

# CITY OF BATHURST COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2025 6:30 pm Council Chambers - City Hall

Present Mayor K. Chamberlain

Councillor P. Anderson Councillor D. Branch Councillor S. Brunet Councillor R. Hondas Councillor D. Knowles Councillor M. Skerry

Absent Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

Councillor S. Legacy Deputy Mayor M. Willett

Appointed Officials T. Pettigrew, Chief Administrative Officer

L. Foulem, Corporate Communications Manager

C. Roy, Executive Administrator

### 1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

# 2. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

### 2.1 North Tetagouche Recreation Centre by Charles Comeau

Mr. Comeau, president of the recreation center, expressed his gratitude to the municipal council for the opportunity to present the progress made thanks to their support. He emphasized the need for additional funding to allow the center to continue growing and better serve the community.

- Current Situation:
  - o The center's current operations are limited by a lack of personnel.
  - o Most activities are supported by volunteers, making efficient management challenging and restricting the center's capacity for expansion.
  - O Administrative and operational tasks, such as managing reservations and maintenance, consume significant time and effort.
- Financial Data:
  - Revenue for 2024: \$78,701 (including \$45,000 in funding currently provided by the city).
  - o Expenses for 2024: \$89,514.60.
  - o Projections for 2025: Estimated expenses of \$97,577.91.

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• Request for Additional Funding:

- o Increase municipal funding to \$60,000 per year (+\$15,000).
- Goals for this funding:
  - Modernize the website to enable automated reservations and payments via credit card.
  - Hire 2-3 employees to strengthen operations (\$12,000/employee per year based on minimum wage).
  - Cover mandatory and routine expenses, including utilities, maintenance, and other operational costs.
- Consequences of Non-Funding:
  - o Risk of the recreation center closing due to the inability to manage operations.
  - O Loss of an essential resource for the community.

#### Conclusion:

Mr. Comeau emphasized the importance of investing in human resources to ensure the continuity and expansion of the recreation center's services. He thanked the municipal council for their past support and expressed hope for continued collaboration to strengthen the center's impact on the community.

Formal Request: Approval of an additional \$15,000 in funding for a total of \$60,000 per year.

## 2.2 4 Directions by Rene Vienneau

René Vienneau, representing 4 Directions, presented the organization's annual update. 4 Directions operates the *Fundamentals of Wilderness Survival* program, a local non-profit initiative designed for youth. Specializing in forest expeditions, the program provides students with a unique and memorable wilderness experience while equipping them with essential life skills.

The adventure program is not only educational but also enriching and fun, offering participants the chance to connect with nature. Students embark on a journey of survival, learning critical skills such as first aid, fire starting, shelter building, and signaling. Under the guidance of expert instructors, they also develop strategies to cope with challenges like fear, anxiety, and loneliness.

Their commitment is to provide youth with or without financial means or opportunities to participate in an experiential learning in nature.

The entry fee is \$750 per student. To reduce costs, they are seeking sponsorships with a minimum contribution of \$250. In previous years, the council has sponsored two students from Bathurst.

#### 3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned	ed at 7:01 p.m.
	Carolle Roy, Acting City Clerk