



MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025, AT 7:30 PM

The regular meeting of council was held Monday January 13, 2025 at 7:30 PM with Acting Mayor Alan Curtis presiding. In attendance were Councillor Mary Jean O'Brien, Councillor Holly Gordon, Councillor Maureen Chaisson, Councillor Krista Murphy, Councillor Cameron Boyce, and CAO Donna Thomson. Also in attendance were Noreen Profit, Nicole MacEachern, Chandler Wood, Shaun Allen, Darrell Graham, Steven LeClair, Constable Collin Stanley and Jillian Trainor from the West Prince Graphic.

Declaration Of Conflict Of Interest

Nil

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councillor O'Brien and was seconded by Councillor Boyce. The motion carried.

Adoption Of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held January 13, the public meeting held and the planning board meeting held February 10th was made by Councillor Murphy and was seconded by Councillor Gordon. The motion carried.

Business Arising From The Minutes

CAO Donna Thomson said that at the last meeting, council had talked about Tiny Homes and wanted to know what size they would be. Ms. Thomson said from the information that she found online a Tiny Home would be defined as something under 500 square feet but they don't give a lot size requirement. Currently we don't

have a requirement under our bylaw but that it will be addressed with the Official Plan.

Public Presentations/Petitions/ Delegations

Nil

Reading Of Correspondence

Nil

Committee Reports

Property and Public Safety – Councillor Boyce

Councillor Boyce had nothing to report.

Library Report – Councillor Boyce

Councillor Boyce read the Library Report

Alberton Public Library

Monthly Report

Reporting to: Town Council

Period: Month of January 2025

Operations: Steps and parking lot always cleared off. – Thank you!!

Programs: The series “Remembering Alberton When...” is quite popular with the first two sessions on Schooling and Police/Fire/Ambulance Services. Looking at old yearbooks can be quite revealing! This month there is a session on Alberton in the 1960’s and Outdoor pastimes and indoor games. In March, there will be a session on Alberton politics. Have things really changed? Come and find out.

Planning: The library is also celebrating Black history month with displays and take-home crafts.

Submitted,

Kelly Gillis

Recreation Report – Councillor Boyce

Councillor Boyce read the Recreation Report

THE TOWN OF ALBERTON RECREATION/ EVENTS COORDINATOR UPDATE

The start of a new year allows time for reflection and planning. The Recreation Department took time to assess the events and activities that were delivered during 2024 as well as to start planning for 2025 based on what worked well and what could be improved upon. We have also taken some time to go over resources available to the department and take a quick inventory of the items we have.

Calls were made to inquire about hosting babysitting courses as well as possible craft/ art courses. The babysitting course could be available if we can confirm at least 12-15 participants. There is a cost of \$50 per participant (the Town may be able to subsidize some of it).

We successfully applied for and received a grant for \$500 from the Win 4 All Community Grant Program. These funds will be specifically used to purchase seeds, soil and gardening tools to grow healthy vegetables in our greenhouse. The produce will then be available in the Community Pantry as a source of free and healthy food for the community at large but to low income households specifically. This will directly fulfill the requirements set by the Win 4 All Grant Program.

We plan to host our Winter Celebration Day on Saturday 1st March. There will be Horse & Sleigh Rides from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with hot chocolate and treats available ,(waiting on confirmation for volunteer fighter staff to have their bouncy castle available inside the Fire Hall), A Costume/Dress Up Skate at the rink from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Four Family Skate sessions at the Jacques Cartier Arena will be sponsored by the Town (Last 2 Sundays in February and first two Sundays in March). Ongoing work includes getting information on and applying for relevant grants etc. and working with other community groups or organisations.

Highlights:

- Win 4 All Grant success
- Winter Celebration planning
- Inventory

Rec Department Inventory

- **Pickleball Court**
- **Pickleball Net**
- **Pickleball Balls (4)**
- **Pickleball Paddle**
- **Ball Hockey Balls (6)**
- **Tennis Balls (12)**
- **Soccer Balls (2 Dozen)**
- **Pop Up soccer nets (6)**
- **Cones (LOTS)**
- **Basketball (3)**
- **Soft Bats (4)**
- **Tees (2)**
- **3 bases**
- **Rally Cap soft baseballs**
- **Yellow Soft Baseballs (12 big, 2 little)**
- **Bowling Pins (Two Sets)**
- **Hula Hoops (15)**
- **Pool Noodles (10)**
- **Short pool noodles**
- **Beach balls (10)**
- **Lawn Games (washer toss, corn hole)**
- **Pinnies (24)**
- **Flags (28)**
- **Footballs (4)**

- **Color Power (5 Colors, Blue, Purple, Green, Yellow, Blue
Fire & Police – Councillor Boyce**

Fire Chief Darrell Graham read the Fire Report



Jan-2025 fire report

Emergency Responses:

Medical first responder-5

Flue Fire-2

Structure fire-1

M.V.C-3

vehicle fire-1

Total Emergency calls-12

Monthly Fire Practice – S.C.B.A. Training

Monthly Medical Training-Vital signs/Patient interviews.

We recently held our annual meeting at which our members vote on the command structure for 2025.

Fire Chief-Darrell Graham

Deputy Fire Chief-Steven LeClair

Captain-Emile Bernard

Captain-Tom Murphy

Captain-Darren Shea

Captain-Kelly Williams

Training Officer-Jason Milligan

Safety Officer-Derek Williams

Secretary-Colby Murphy

We respectfully submit these names for council approval.

Respectfully submitted Fire Chief: Darrell Graham.

2024 Fire Report – presented by Chief Darrell Graham



2024 Fire Report Nov-1-2023-Oct-31-2024

Submitted By Chief Darrell Graham and Deputy Chief Steven LeClair

Fire Chief Darrell Graham presented the department's yearly report,



2024 Was an exceptionally sad year for our members as we endured the line of duty death of engineer Bill Gillis. Bill was an incredibly dedicated member of our department for 45 years. His many years of experience, sense of humour around the hall and on calls will be missed.

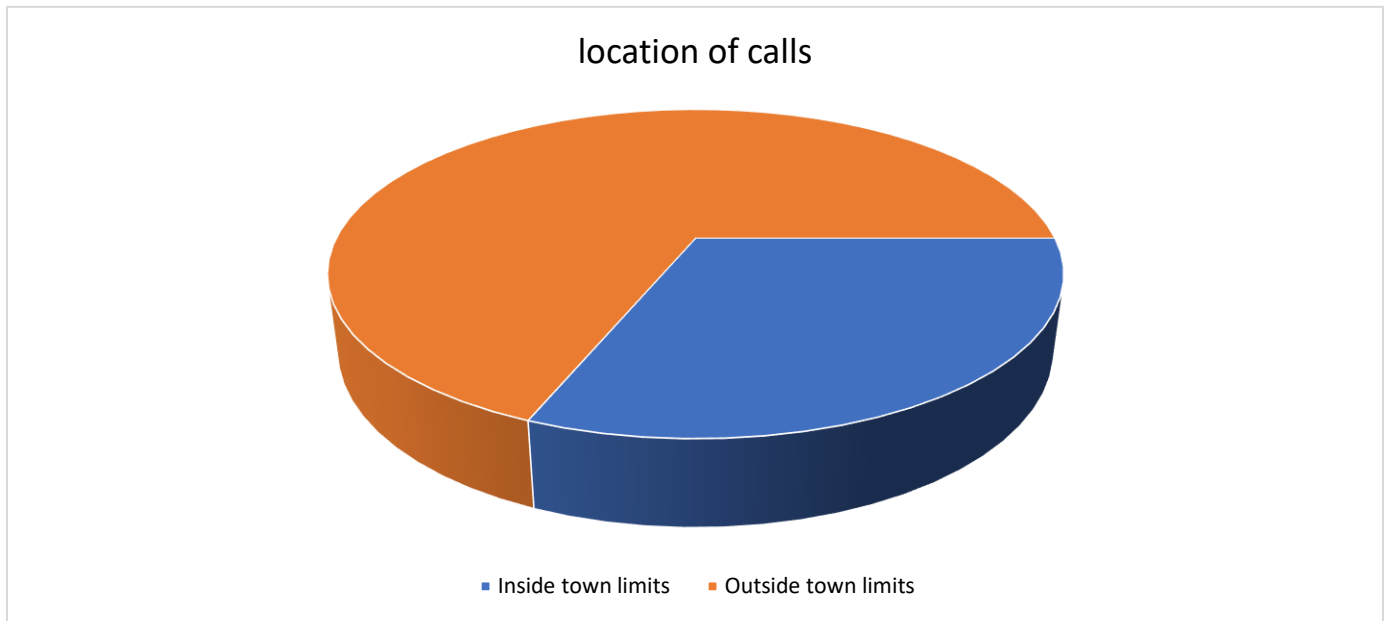


In 2024 we responder to 132 calls for service. This represents a slight decrease of 7 calls over 2023 when we responded to 139 calls.

The calls break down as follows:

Location of calls

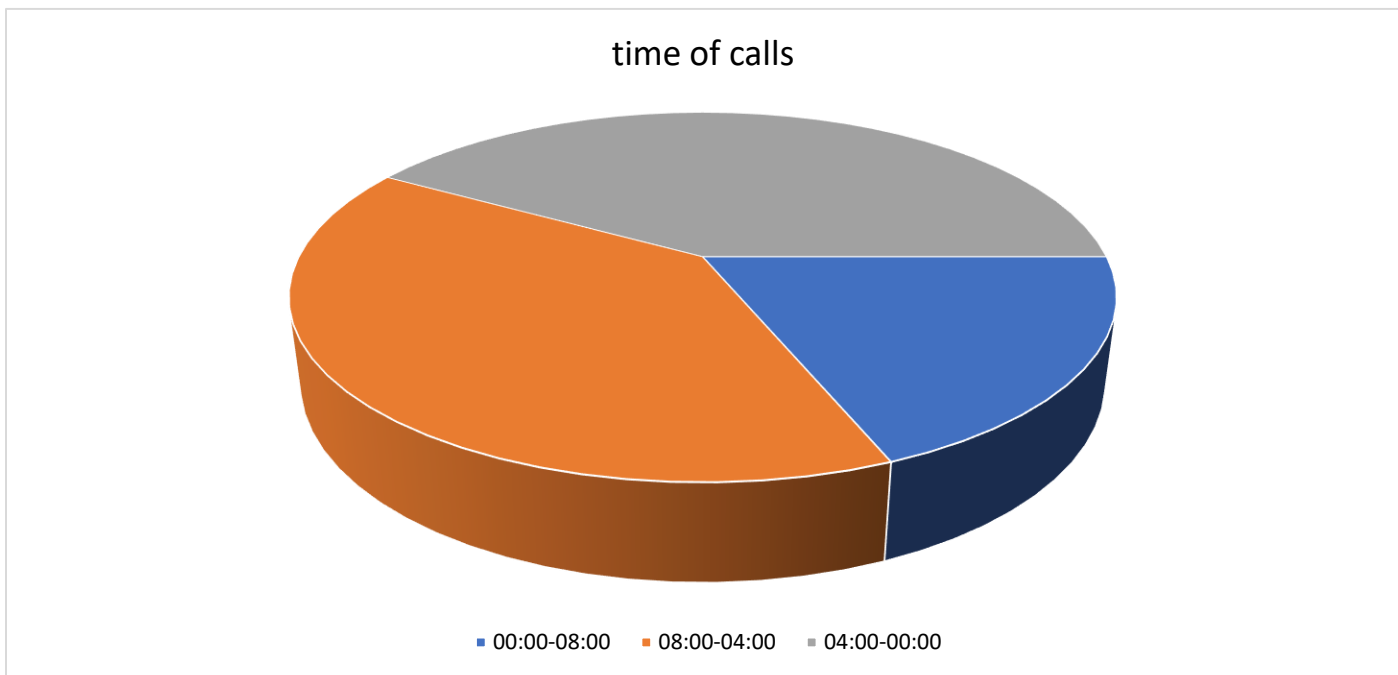
Inside town limits	41
Outside town limits	91
	132



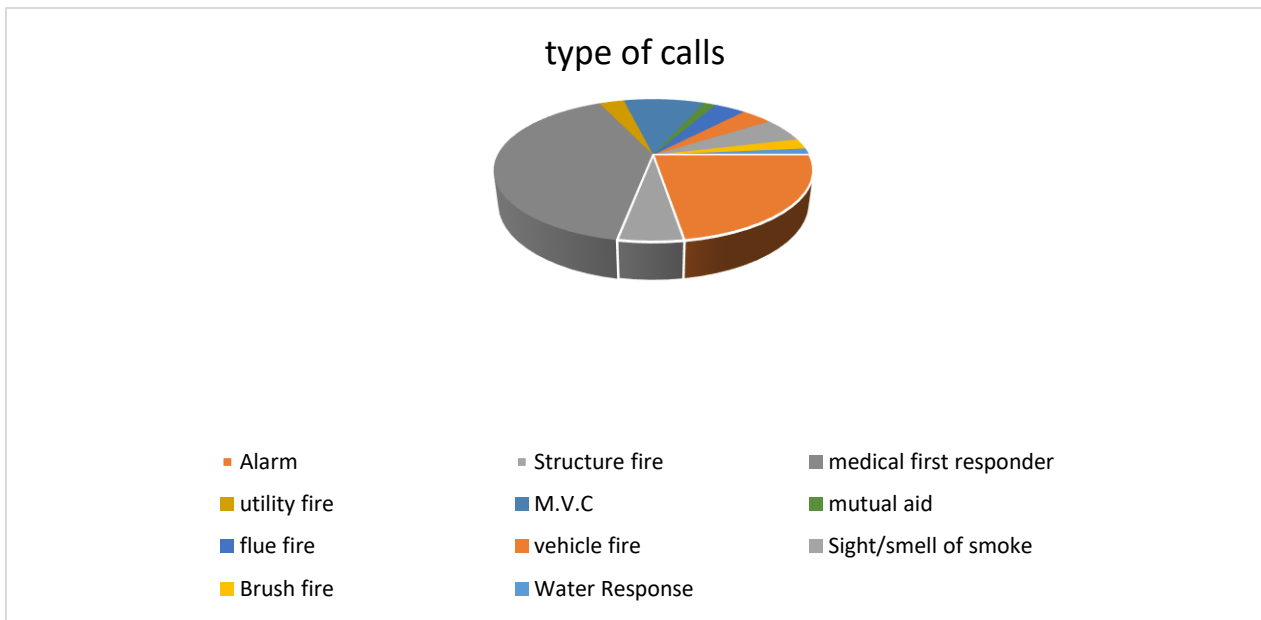


Time of calls

00:00-08:00	25
08:00-04:00	52
04:00-00:00	55
	132



Type of calls	29
Alarm	
Structure fire	7
medical first responder	52
utility fire	4
M.V.C	13
mutual aid	2
flue fire	5
vehicle fire	5
Sight/smell of smoke	7
Brush fire	3
Water Response	2
Trapped person	2
Halloween related	1
	132





In total the members of the Fire Dept. Dedicated 10,021 volunteer hours in 2024. This includes fire responses, training, fund raising, fire prevention activities and planning the new tanker.

This year we have members reaching milestones in their careers with the Alberton Fire Department.

Kenny Ramsay-20 years of service.

Everett Graham-20 years of service.

Darcy Getson-20 years of service.

Leonard Fraser-15 years of service.

Steven LeClair-15 years of service.

Malcolm Richard-15-Years of service.

Barry Wells-15 years of service.

Josh Harris-15 years of service.

Mark Jeffery-5 years of service

Kyle Rafuse-5 Years of service.

Garrett Tanton-5years of service.

This represents 150 years of service to the community.

2024 saw a new tanker added to our fleet. Designated Tanker #2. It will enhance our firefighting abilities with a steady water supply, and we wish to Thank Donna for all her help with this project.



We created The Bill Gillis award this year to honour the memory of Bill and his dedication to the Dept. The 2025 recipients were Captain Emile Bernard and Deputy Chief Steven LeClair.

Our newest member Evan LeClair completed his level one firefighter courses which includes classroom training, field training and medical first responder training.

We welcomed 2 new members this year. Michelle Jeffery and Brett Doucette. They will both be a great asset to the Dept.

We look forward to 2025 and dedicate ourselves to the service of the community in Bill Gillis memory.

Respectfully submitted: Fire Chief Darrell Graham.

Deputy Fire Chief Steven Le Clair.

Police Report

Constable Collin Stanley read the Police Report



TOWN OF ALBERTON
MAYOR'S
POLICING REPORT
JANUARY, 2025

West Prince RCMP Detachment
“L” Division
Prince Edward Island

Annual Performance Plan (A.P.P.'S) Community Priorities

Community approved APP's are:

1. Youth Engagement / Aboriginal Community Engagement
2. Traffic – Checkpoints/Traffic Enforcement
3. Police / Community Relations – Police Visibility / Community Events

Prince District RCMP Members have reported 167 hours providing policing services to the Town of Alberton, during the month of January, 2025. A short recompilation of the above-noted hours includes time spent conducting traffic law enforcement in the community; conducting routine traffic monitoring; responding to individual calls for service; conducting investigations and required follow-up from previous calls for service and investigations. As well, this may include time spent attending to community visits.

In January, West Prince RCMP Detachment Services Assistants processed eight Criminal Record Checks for residents of Alberton, completed for various reasons, including employment, volunteering, and applications for permanent residency.

A total of 38 calls for service were received during this past month and are broken down as follows:

Disturbing the peace	5
Mischief	5
Theft	3
Trespass Act	3
Suspicious person	2
Well-being check	2
Fraud	2
Fail to remain at accident scene	2
Assist other police agency	2
Impaired driving	2
911 Act	2
Drug trafficking	1
Off-road Vehicle Act complaint	1
Mental Health Act complaint	1
Assault	1
Break & Enter	1
Motor vehicle collision	1
False alarm	2

Provincial statutes for the month of January:

Non-moving traffic violation	1
Written warning	2

On January 10th, Cst. Amy Handrahan made a presentation on Internet Safety to M.E. Callaghan School students. Lots of discussion followed with the students.

Students from Ecole Pierre Chiasson attended West Prince Detachment where Cst. Handrahan provided them with a tour of the detachment. The students were provided an insight to what it was like to be a police officer and to the possibility of having a career with the RCMP.

Cst. Handrahan is also involved in planning an information session about Sextortion and have secured presenter, Carl Burke, for Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 P.M. at Westisle High School. Mr. Burke lost his son to suicide after he became involved in a sextortion scam. This presentation promises to be very informative and powerful. All parents and the members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, please feel free to contact me to discuss.



S/Sgt. Neil Logan
District Commander
Prince District RCMP
902-436-9300

The motion to accept the fire and police reports was made by Councillor Murphy and was seconded by Councillor Boyce. The motion carried.

Constable Stanley and Fire Chief Darrell Graham and Deputy Fire Chief Steven LeClair left the meeting.

Community and Business – Councillor Chaisson

Councillor Chaisson had nothing new to report

Special Events and Project Management – Councillor Gordon

The application to Active Transportation Federal Fund is ready to go. WSP is looking at other funding sources. Councillor Gordon said that she would like to set up meeting in the next couple of weeks to talk about plans for the new community center. Councillor Gordon said that if anyone was interested to let her know and she would try to make the meeting time work for everyone.

EMO – Councillor O’Brien

Councillor O’Brien said that the work is being extended until June on the parking lot for the warming center as they weren’t able to complete it for the previous deadline.

Seniors – Councillor Murphy

Councillor Murphy had nothing to report.

Housing – Councillor Murphy

Councillor Murphy had nothing to report.

Finance – Councillor Boyce

Councillor Boyce made a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$ 86,880.86. The motion was seconded by Councillor Chaisson. The motion carried.

CAO Report – Donna Thomson

Ms. Thomson read the CAO report.

January 14th- February 10th

The notice of election has gone out and the nomination period opened on February 6th and runs until February 14th at 2 pm.

Starting to work on the budgets with the fire hall and MRSB is helping as well. Setting up a meeting with fire districts once the fire budget numbers are in.

CIBC and Tignish credit unions signing authorities are being set up for the new acting Deputy Mayor. The gas tax fund has been moved over to CIBC (had been waiting on the province to make sure the correct accounts were receiving the allotments).

We had a meeting with Fotenn about the draft official plan. We also had a public meeting for input on the rezoning requests for 370 Main Street and the Corner of Lorne and Carrol Street.

Planning Board Recommendations

The public meeting was held for two rezoning requests, one for 370 Main Street, Geoffrey Irving's property where the old physio place was. He's looking to have it rezoned from commercial to multi unit residential as he's turning the commercial space into housing. He would have to change the zoning in order to do that.

Planning Board recommended approval of 370 Main Street rezoning. The second request was for a lot located on the corner of Carroll and Lorne Street PID 18812. The proposal that came in was for a duplex and a physio clinic. There were several concerns from neighbours. Joey Arsenault came to the meeting, and we received two emails from Pam Richard and Vanessa Richard with concerns about having a commercial space located in the middle of a residential zone. Ms. Thomson said that she has to declare conflict as her property is right next to the property in question. Ms. Thomson said that she does not have any input, but she doesn't want anyone to think that she is influencing anything. She said that they met with the Planning Board today and they went over some of their concerns and went over the minutes and they decided that it would be better to deny the rezoning for the commercial space but if he is interested in doing a multi unit duplex, that would fine the neighbors were ok with something like that happening they just didn't think it was appropriate to have a commercial space there. The Planning Board is recommending denial of that request.

The motion to approve the rezoning request for 370 Main Street was made by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor Murphy. The motion carried

The motion to deny the rezoning request for PID # 18812 was made by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor Chaisson. Councillor Boyce and Councillor Murphy voted yea. Councillor O'Brien voted nay. The motion carried.

Acting Mayor Curtis called for a motion to approve the Fire Department executive officers.

The motion was made by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Murphy. The motion carried.

Introduction of New Business

The first item under New Business was a Resolution to withdraw projects per the request of the province.

Ms. Thomson said that she received an email from the Gas Tax people in Charlottetown. The Town had 2 projects that were completed but because there was no gas tax money spent on the projects, for their records, the province requires a resolution saying that they were withdrawn.

Project 2.5.5 playground extension for Emma Drive and project 2.5.6 was the Alberton Trail Project

The resolution for the Town of Alberton to withdraw the projects 2.5.5 and 2.5.6 from CCBF funding as they have been completed and no longer require CCBF funding was made by Councillor Gordon and was seconded by Councillor Chaisson. The resolution carried.

Off Highway Vehicle Act Request

The second item under new business was the off-highway vehicle act request.

Ms. Thomson said that they received an email from the province back in 2023. Peter Mellish came and gave a presentation at a public meeting held at the Heritage Centre. At the time the council then agreed that we would be one of the pilot projects. The province is now getting around to modifying their act to be able to say where people can come into your town and go to certain places without it being illegal. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for the province's Off-Highway Vehicle Act, which oversees the operation of all off-highway vehicles (e.g., snowmobiles, ATV's, etc.). The Department is currently exploring amendments to this Act that would include a new authority for municipalities to make bylaws related to ATV use within municipal boundaries.

The proposed addition to the ATC would allow municipalities to choose whether they wanted to create bylaws to allow ATVs to drive on roads within their boundaries. It would be entirely up to each municipality whether they wanted to exercise this bylaw-making power or not, the changes to the Act would simply give municipalities the option.

Attached is a draft of what these amendments are to be, and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is requesting feedback from municipalities on this proposed amendment (see attached).

The purpose of this inquiry is to determine if the Town would support this initiative and provide feedback to the province indicating a favorable view of such a proposal.

Councillor O'Brien asked if we would respond to them what streets they could use.

Ms. Thomson said that we would have to draft a bylaw for it and then specify what streets they could have access to. Councillor O'Brien wanted to know what streets they were requesting access to. The streets were Albion and Reid with a small section of Main Street as well as the Independent Parking Lot as it is owned by the Town.

Ms. Thomson said that we would be telling the province that the Town would be willing to create a bylaw and if they change the PEI Road Act that the Town would support that.

Councillor Chaisson asked if that if at the time of the meeting that was held if anyone from the Town had issue with that. Ms. Thomson said that there were no issues from residents at that meeting or the following council meeting.

Councillor Gordon asked if she would be in conflict as that section of the streets is adjacent to her property. Ms. Thomson said that she might be.

The motion to support this action was made by Councillor Chaisson and seconded by Councillor Boyce. The motion carried.

The third item under new business was playground equipment for the ball diamond.

We are planning on installing a play area next to the splash pad. Ms. Thomson said that Councillor O'Brien had asked for photos of the playground equipment that we already have so our maintenance man went around and took pictures of the various

equipment. The playground at the library is our official playground and then there is the small area on Emma Drive by the gazebo. There are swings, a wheelchair swing, and two play units. Kester has been looking at some units so she thinks that there should be a meeting with the council members who wanted to be on the playground committee and Kester can set that up so that they can make a decision what they want so that they want to have the applications ready for March 31 for the province.

The fourth item under new business was the community centre soccer field. Ms. Thomson said that Councillor Gordon had already touched on that. She said that they want to get the design done for the building so that if there is federal funding coming up that we will be ready to roll with that. Ms. Thomson says that we know that we want it to be as Net Zero as possible. As far as the size and what council wants inside, we had the soccer report done previously and there was a sample of the building that they had come up with so we could modify that to our needs as we want, like the indoor walking track.

The final item under new business was the public meeting for budget consultation. Ms. Thomson said that the budget is due on March 31 and that the province recommends having a public meeting two weeks prior to that so that the public can have input on the budget. Ms. Thomson said that the election for Mayor is on March 3 so hopefully the new mayor would be installed after that which would put the meeting the following week. She said that she will reach out to the councillors via email to pick a date.

Inquiries By Members Of Council

Nil

Introduction and Reading Of Bylaws

Nil

Appointment To Committees

Nil

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Murphy. The motion carried.