

## MINUTES

Town of Port au Port East  
Regular Council Meeting December 10th, 2024

Minutes of a regular meeting of the council of the  
Town of Port au Port East,  
held in the Town Hall, December 10th, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

### *Members*

#### *Present*

Mayor	K. De Groot
Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
Councillors:	A. Barry
	F. Barter

### *Also,*

#### *Present*

Town Clerk/Manager K. Hunt

13 people are present in the public galleries.

**Mayor K. De Groot called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.**

### **Guests To Address Council**

#### **Address from Fire Chief**

The current fire chief of the Port au Port Regional Volunteer Fire Department addressed council and residents in the public galleries to provide a status update on the current state of the fire department. Council was informed that when the fire chief stepped into the role a few weeks ago there were 4 members. Due to the hard work and determination to enlist volunteers from all the Towns and Local Service Districts covered by this department that number is now 18. There will be training taking place at the Port au Port East Town Hall/Fire Department for all volunteers on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 followed by live training at the Aguathuna Quarry location on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. More volunteers are welcome to attend.

#### **Address from Resident**

A resident addressed council with their concerns over the notification of the loss of mutual aid coverage between the Port au Port Regional Fire Department and the Town of Kippens Fire Department on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. An inquiry was made by resident whether or not it was a decision of council to notify residents. The resident mentioned rumors that were brought to their attention that the town had not actually lost all members. It is the opinion of the resident that the situation should be referred to the RCMP for criminal investigation.

Council thanked the resident for their time and advised that the situation is rectified and under control.

## **Meeting Minutes**

### *Regular Council Meeting November 12th, 2024*

Mayor K. De Groot asked if there were any errors or omissions to the minutes of the regular meeting on November 12th, 2024, which had been provided to council at the public meeting on December 10th, 2024, at the request of council.

Motion # 159 - 24 – C. Joseph/A. Barry

Be it resolved that the minutes from November 12th, 2024, regular meeting of council, be adopted as circulated.

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councilors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

## **Regulations/Policies**

None

## **Correspondence**

*Bacteriological Water Analysis Report – Sample Taken on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – No results have been provided to date.*

*Letter from the Town of Port au Port West, Aguathuna, Felix Cove*

Motion # 160 - 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

The Town of Port au Port West, Aguathuna, Felix Cove have asked for financial information from 2023, a 2024 Budget, and a list of current and active fire fighters. The

town clerk/manager informed council that the 2023 finances are currently with our accountant for review and can be provided once the review is completed. The current fire chief was approached for a budget and will provide.

Be it resolved that the Town Clerk/Manager will write a letter to the Town of Port au Port West, Aguathuna, Felix Cove to inform them that the requested information will be provided once it is received from the accountant and the fire chief.

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councilors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0  
Motion Carried

### **Finances**

#### **Account Payable for November 2024**

The Town Clerk/Manager reported that the outstanding account payable list up to and including November 30th, 2024 is \$ 32,210.19.

Motion # 161 - 24 – F. Barter/A. Barry

Be it resolved that the attached Accounts Payable list for November 2024, as circulated, in the amount of \$ 32,210.19 be approved for payment.

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councilors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

#### **Employee Remittance for November 2024**

The town clerk/manager reported the amount of \$ 2,562.67 to be remitted for the period beginning October 1st, 2024 and ending October 31st, 2024.

Motion # 162 - 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

Be it resolved that the employee remittance for November 2024 in the amount of \$ 3,942.73, be approved for payment.

In favor: Mayor K. De Groot  
Deputy Mayor C. Joseph  
Councilors: A. Barry  
F. Barter

Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

### **Bank Reconciliations**

The Town Clerk/Manager provided the bank reconciliations for June, July, August and September 2024

Motion # 163 - 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

Be it resolved that the bank reconciliations for June, July, August and September 2024 have been reviewed and accepted as presented.

In favor: Mayor K. De Groot  
Deputy Mayor C. Joseph  
Councilors: A. Barry  
F. Barter

Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

### **Permits**

#### **General Repairs and Maintenance Permits**

3 Romaines Road  
58 Main Street

Motion # 164 - 24 – C. Joseph/A. Barry

Be it resolved that the general repairs and maintenance permits be approved.

In favor: Mayor K. De Groot  
Deputy Mayor C. Joseph

Councilors: A. Barry  
F. Barter

Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

### **Shed/Garage/Home Permits**

None

### **Permits (Other)**

Permit Application 71113119 – Quarry Referral Notice

Motion # 165- 24 – C. Joseph/A. Barry

Application was originally approved in 2023 but no permit was issued. A discretionary permit is required for this application. There is no fee in the current tax structure for a discretionary permit. Council feels there should be a cost fee associated with the permit.

Be it resolved that the town council of Port au Port East will table this motion and revisit at the next monthly meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 once a fee can be determined and included in the tax structure for 2025.

In favor: Mayor K. De Groot  
Deputy Mayor C. Joseph  
Councilors: A. Barry  
F. Barter

Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

### **Discussion:**

### **Water Update**

The upgrades to our current artesian well system have been completed and the new frequency drive system has been installed. Water consumption is slightly higher than normal but that is typical at this time of year. Some residents allow their water to run during very cold temperatures to avoid freezing. Other than the slight increase in consumption both water sources are working well and everything is running well.

## **Contract between IBEW Local 1620 and the Town of Port au Port East**

Motion # 167 – 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

Mayor K. De Groot began by motioning for a discussion regarding the proposed contract between IBEW Local 1620 and the Town of Port au Port East. The town clerk/manager reminded council that this was not a motion to discuss as it is a confidential HR matter and can only be openly discussed by council in a privileged meeting. Discussion had already taken place at two (2) previous privileged meetings and this was a vote required to be held during a public meeting on acceptance of the proposed contract.

A vote was called and the result ended with two (2) councilors in favour and two (2) councilors opposed. Deputy Mayor C. Joseph then questioned Mayor K. De Groot and asked for explanation as to why she had opposed the contract when she had previously agreed that the contract was fair and asked the Town Union Committee Representative Deputy Mayor C. Joseph to approach the union and ask for the addition of three (3) items to the contract and once that was completed council was ready to hold a public meeting to vote. Mayor K. De Groot denied making that request. Mayor K. De Groot then proceeded to claim not enough time was given for review of contract and said that they were not allowed to take the contract home for private review. Councilor F. Barter then began to voice her concerns over having to cover the cost of wages, pensions, medical benefits and said the town people did not want the union. Council was then advised by the Union Shop Steward/Town Employee D. Benoit, who was present in the galleries, to stop the discussion of the contract specifics as that can be viewed as a negotiating in bad faith. Deputy Mayor C. Joseph then addressed the residents present in the public gallery to inform them that the process by employees to be represented by IBEW Local 1620 had previously been completed earlier this year and reviewed by Labour Relations NL and all employees were granted permission to be represented by IBEW Local 1620. The town employees are members of this union and the vote at this meeting was to accept/not accept the proposed contract only. Some residents began voicing opinions and council members once again began discussing stating that the town's people do not want this union and the town can't afford it. The town clerk/manager K. Hunt interrupted the various conversations that were taking place and advised the mayor that discussions should be halted as this has the possibility to be seen as negotiating in bad faith. Mayor K. De Groot then stopped conversations and proceeded to confirm with council that the results of the vote were two (2) in favour and two (2) opposed.

Be it resolved that the Town of Port au Port East accept the proposed contract between the town and IBEW Local 1620 as presented.

In favor:            Deputy Mayor            C. Joseph  
                                 Councilor                    A. Barry

Opposed:            Mayor                        K. De Groot  
                                 Councilor                    F. Barter

Abstaining:        0

Motion Defeated

**Addition of Mayor as BMO Signing Authority**

Motion # 166 – 24 – F. Barter/A. Barry

Be it resolved that the current town mayor K. De Groot will be added as a signing authority on all Town of Port au Port East bank accounts at the Bank of Montreal (BMO).

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councilors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

**Mutual Aid Fire Department Between Kippens and Port au Port East**

The mutual aid agreement for fire services was signed by Mayor K. De Groot and Town Clerk/Manager at the beginning of the meeting after the fire chief provided an update. A list of eight (8) firefighters that would respond from Port au Port East was provided to the Town of Kippens.

**Waste Management Contract from Containerized Sanitation for Period Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027**

Resolution # 23 - 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

Council reviewed the options as set forth in the proposed contract received from Containerized Sanitation for the next three fiscal years. Containerized Sanitation Ltd is proposing a three (3) year contract however council would like to continue with the yearly contract.

Be it resolved, that the town council of Port au Port East will enter into a one-year contract for waste management with Containerized Sanitation Ltd. for 2025 fiscal year, at a per house cost of \$ 125.00 for collection of waste. The Town of Port au Port East will continue to pay all tipping fees separate from this contract.

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councilors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Resolution Carried  
**Recreation Committee**

Mayor K. De Groot informed residents that early in the new year council may begin looking for names of individuals who would like to volunteer on a recreation committee to aid in planning various family activities in 2025.

**Town of Port au Port East Christmas Schedule for 2024**

Resolution # 24 – 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

The town clerk/manager was asked by council what the current Christmas schedule was. They were informed that the office was opened up to and including December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Councillor Barter voiced her opinion that the town office shouldn't be open on Christmas eve and the employees should not have to work. Council members agreed with Councillor Barter and suggested the employees work until noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 but the town office will close to public at the end of work day on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A suggestion was made to have the town office closed until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and council members also were in agreement with this with the understanding that the water system still required daily treatments and monitoring by the water operators. Deputy Mayor C. Joseph suggested if any employees were required to work during vacation they would be paid at straight time rate in addition to the holiday pay. Council was in agreement that all employees would be paid at their hourly rate pay by the standard number of hours each employee would have been required to work during the time the office is closed.

Be it resolved that the town office will be closed to the public beginning at the end of the work day on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and reopen at 8:00am on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. All town employees will receive their normal rate of pay, including statutory holidays, during the time the office is closed.

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councillors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Resolution Carried



## **Resident Concerns Regarding the new Romaine's Bridge**

Motion # 167 – 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

A resident contacted the town office voicing concerns over the lack of lighting as power poles are set to far away from roadway, lack of reflective post markers for the edge of the road and the lack of a culvert under a section of roadway to prevent possible flooding during storm events or spring thaw. This section of roadway has always had a culvert to prevent water from flowing over the road. They also inquired about the possibility to install a street light at the Main Street and Romaine's Road intersection closest to Romaine's Bridge. Council recognized the concerns and requested the town clerk/manager compile a letter with these concerns and send copies to both MHA Tony Wakeham, and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to inquire about possible solutions. Council will install a streetlight at this intersection. Location will be determined by NL Power.

Be it resolved that the town clerk/manager will send a letter to the local Member of the House of Assembly and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure addressing the concerns listed by the resident and the town clerk/manager will order the installation of one (1) streetlight at the Main Street and Romaine's Road intersection.

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph
	Councilors:	A. Barry
		F. Barter

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

## **Adjournment**

Motion # 168 – 24 – A. Barry/F. Barter

Be it resolved that Council do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 6:00 PM

In favor:	Mayor	K. De Groot
	Deputy Mayor	C. Joseph

Councilors: A. Barry  
F. Barter

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 P.M

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Mayor Kimberly De Groot

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Town Clerk/Manager – Koren Hunt