



**TOWN OF SAINT ANDREWS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**January 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Electronic Meeting**

A. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

A Special Meeting of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Brad Henderson, Deputy Mayor Kate Akagi, Councillor Lee Heenan, Jamie Hirtle.

Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer, Paul Nopper, Clerk - Senior Administrator

Absent: Councillor Marc Blanchard, Kurt Gumushel, Steve Neil.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 005 - 01/22

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi
Seconded by Councillor Heenan**

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

4 – 0

Carried

C. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. Robert Scott, Kathleen Duguay, and Mary O'Neill Presentation from New Brunswick Power Regarding Relicensing for Lepreau Nuclear Facility.

Jason Nouwen, Director of Regulatory and External Affairs, and Kathleen Duguay, Manager Community Affairs and Nuclear Regulatory Protocol from New Brunswick Power provided Council with a presentation on Point Lepreau Nuclear Generation Station and the process for the licence renewal. The presentation highlighted

- *CANDU Design systems;*
- *Overview of the workforce;*
- *Partnerships and training for staff and the public;*
- *Emergency preparedness;*
- *Regulatory oversight bodies including the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and audit processes;*
- *Safeguards of used fuels;*
- *Participation in environmental protection;*
- *First Nations engagement;*
- *Community engagement;*
- *Economic contributions to New Brunswick; and*
- *Licence renewal process, requesting a 25-year licence renewal versus 5-year, and timelines for consultation and renewal.*

E. INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BY-LAWS AND MOTIONS

1. Council Discussion on the New Brunswick Power Relicensing of Lepreau Nuclear Facility - PS220102

Council thanked Jason Nouwen and Kathleen Duguay for the thorough presentation on Point Lepreau Nuclear Facility and the licence renewal process. Council inquired if the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) were the ones to approve the licencing or was this completed by another governing body? Mr. Nouwen noted that the CNSC is comprised of a Staffing Division and a Commission division. The staffing division reviews the licencing application and submits a report to the Commission. The Commission is made up of independent panelists and the President of CNSC. The Commission scrutinizes the report to both the Staffing Division and Lepreau. After the review, the Commission makes the recommendation to renew the licence or not.

Council inquired about emergency situations and the process for informing the public where there is a risk to health care concerns for residents. Mr. Nouwen noted that in the event of an emergency, the emergency preparedness team would communicate to the local area and would reach out in parallel to the Emergency Management Organization (EMO) and the CNSC. Protocols and actions are in place for a quick response to any situation.

CAO Spear asked if Saint Andrews was in the danger zone area as it was noted that Lepreau has partnerships with Saint John, Musquash, and the Province. Mr. Nouwen states that they have certain planning zones based on kilometer distance from the facility. If evacuation was needed, it would be for a 20-kilometer radius from the facility. CAO Spear suggested a tabletop exercise should be coordinated with EMO with our zone and involve the Fire Chiefs and senior staff of the municipalities in Charlotte County to have a better understanding of the processes and responsibilities. Mr. Nouwen stated that this would be a good idea and would make inquiries into having a tabletop exercise established. The more engagement and information provided, the better the communication can be in matters of emergencies.

CAO Spear asked what the long-term plan was for the spent fuels being stored on site. Mr. Nouwen provided some background information from the CNSC and their process to find a permanent storage location underground in Canada to store the spent fuel for all reactors in Canada. It was noted that there is enough storage space on-site for all the spent fuel until the next proposed refurbishment in 2047.

Council noted that there are many countries that are moving away from using nuclear as an option since the Fukushima incident, like Germany, Belgium, Australia, etc. In the context of the 25-year licence versus the 5-year license, can they explain why they are asking for such an extended licence? Mr. Nouwen highlighted that there are many options for energy sources in the world and that many countries are looking at alternative energy sources. In North America, it is difficult not to use nuclear as a baseline process, as it makes up 63% of the energy used in New Brunswick for example. With the future increases in demand for energy, specifically electric vehicles, it will be difficult to meet the energy demands through renewable energies necessary to power the country. Additionally, there is a high cost for the production, implementation, and renewal of many of the wind and solar systems available. Nuclear can be looked at as cheaper, lower-cost maintenance for energy production. There needs to be a mix of energies available to keep the grid stable. Council requested to be provided with links to studies and information on the processes and balances using nuclear energy. Mr. Nouwen and Mrs. Duguay noted they will provide information and contacts to professionals for Council to reach out to for additional information.

Council noted that the public in recent days had received a letter from New Brunswick Power regarding the process to conserve energy during peak demand times with the recent cold snap. Council was wondering if Lepreau could provide more capacity to the power grid to help offset this demand use. Mr. Nouwen explained that the plant functions at nearly 100% at all times. It provides a baseline of power to New Brunswickers. It was noted that it is not good to try to ramp up and ramp down power at the nuclear facility based on the physics of the reactor. It is better for the system to keep running at high capacity or be shut down, but not to do high and low peaks.

Council thanked New Brunswick Power for their continued education and partnership with First Nation Communities. Mrs. Duguay said it was a key part of their community outreach and that they have had positive interactions, including but not limited to education on the facility and working with the First Nations on the preservation of plants used during ceremonies and medicinal practices. This has been a great learning experience for all parties involved.

Clerk Nopper asked how Lepreau is working with the Provincial and Federal governments on the implementation on the small nuclear reactor programs and if spent fuel cells would be reused to help power these reactors. Mr. Nouwen stated Lepreau has been a key partner working with private businesses and the government on the development of this technology. They have a goal of developing these reactors on-site to test the technology. As it improves, these could be deployed throughout the Province in helping with maintaining energy to communities while reducing the costs of large-scale power line systems. Spent fuels can be used in one of the technologies being worked on which would also help reduce the storage capacity of waste while further protecting the environment.

Council asked staff to bring forward a motion of support for the licence renewal of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Facility for February 7, 2022, Regular Council Meeting. Mrs. Duguay noted that the deadline for support for the licence renewal was March 25, 2022, and that more information would be provided to the Town for what needed to be submitted as part of the support letter process.


- F. NEW BUSINESS
- G. QUESTION PERIOD
- H. COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS
- I. MAYOR'S COMMENTS
- J. CLOSED SESSION
- K. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 006 - 01/22


Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi
Seconded by Councillor Hirtle

At 7:40 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

4 – 0
Carried



 Brad Henderson, Mayor



 Paul Nopper, Clerk – Senior
 Administrator

