



WABUSH

**WABUSH TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING #24-12
December 19th, 2024**

TIME AND PLACE

A meeting of the Wabush Town Council was held on December 19, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Mayor Ron Barron.

**COUNCILLORS
PRESENT**

Mayor Ron Barron
Councillor Battcock
Deputy Mayor O'Brien
Councillor Razi
Councillor Pynn
Councillor Burke Joined at 5:40 pm

ABSENT

Councillor Cole

OTHERS PRESENT

Charlie Perry – Town Manager
Tiffanee Rideout – Town Clerk
Darlene Roberts – Administrative Clerk

**PROCLAMATION/
VISITORS/PETITIONS**

None

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Be it so moved and seconded that Council approve minutes 24-11 as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Pynn
Seconded By: Councillor Battcock

All in Favour
Motion Carried



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**BUSINESS ARISING
ACTION LIST**

Report Attached

Mayor Barron emphasizes the importance of ensuring that snow clearing operators prioritize pushing snow to vacant lots. This approach aims to enhance customer service for residents this year. While he acknowledges that this method may increase the time and costs associated with snow clearing for the Town, he believes it will significantly benefit the community.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Razi and seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Brien to adopt Agenda 24-12 as presented.

All in Favour
Motion Carried

**COMMITTEE REPORT:
FINANCE**

Report Attached

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve to waive the 2024 Property & Water/Sewer tax for the property located on 2 Dunfield Street in the amount of \$1,564.15.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Pynn

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The property was obtained from Wabush Mines for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity NL approximately five to six years ago. The exterior of the home was finalized three years ago; however, progress was halted due to the pandemic. Currently, efforts are underway to complete the interior work to accommodate a family.

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve the request for a gym rental to be offered at half price to the Association of New Canadians.



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Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor O'Brien

Councillor Razi abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The municipality is currently engaged in discussions to establish a policy that will outline the criteria for which organizations may qualify for complimentary or reduced pricing on requested donations.

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve the donation request in the amount of \$1,750.00 to the Knights of Columbus for operation expenses.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The Town acknowledges the challenges faced by various organizations in maintaining operations during this period and is actively collaborating with them to mitigate some of their operational expenses.

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve the donation request in the amount of \$3500.00 to the Royal Canadian Legion for operating expenses.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Battcock

All in Favour

Mayor Barron
Deputy Mayor O'Brien
Councillor Battcock



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Councillor Pynn
Councillor Burke

Opposed

Councillor Razi
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve silver sponsorship for the MineEx Convention and Trade Show as the in-kind donation.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The sponsorship for MineEx represents an annual commitment to a significant trade exhibition held in our municipality.

BE IT RESOLVED that council deny the advertising request for the Veterans Service Recognition Book as it is not local to our Royal Canadian Legion.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The Town of Wabush is dedicated to fostering the development of local branches and acknowledges that National Branches obtain funding from all branches through membership contributions.

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve the adjusted management salaries as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor O'Brien

All in Favour



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Mayor Barron
Councillor Battcock
Councillor Pynn
Councillor Burke

Opposed

Deputy Mayor O'Brien
Councillor Razi

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor O'Brien expressed concerns regarding the perceived excessiveness of the salary increase; however, she acknowledged the commendable performance of the Managers. Councillor Burke emphasized that the salary adjustment in question aims to elevate the manager's compensation, which began at a baseline level, to ensure that all positions remain competitive and facilitate the retention of current staff.

PLANNING

Report Attached

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve a 10% variance located at 11 Cashin Avenue.

Moved By: Councillor Pynn
Seconded By: Councillor Burke

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The approval of a 10% variance is intended to facilitate the acquisition of a new trailer and follows policy regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED that council approve a home-based business located at 77 Bowater.

Moved By: Councillor Pynn
Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried



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The organization is a licensed child care facility that has received approval to operate in accordance with their established criteria.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Report Attached
POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED Council adopt the amended Code of Conduct Policy for Councilor's as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Razi
Seconded By: Councillor Pynn

All in Favour
Motion Carried

MNL has revised the Code of Conduct for Councillors, prompting the Town of Wabush to consult with legal experts to update our current policy in accordance with provincial guidelines.

BE IT RESOLVED Council adopt the Harassment policy as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Razi
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor O'Brien

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The Town acknowledges the need for a thorough Harassment Policy that clearly defines what constitutes harassment for all staff and council members.

BE IT RESOLVED Council adopt the Snow Clearing Assistance policy and program as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Razi
Seconded By: Councillor Pynn

All in Favour
Motion Carried



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The snow clearing assistance policy is essential for seniors and individuals with disabilities within our municipality. Residents can find comprehensive details about the policy on our official website, Facebook page, community channel roll-ups, and at the Town Hall. Eligible residents may submit their completed forms and documentation at the Town Hall beginning January 2025 for processing. The Town will accept 60 applicants, each required to pay a \$80.00 fee to utilize this service. Residents are encouraged to thoroughly review the policy to understand the specific details and ensure that the program provides a benefit to their property.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Report Attached PUBLIC WORKS

The municipality has experienced a rise in icy conditions, attributed to recent weather patterns, necessitating the acquisition of substantial quantities of sand to alleviate potentially hazardous driving situations. Additionally, the commercial sewer facility has obtained necessary components to facilitate equipment repairs, aiming to restore the plant to full operational status and eliminate the need for bypass operations. The grader's gate will be operational this season. Additionally, a new dump truck has been acquired for the public works fleet, which will significantly reduce the expenses associated with costly rentals.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Report Attached RECREATION

The council wishes to inform residents that the repairs responsible for the pool closure have been successfully completed. The pool is currently being filled and heated, and it is expected to be operational in the coming days. Addressing booking errors is a top priority for the Town, and management is actively working on solutions to resolve these issues.

The Town plans to install a wind phone in the Jean Lake Area, similar to the existing model in Labrador City.

The outdoor ice rink is undergoing maintenance and is expected to be operational by Saturday, contingent upon favorable weather conditions. We extend our gratitude to Labrador Coatings for their essential contributions to the successful completion of this project.



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COMMITTEE REPORT: Report Attached
MEO/FIRE DEPT.

Residents are reminded that during snow clearing operations, it is imperative not to deposit snow onto neighboring properties. Non-compliance with stop signs will result in penalties for drivers from the Town, in accordance with the new bylaw. Additionally, residents are urged to ensure that their civic numbers are clearly visible on their properties, enabling emergency services to identify locations swiftly in the event of an emergency.

CORRESPONDENCE (Information Package Distributed to Council)

The Town is actively engaged in formulating a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan for the forthcoming year, with the objective of obtaining government funding to establish a Fire Smart program within the community. Additionally, the organizers of the MNL conference commended the Town's fire emergency response during their annual fall meetings held this summer.

ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE:

Report Attached

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wabush approves Accounts Payable Listing from November 13 – December 11, 2024, in the amount of \$728,737.05 with the following abstentions:

38327	Dexter Institute	Councillor Battcock
38357	Dexter Institute	Councillor Battcock
38363	Labrador Motors	Mayor Barron
38396	Labrador Motors	Mayor Barron

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor O'Brien

All in Favour
Motion Carried



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PERMITS:

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the Following permits:

6798	Excavation	Canning and Jean River
6799	Accessory Building	2C First Ave
6800	Excavation	10 First Street

Moved by: Councillor Pynn
Seconded by: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried

Town Manager Charlie Perry told council and residents that permit 6798 was pertaining to Bloom Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councillor Razi:

Councillor Razi praised Mr. Kettle for his outstanding work on the float he created for this year's annual Santa Claus Parade. She extended her warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Councillor Battcock:

Councillor Battcock sought clarification regarding the arena enclosure, to which Mr. Perry responded that it is scheduled for completion in 2025 as per the allocated budget. She extended her best wishes for a Merry Christmas to all.

Councillor Pynn:

Councillor Pynn extended her best wishes for a Merry Christmas to all.

Councillor Burke:

Councillor Burke extended his best wishes for a Merry Christmas to all.



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Mayor Barron:

Mayor Barron extends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the late Ms. Lisa Bond and the late Mr. Alfred Martin.

Mayor Barron emphasized the critical need for clearly visible civic numbering on residential properties to facilitate prompt identification by emergency services. The Town will proactively identify homes lacking visible civic numbers and will issue letters, as well as conduct home visits, to remind residents of the existing policy mandating compliance.

Mayor Barron expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the staff and council regarding the 2025 budget. He acknowledged that this budget process may be the final one for councillors who may choose not to pursue re-election in the upcoming year.

Residents were reminded that the MARC projects aimed at enhancing building accessibility for all are included in the 2025 budget and are scheduled for completion in the upcoming year. The project has encountered significant bureaucratic challenges, resulting in delays. The tender process for project completion will conclude in January 2025, allowing sufficient time for the project to commence by May or June of 2025.

Mayor Barron extends his best wishes for a safe and joyous Christmas, as well as a prosperous New Year to all.

BUDGET 2025 Speech

Budget Speech attached

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wabush in accordance with provisions of Section 77 (1) of the Municipalities Act as amended, adopt the 2025 Budget as presented by the Finance and Administration Committee showing total revenues of \$15,037,453 and total expenditures of \$15,037,453 for a balanced budget.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor O'Brien



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All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with provisions of Sections 112 (2), 114, 120 to 124, 125, 130, 131, 136 of the Municipalities Act, 1999 as amended, the Town of Wabush adopt the Schedule I - 2025 Tax Structure effective January 1, 2025, as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wabush adopt Schedule II – 2025 Permits & License Fees effective January 1, 2025, as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Battcock

All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wabush adopt Schedule III – 2025 Recreational Fees effective January 1, 2025, as presented.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor O'Brien

All in Favour
Motion Carried

Regional Recreation has established a uniform cost scale for both the Town of Wabush and the Town of Labrador City.

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with provisions of Section 101 (2) of the Municipalities Act, 1999 as amended, all taxes shall be due and payable thirty (30) days from the date invoices, effective January 1, 2025.

Moved By: Councillor Burke



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Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with provisions of Section 107 (1) of the Municipalities Act, 1999 as amended, simple interest on taxes unpaid on or before the due date be set at 12% per annum effective January 1, 2025.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Pynn

All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with provisions of Section 5 of the 1992 Taxation of Utilities and Cable Television Companies Act as amended, Business Tax (Class 9) be set at the rate of 2.5% effective January 1, 2025, on the gross revenue of the utility/cable company for the preceding year derived within the municipality of Wabush.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Battcock

All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with provisions of Section 111 (1) of the Municipalities Act, 1999 as amended, that council set the Total Family Income threshold for 80% Residential Property & W/S Tax Rebate at \$32,500 plus \$2,500 per dependent, effective January 1, 2025. The Total Family Income threshold for 50% Residential Property & W/S Tax Rebate be set at \$45,000 plus \$5,000 per dependent, effective January 1, 2025.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Razi

All in Favour
Motion Carried



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BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wabush appoint, if the Town Manager is absent from the office, the Town Clerk to fill the position as Acting Town Manager during his/her absence.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor O'Brien

All in Favour
Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED that a credit limit of \$40,000 be established with the Bank of Montreal for the Town of Wabush.

Moved By: Councillor Burke
Seconded By: Councillor Battcock

All in Favour
Motion Carried

The credit limit for the credit cards remains consistent with last year's budget and is allocated across five cards. These credit cards are utilized for travel expenses related to training and meetings, as well as for transactions with companies that do not accept our purchase order payment system.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, meeting was called to adjournment by Councillor Pynn at 6:37 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 16 or 23, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Barron
Mayor

Tiffanee Rideout
Town Clerk

RB:TR:dr