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## Hamlet of Enterprise

### Special Meeting

24 July 2013

Hamlet Office at 7:00 – 10:00 PM

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Start Motions #2013-07-128

1. Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.
  - 1.1. Members Present: Mayor Mike St. Amour  
Councillor Jim Dives  
Councillor John Leskiw  
Councillor Tammy Neal
  - 1.2. Community Gallery:  
Dave Richards and Cece Richards  
Glen and Heather Klassen  
Vi and Eric Bartlett  
T Jay Klassen  
Shari Dives  
Norm and Cody McCowan  
Paul Bickford, NNSL
  - 1.3. Staff/Volunteers  
Terry Testart, Melinda Lenoir, Bruce Proud
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest  
None
3. Councillor Absences:
  - 3.1. Deputy Mayor Craig McMaster
  - 3.2. Councillor Alan Flamand
  - 3.3. Councillor Mathew Gauthier
4. Delegations
  - 4.1. Drew Ashton, Ashton Charter Accountants – Presentation of 2013 Enterprise Audit Andrew Queen presented the 2012/13 Financial Stmts. He summarized and explained the information to Council:  
Page 2 – Auditor’s reports, clean opinion fairly stated in accordance with CAP.  
Page 3 – Consolidated of Statement at year end. Mar 31, 2013  
Made up of many different parts, financial assets, less liabilities financial assets debt. Relative to debt.  
Surplus of \$927,000, increased in \$200,000 moving down overall surplus decreased 3.5 mil to 3.48 mil.

Fin Assets – overall there was an increase in cash. Increase in 1 million in invested funds. Generally gas tax funding CPIF restricted funding. Required to be held in separate accounts.

Page 10 - Short Term Investments: Note 3 show that the hamlet is holding GIC fair rates.

Page 11 A/R – was up by about 140,000.00 exception insurance proceeds. Allowance for doubtful there was no change. High quality receivables

Page 3 – liabilities – AP consistent with last year. Deferred contributions increased to 3.8 million this year.

Page 11 – Note 7 New horizons program. Gas tax restricted for certain project.

Page 24 – Gas tax schedule, how much received and spent in a year. 2013 740,000 funds available to use received \$922,000. No gas tax expenditures in the year.

CPIF- 2.3 million end balance 3 million for spending. Hand held radios, phone system and water study.

Page 3 – Land fill closure expenses \$187,000 if we had to shut down today. Not funds that are to be expected anytime soon.

Page 12 Note 10- total costs 18 yrs \$346,000 of that \$187,000 today's portion

Page 3- Financial assets – increased insurance proceeds because of.

Non-Financial Assets – prepaid expenses small number, inventory gravel stockpile decreased to \$43,000.

Capital assets – Schedule 12 – different schedule cost of assets paid in cash. Read the schedule biggest asset is the buildings. Big disposal is the building garage and trucks.

Amortization – \$171,000 year decreased in a year.

NBV – 2.5 million of asset

Page 3 – NFA increased in \$100,000. Overall decreased because of the loss on disposal of building.

Page 4 – Accumulated surplus,

Page 13 – Summary of all the grants received in a year. Block funding, CPIF GAS tax, this money is restricted was recorded to deferred revenue. Various other funding sources, JEPP funding for \$13,000.

Page 4 – Next schedules

Page 20 and 21 – So this contains a lot of information close to breakeven which is a good thing.

Page 21 – School bus did have a loss for the yr. \$15,000. If you have surpluses they have to be repaid, if you have loses they get picked up in operations.

Page 4 – Expenditures are organized by dept., will go through each one.

Page 17 – GGS – Surplus of \$36,000. Allocations were done differently. Salary

Page 18 – Protective services slight loss in this section. There was an allocation from the JEPP program. 34000 amortization noncash expense.

Transportation & Public Works – Small loss \$5000 created by amortization. \$162,000 salaries and expenses over budget on this. Any questions?

Page 19 – Environment Health Services – Interpreted expenses this year.

Recreation services small \$2,000 loss actual cash was not

Last is the object report – Page 22, all expenses organized in a different way combines everything, where the big expenses are. Salaries and wages which is expected.

Total expenditures 1.2 million for the year.

Page 4 covered all the schedules that he was looking for. Excess revenues over expenses. Trying to make money, get the resources and distributed through the town. Small loss on the disposal of the asset. Overall loss for the year \$10,000. Pretty even results he would say.

Mr. Queen asked Mayor and Council if there were any more questions.

**Motion 2013-07-128**

**Motion to accept the March 31, 2013 Audited Statements as presented.**

Moved by Councillor Dives

Seconded by Councillor Neal

In discussion, the SAO asked Mr. Queen from the audits that he has performed in the communities, how would you compare Enterprise to other communities?

Mr. Queen answered that Enterprise, has a strong surplus, showing a lot of accountability towards funding. Enterprise is in a good status but it is like comparing apples to oranges. Enterprise is in a very strong financial position with no warning signs to indicate any trouble.

Councillor Dives asked how many other communities are in our financial position.

Mr. Queen responded not that many, but other communities have different challenges. Enterprise has been responsibly managed.

All in favour.

**Motion Carried**

*Mayor St. Amour thanked Mr. Queen for his presentation and presented him with a gift of 2 Hamlet of Enterprise travel coffee mugs.*

5. Deferred Business and Tabled Items:

5.1. Old Business:

5.1.1. Animal Control Bylaw Number 2013-41

**Motion 2013-07-129**

**Motion to Read By-Law 2013-41, the Animal Control Bylaw, a third and final time.**

Moved by Councillor Dives

Seconded by Councillor Leskiw

All in favour.

**Motion Carried**

5.1.2. Paving Contract Update:

The SAO tabled the signed paving contract between the Hamlet and Carter Industries for the amount of \$1,780,000. The contract wording was amended resulting from the legal advice after the legal review was completed by Brownlee LLP, the Hamlet Corporate Lawyers. The legal advice was that to protect the Hamlet of Enterprise's interests, the contract should be amended to include the contractor to provide a performance bond and a labour and material payment bond each that would be equal to and not less than fifty percent of the contract price.

The Contractor (Carter) has requested that the requirement of the bonds was not stated in the original bid requirements and he has requested reimbursement for the actual cost of the bonds. The Contractor actual cost is \$17,800.

The SAO requested a change order to the contract for the amount of \$17,800 to be paid to the Contractor for the performance bond and a labour and material payment bond upon presentation of the Contractor's invoice for the same.

**Motion 2013-07-130**

**Motion to approve a change order to the Paving contract for the amount of \$17,800 for reimbursement of the Contractor's cost for the performance bond and a labour and material payment bond required in the Standard Contract Terms of the Pavement and Road Ditching Contract dated 16 day of July, 2013. Further, that the Senior Administrative Officer has authority to approve Change Orders Carter Industries to any amount not exceeding 5% of the total Contract amount.**

Moved by Councillor Dives

Seconded by Councillor Leskiw

All in favour.

**Motion Carried**

5.1.2.1. Project Management Options:

The SAO informed Council that within the Brownlee legal opinion, it was recommended that the Council appoint a Project Manager to protect the Hamlet's interest. While the Maskwa Engineer working for Carter Industries is bound to represent fairly the work performed, the legal advice is that the Hamlet would be in a stronger position if they have their own Engineer to verify the work, make recommendations, and recommend approval for payments, after verifying the Contractor invoices for work performed. This provides better security for the hamlet.

**Motion 2013-07-131**

**Motion to request by invitation a minimum of four proposals to provide project management services for the Pavement and Road Ditching Project from contract.**

Moved by: Jim Dives

Seconded: Tammy Neal

All in favour

**Motion Carried**

5.1.3. Appointment of Fire Chief

The Fire Department Officers, at a regular meeting after practice, recommended the appointment of Michael St. Amour as Fire Chief of the Enterprise Fire Department.

**Motion 2013-07-132**

**Motion to appoint Michael St. Amour as Fire Chief of Enterprise.**

Moved by Councillor Dives

Seconded by Councillor Leskiw

All in favour.

**Motion Carried**

5.1.4. Update on Wildland Fire south of Enterprise

Mayor St. Amour reported that on Sunday afternoon, he received a phone call from GNWT, ENR that a Wildland fire started on the other side of the river on the south side of Enterprise. The fire was declared to be extinguished at 4 p.m. the same day. ENR is monitoring the fire site

and continuing to do clean up. 12 people responded and did a really good job. Councillor Neal asked why they were still pouring water on it.

Mayor St. Amour responded that the fire may still be underground so they are manually trenching the site. He said Council's next step is to consider releasing funds to make a fire break.

*Mayor St. Amour suggested a short break as Item 5 was concluded.*

**Motion 2013-07-133**

**Motion to take a five minute break at 8:10 p.m.**

Moved by Councillor Dives

Seconded by Councillor Leskiw

All in favour.

**Motion Carried**

*Mayor St. Amour called the meeting back to order at 8:23 p.m.*

6. New Business:

6.1. Resignation of Senior Administrative Officer

The Senior Administrative Officer addressed the chair. He said that this item would normally be discussed 'In Camera' but that he would like to keep the meeting open to the public gallery so that the residents could hear what he had to say and why he was submitting his resignation.

Mayor St. Amour agreed. No Councillors presented a motion to go in 'In Camera' to close the meeting to the public.

The SAO said that conditions have made him think about whether or not he would like to stay as Council's Senior Administrative Officer. He described what it was like to work in Enterprise for the Hamlet. He said it is a challenge to work for Council in the community due to the abnormal stress of the job.

The Hamlet has a zero tolerance policy to protect staff against harassment but there has been a small number of residents that have been lobbying me to fire the Foreman since I arrived in Enterprise. This has been a consistent attack on the Foreman up to an including when I was starting a trip to Yellowknife, a resident stopped to me and started swearing about what the Foreman had done to the cemetery when he was just following directions from Council. The Foreman said this complaint was a small occasion but he gets regular criticism from the same residents that happens quite regularly. He said for this particular complaint, all he did was clear some trees and continued to build a road that council had approved. He said that Councillor Flamand came to see him and said that he should clear the trees. But Council has always said, by policy, that only the SAO is to direct employees and not the councillors. Additionally, by the Council's 'Zero Tolerance Policy', the Foreman should be reporting the resident for abuse. The SAO said he didn't feel that council supports and protects the employees.

An issue that made me decide to resign was comments made about the paving contract and the accuracy of the minutes. This has happened a few times and it is not a councillor approaching him by email, phone call or in person but rather the councillor questioning by emails to all councillors with accusations of inaccurate minutes. He said that he felt that this was a form of harassment. He said that this has occurred a number of times and that he doesn't agree with council meetings by email.

Another issue was collections of water and sewer accounts. He said that his approach to collections is to contact residents politely and professionally. He said that he did this because he was new to the community and wanted to give residents the opportunity to catch up with their bills. He felt that he should not have been chastised by Council for not precisely following the procedures in the collections bylaw. It appeared that there is little support for employees from the Councillors themselves.

He said there were other matters that voters should be aware of with regard to conflicts of interest but that these items were discussed 'In Camera' when the issues were about councillors. He said he felt the public had a right to know.

Terry said he was very surprised with the resistance from councillors when there was adequate funds available to do community projects supporting residents or to provide services to residents. He stated that when he approached Council for additional staff to undertake some new items such as preparing for the lands transfer, councillors made comments that the Hamlet office had always been staffed with 2 persons and there was no need to change. He said even though funding is available for services, it is hard for management to have confidence when councillors are not consistent. Motions are passed but then there are instances when councillors publically do not support the approvals.

He said the reason he wanted to come to Enterprise is that he felt there was a prospect for growth, both economic and in a sustainable way. Instead, he said he has been dealing more with harassment and unpredictable councillors.

He said that the reason he wanted to state his reasons for leaving publically is that the residents should be more interactive with council and understand the difficulties felt by staff and by councillors.

Terry said that on August 8<sup>th</sup>, Councillor Gauthier resigned because it was "not fun" anymore to be on Council. He said that he understood Councillor Gauthier's wish to resign. He said that he is not happy being Senior Administrative Officer for the same reason: "it's not fun to work here with residents swearing at staff when the harassment is tolerated. The harassment has begun to be treated by councillors as a normal event and just continues.

He said that Enterprise residents need to find a way to get closer together, where people get along. Someone has to make it fun to work here. It just not fun anymore, that is my reason for resigning. Terry requested that the Mayor open the meeting to the public so they could voice their opinions.

*Mayor St. Amour opened the meeting to the public so residents could voice their opinions.*

*Eric Bartlett, express my feelings, the very first thing I would like to say. We have 2 people that are putting their butts out there, and there is no respect. Our last SAO bought a lawn mower, and he cleaned up the dump, anything else he did seemed to back fire. Had another SAO, he never come back to the community he side stepped all the costs. This is his opinion only. There are financial statements, read them it's all there. Mom & Tots, spend thousands of dollars on a program and get nothing, in return. In Enterprise, wells have been in a conversation for years. We have wells now. We have a dump truck, for 10 or 15 thousand dollars. That is an adequate little dump truck for our community. Our ditches are being repaired, the swamp water. Are we going to get our roads paved, or is some councillor going to screw that up too? The Jamboree wants the community*

support, why should we? Who else is going to come here, someone that nobody else wants, Enterprise is the laughing stock of the NWT.

*Shari Dives* – I have been here for a few years, I mind my own business. I was under the impression that if you did not pay your water, you were cut off. We are keeping it a big secret, we have not pushed to get the land transfer faster. I am for Terry, he has done more for us then, Thank you Terry for making things public.

*Councillor Leskiw* – Thank you for the comments, but let's stop and take a look of reality. A lot of comments were about the community. I was being elected to ensure that other people don't get on. They would see so and so not get on. I hear that there is negative feedback. We are losing a good man, yeah we make mistakes. We need a guy like him around. Seriously we have to take a look ourselves. From day one, my term ends at the end of this year. Until we as a community work together, we want people to stay here, community needs to support the staff. A lot of people are saying that there is a lot fighting on council. Because there are those of us that want to better the community and those that are self-interested of course there is going to be fighting. Some of the public is appreciated, and thank you just the same. *Councillor Dives* – Seeing development happen in this community to let the harassment chase you out of here, is letting the harassment win.

*Winnie Cadieux* – I respect that you have a lot of experience. Did you decide to resign after you were hired by Hay River? Are you going to the Town of Hay River? Did you sign a contract with the Town of Hay River? *Terry* – There have been a series of approaches from Hay River Mayor and Council but I have always kept the Mayor of Enterprise aware of these approaches. I have been offered but not made any decision. *Shari Dives* – How would anybody know if they approached you? The rumor mill seems to know before the council knows.

*Terry* – The amount of confidential information that leaves these Council Chamber walls is astounding. When I came here, there was no housing for the SAO so arrangements were made regarding salary and benefits. Information went out to the public about my personal information when it should have been confidential.

*Winnie Cadieux* – Is that not public information?

*Terry* – No. Salary scales in communities that have them are made available to the public but not specific employees' personnel information.

*Norm and Cody*- Moved in 14 years, the community has not changed. But Community can only change from strong leadership.

*Mayor St. Amour* – I have been part of enterprise for over 20 years I have seen things up and down and things I like and not like. If he does stay I will be willing to run again as mayor. I want to keep our momentum going and keep moving forward. Council needs to follow policy 'to the letter' to protect all staff.

*Councillor Neal* – I have been here for 7 years, a lot of controversy hard to get people on the same page. Post a public meeting, and nobody shows up. Very hard to be a councillor. Come to the meetings and voice your concerns. Hard to address everything that was said tonight. We have had discussions on the zero tolerance policy. Enforce it. I don't know how Bruce stayed here that long. If you guys have worked with us, in the last 6 months. 2 sides to every story, he's talking about me. Simply in one email, that's my job as an elected official. Reading the minutes, I was doing my job as an elected official. Terry is accusing me of harassment. It is hard to be a councillor come and participate in the meeting. This community can grow to be so much is everyone works together.

*Councillor Dives* – As a councillor, I don't appreciate being emailed that way. So don't copy me on your email.

*Mayor St. Amour* – There is one councillor that is threatening to sue me but what I said at the meeting is right and I am standing behind it.

*Sandra McMaster* – I feeling very left out, I was dismissed from my job was up for evaluation but I don't have a job when I come back from holidays.

*Shari Dives* – I understanding at a council meeting that funding was changing, was coming under the community wellness program. Did I get this wrong?

*Mayor St. Amour* – It was new program funding that has not been received yet for children that come to the community centre.

## 7. Adjournment

### **Motion 2013-07-134**

**That the Special Council Meeting be adjourned.**

Moved by Councillor Leskiw

Seconded by Councillor Dives

**Motion Carried**


Mayor St. Amour declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**Certified Correct as Recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2013.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Administrative Officer

These minutes were approved 2013-10-07

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor St. Amour

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Terry Testart