



The Town of Placentia is pleased to present The Municipal Minute, a publication dedicated to providing residents with important information to highlight significant developments, milestones and other noteworthy items from the Council Chamber. The Municipal Minute will be published following each Public Council meeting.

PERIOD OF REMEMBRANCE

Town of Placentia launched the Poppy Campaign with an official opening at the Council Chambers with members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 33. The Period of Remembrance was commemorated with the annual Remembrance Day Parade and a graveside service for Lance Corporal John Francis King of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.



Emergency Response Training Participants

This training is imperative to keep our first responders well prepared in the event of need for their services. It also provides an opportunity for these groups to work together and be familiar with the resources they have accessible to them.



Mayor Power with Royal Canadian Legion President Val Careen and Treasurer Ian Walsh

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING EXERCISE

On November 6th there was an emergency response training exercise held in Argentia that involved members of Avalon North Wolverines Search and Rescue, Placentia Fire Department, RCMP and Power's Ambulance. This training included a motor vehicle accident, evidence tracking, accidental shooting of a lost hunter and an ATV roll over resulting in a trapped casualty.



Volunteer Firefighters vehicle extraction training exercise

The Town of Placentia thanks all first responders for their service to our community and commends all involved in this exercise for their interest in maintaining and developing their skills.



WATER SUPPLY

Council noted issues raised by residents about water quality in Dunville. Public Works staff are working on the Dunville Plant to help alleviate this problem; however, age of infrastructure is an issue when sourcing parts and implementing repairs. Recent environmental conditions, including heavy rainfall also contribute to the water quality. Council noted that the water is tested locally on a daily basis and quarterly by the province and is reported to be safe for human consumption.

The vertical turbine pumps for Jersey Side Pump House have arrived. One has been installed, tested and commissioned, and is running with no issues. The second is set to be installed in the very near future.

Council remains committed to working toward the implementation of the recommendations of the water supply study commissioned in 2013 and expects to begin the next phase of infrastructure improvements in Spring 2017 using funding secured through the Clean Water Waste Water Program. Council also awaits the opening of the application process for 2017 Multi-Year Capital Works program by the Department of Municipal Affairs to request additional funds from the province to assist with continued phased implementation of the project.

HARBOUR DRIVE

Council has received a concept and preliminary price estimate for improvements to Harbour Drive that would address concerns in relation to erosion of the shoreline. This will be used to aid future discussions and funding opportunities for this project.

MEETING WITH MHA SHERRY GAMBIN-WALSH

Mayor Power recently met with MHA Gambin-Walsh to discuss matters of interest to the Town. Among the topics discussed were the Husky project, paving, road maintenance and brush cutting needs, T&W depot, various projects and funding opportunities, health care services, and high traffic at entrance of Route 100 near Whitbourne. Minister Gambin-Walsh was receptive of all concerns and will take them to the various departments for further discussion.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Council noted that the Level 1 assessment completed by AMEC in response to illegal dumping near the Clarke's Pond Watershed has been received and recommends that no further action is required. Council will take measures to further restrict access to this site and better identify it as a watershed area.

EXPENDITURE NOTES

Council approved \$1,800 to repair exterior doors in the Arts Center and \$1,660 to upgrade security features at the Town Hall. \$5,108.32 was approved for identified repairs required for a vehicle within the Town's fleet.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Council noted that The Town Hall and Fire Hall are now equipped with Radio Communications Equipment for use by the Placentia Amateur Radio Group.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Council approved one new building permit this month for a total of 13 in 2016. Council approved a crown land application for property on Point Verde Road that was previously re-zoned industrial at the owner's expense.

FORCE MAIN PROJECT UPDATE

The first stage of improvements to the sewer system in Bonds Path has been completed with replacement of underground infrastructure. The next stage will be mechanical improvements to the lift stations. This work is being completed by Edward Collins Contracting Ltd. through funding secured under the Clean Water Waste Water Program.

MAYORS MARCH RECOGNIZED

The Town of Placentia was recently recognized by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of NL for its participation in the annual Mayors March. The town was the top fundraiser in its population category for 2016. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project.



Mayor Power receiving Heart & Stroke Mayors March Population Category Award from MNL President Karen Oldford & Municipal Affairs Minister Eddie Joyce

2017 BUDGET ADOPTED

Council was pleased to present the 2017 Budget for the Town of Placentia on November 22, 2016. Council has worked tirelessly with staff to identify areas for cost saving and efficiencies. As a result Council has adopted a balanced budget valued at \$5,781,477 for 2017. This is a reduction of \$222,776 in comparison to 2016. The budget was accomplished while seeing no increase in residential and commercial mil rates or water and sewer rates and without having to introduce any significant cuts to operations or services.

2017 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the budget include:

- Residential mil rate of 6.2 and commercial rate of 9.0 representing the lowest mil rates in comparison to towns of our size;
- 10% discount offered on residential taxes paid by March 31; June 30 for residents 65 and over;
- No increase to water and sewer rates despite increased costs to maintain and upgrade;
- Introduction of a minimum vacant land tax of \$150 as per directive by Municipal Affairs;
- Introduction of a fee for service for after hour non-emergency call out of town staff set at \$50 for residential and \$150 for Commercial;
- Introduction of a wharf permit fee of \$75 residential and \$500 Commercial;
- Introduction of a fee for service for new building water & sewer hook-up of \$150 each;
- Front landscaping deposit \$500 (100% refund);
- Continued focus on implementation of water supply plan with investment in water supply infrastructure including replacement of 200 service lines in Dunville;
- Acquisition of New Fire Pumper Truck;
- Moving forward with the Placentia Regional Wellness Center;
- "Placentia Aware" notification system for citizens to provide emergency and non-emergency messaging;
- Smart phone app for residents and tourists;
- Start of Recreation Master Plan implementation with establishment of full time Manager of Recreation and Community Programming;
- Speed warning sign for traffic calming initiatives
- Replacement of 2 fleet vehicles, a backhoe and sander for Public Works Department
- Wage increase as per the union contract and comparable 4% increase for management, firefighter honorarium and Council remuneration

Council noted that during the present economic climate that they are pleased to offer a budget that does not raise taxes or reduce jobs and continues to provide all services to the community. Council aims to continue moving our community forward and adapting to the ever changing needs of our residents.

Council thanks everyone who contributed to the budget process including residents who took advantage of the public consultation process.

The complete budget speech and presentation is available on our website www.placentia.ca

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Laval Class of 2016.
- Patrick Pearson and Lindsay Greene recipients of the Electoral District Scholarship – Top Marks.
- Rachelle Connors for receiving the 2016 Roger Champagne Award from the Federation des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador.
- Linda Grimm owner of Rosedale Manor for receiving the Southcott Award in the Heritage Stewardship Category from NL Historic Trust
- RBC on 100th Anniversary of the Placentia Branch.
- Placentia Mall, Placentia Lions Club and community partners for 2016 Happy Tree Campaign Opening.
- CBDC Avalon West investment of \$970,000 in small business in our region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Town Square Christmas Lighting on November 28 at 7PM. Put on your Christmas Hat and join us!
- Annual Dunville Lions Club / Town of Placentia Santa Claus Parade on December 3rd at 1PM
- Seniors Christmas Dessert Social on December 1st @ 1:30PM at the Arts Center. Featuring live entertainment by Bugs & Debbie Greene & Friends who will be recording for their upcoming television Christmas program.
- Check our website www.placentia.ca for a full calendar of activities at the Arts Center and throughout the community in December.

NEXT PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING

The next Public Meeting of the Town of Placentia Council is scheduled for December 13, 2016. Submissions, including permit applications, for consideration by council are due by Friday, December 2, 2016. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend all public council meetings.