

MULGRAVE TOWN COUNCIL
Public Meeting Minutes
October 6th, 2008

A public meeting between residents and Mulgrave Town Council was held in Town Council Chambers, Mulgrave Town Office, on Monday, October 6th, 2008 at 6:00pm.

Attendance

Deputy Mayor Arthur Carter
Councillor Lorne MacDonald
Councillor George Freer
Acting CAO Jeffrey Aitkens
Tanya Tibbo.

Gallery

Bev MacDonald	Chris Topp	Ralph Hadley
Rennie Hadley	Douglas Wilneff	Beryl Hadley
Larry Ryan	Darlene Jamieson	Basil King
Marney Simmons	Joanne Reddick	Kevin O'Neil
Chris Topp	Ronnie Elms	Bill Hemmings
Neil Cullens	Atheling Elms	Clarence Reddick

Regrets

Mayor Leonard MacDonald
Councillor Anne MacDonald

1.0 Calling of Meeting to Order

CAO Jeff Aitkens opens up the meeting to the public.

2.0 Presentation

Jeff Aitkens provided a brief presentation which included: the history of the Town's name, reasons for the name change, reasons against the name change, open discussion.

Reasons for the name change include:

- emphasis on access to the Strait of Canso, an ice-free port
- provides a clear vision and identity for the Town
- A new beginning
- Appears to be historically intended name of Town

Reasons against the name change include:

- Loss of traditional name
- Cost to taxpayers
- Will not be effective in promoting the Port
- There are other ways of promoting the Town's deep-water port

3.0 Open discussion

Kevin O'Neil – requests to read a letter he wrote about in favour of changing the name to Port Mulgrave. He provided a copy of a petition dated 1859 signed by 53 residents in favour of calling Mulgrave "Port Mulgrave". Mr. O'Neil's reasons for the name change include economics and history.

Neil Cullens – stated that he has attended many Council meetings and has never heard of an importance to change the name of the Town. Why is it so important now?

Jeff Aitkens – Election is a good time to hold a plebiscite.

Neil Cullens – stated that this council is a lame duck council. Why not wait for the new council.

Jeff Aitkens – the reason for a plebiscite is to gauge public opinion and give the new council a foundation for making a decision.

Beryl Hadley – inquires about recommendations from the Strategic Plan that the Town has accomplished.

Councillor Lorne MacDonald – Supporting SCSCCL, providing sewer and water to those who did not have it, stabilizing the town's finances, protecting the water supply of the Town, to name a few.

Bill Hemmings – inquires about the cost to taxpayers.

Jeff Aitkens – The estimate is around \$7,500.

Bill Hemmings – believes that there will be costs to individuals.

Chris Topp – states that we are not living in 1859, there is no fishery now. Economic hard times are coming and if it costs the Town or taxpayers anything, it is too much. He also thinks that SCSCCL is quite capable of promoting the Port. There is no purpose to go through this expense at this time.

Clarence Reddick – asked what it has cost the Town to date.

Jeff Aitkens – it has not cost the town anything.

Neil Cullens – asks the candidates what they think about the name change.

Basil King – will speak to Neil after the meeting.

Joanne Reddick – sees no purpose to change the name. There are better things to spend money on. Her concern is an unnecessary cost to residents.

Ralph Hadley – the majority of people he has spoken with don't want a name change.

Councillor Lorne MacDonald – if it costs money, there is no point at this time.

Marney Simmons – half of the people she has spoken with are in favour. She is 100% for the name change. It brings a sense of identity and new beginning.

Larry Ryan – the response he has gotten about the name change is about 85% against.

Chris Topp – he would like to see the actual cost broken out and the inconvenience's residents will have.

Clarence Reddick – Why the name change all of a sudden?

Councillor Lorne MacDonald – the province requires each municipality to create a sustainability plan, and the name change was suggested from a prior planning document.

Joanne Reddick – There has already been a cost to the Town.

Clarence Reddick – asks what happens after the vote.

Jeff Aitkens – states that a plebiscite is not legally binding, but it will aid Council in making an informed decision.

Adjournment

Jeff Aitkens thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Consensus to adjourn at 6:55pm.

APPROVED BY:

RECORDED BY:

ARTHUR CARTER
DEPUTY MAYOR

JEFF AITKENS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER