconded by Councillor Janes, all in favour, motion carried.**

**COMPLAINT ABOUT PLAYGROUND** – a complaint has come in about the loitering of teenagers in the playground night time using vulgar language and drinking. The council will contact the RCMP and request they do a drive by the area to curtail this problem. The next newsletter the clerk could ask if there is anyone interested in volunteering their time to lock the playground at sunset every night. The playground will be locked the winter to prevent the vandalism.

**LIABILITY INSURANCE** – The clerk will contact LeGrow's Insurance and request a price for insurance to cover volunteers – (Councillors, recreation workers, etc.) doing work for the Town that could get injured while volunteering.

**MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION** - October 9 – 11, 2014 Corner Brook – Any councillors available for the convention – not at this time.

**PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS TRAINING FORUM** – Councillor Denty moved to have the town clerk attend the PMA Training Forum in Gander on September 18 and 19, 2014, seconded by Councillor Janes, all in favour, motion carried.

**GAS TAX – RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Traytown accepts the terms and conditions of the Gas Tax Agreement

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Traytown will use the Gas Tax as recommended by the Agreement

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Traytown will keep the Gas Tax money in a separate account

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Traytown Town Council moves to accept the terms and condition of the Gas Tax Agreement and will use the money for the best benefit of the town.

Moved by Councillor Patten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Carter, all in favour, motion carried.

**EXEMPTIONS** - Councillor Patten moved to approve the following exemptions:

#21 – Female income less than \$8,000.00 2014 Poll Tax

#22 – Male income less than \$10,000.00 - 2012, 2013 & 2014 Poll Tax

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carter, all in favour, motion carried.

**REPAIRS NEEDED** – The town hall ceilings, windows, roof, patio, walls and well have been repaired. The “Welcome to Traytown” sign at the border of Traytown and Terra Nova National Park is in need of Repair. Council Patten will have a look at this and try to have it repaired before the next meeting. The advertising board needs repairs and some of the signs are missing off the board that were placed there by customers. Council will deal with this issue at a later date.

**MOTION** – Councillor Janes moved to discuss and gather information on Property Tax for the public, seconded by Deputy Mayor Carter, all in favour, motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING** – Monday October 6, 2014

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Mayor's Signature

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Clerks Signature