

TOWN COUNCIL OF BAY BULLS
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING – January 18, 2017
Softball & Soccer Field Lighting

Members Present: Mayor Patrick O’Driscoll
Deputy Mayor Harold Mallowney
Councillor Evelyn Tucker
Councillor Wendy O’Driscoll
Councillor Joan Luby

Regrets: Councillor Jason Sullivan
Councillor Gerard Mulcahy

Also Present: Sandra Cahill, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Patrick O’Driscoll assumes the Chair & calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm & welcomes the public to the Special Public Meeting to discuss the softball & soccer field lighting proposal & turns the floor over to Councillor Wendy O’Driscoll.

Councillor Wendy O’Driscoll:

I have some real issues with what you have done, we all do, you were contacted several times, 4 meetings we’ve had. You were invited to these meetings along with Councillor Jason Sullivan & Councilor Mulcahy & you didn’t attend. You have actually given out false information; you posted false information on social media. You have all these people here tonight thinking we are going to hand over \$300.00.00 to recreation for lights, that’s completely untrue. This special meeting that we are having here now is an information session to try & get you here so you could know what we were actually discussing.

Mayor:

What’s the urgency, why can’t it wait for the public meeting, why call a special public meeting.

Councillor Wendy O’Driscoll:

Because there are so many steps that have to take place, summer is coming, softball season & soccer season starts up & to see if this is a feasible option for the town. No one has made any obligation, any monetary obligation, or project obligation. It is irresponsible for you to go on social media especially when you don’t have the information yourself.

Mayor:

I have the package that was sent out by the BBBAA.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

And not only that, you also released the agenda prior to it being adopted.

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Mayor:

What agenda?

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

What we are discussing here tonight along with the number, which by the way is an extraordinary ball park figure.

Mayor:

It's an estimate – what are you going based on?

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

We never agreed to anything, you would know that if you showed up to the meetings or answered an email. No monetary decision was being made, no obligation to the project was being made.

Mayor:

So why call a special public meeting?

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

So we could actually get you here because for some reason you can't show up for a meeting.

Mayor:

I go to all the regular public meetings except the one in December. The meeting in December that I didn't attend was the same one you didn't attend because we both went to the Christmas concert in Mobile that our kids sang on.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

I had been to every meeting.

Mayor:

That was the one that was cancelled & rescheduled. The next one scheduled my son had a hockey game & you know that.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

You didn't send an email saying you were not attending. There are several times we met with developers.

Mayor:

All you need is a delegation of council to go forward & meet, all council members don't have to attend.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

I didn't say that.

Mayor:

You are council's representative on the BBBAA & you bring that information to council, that's the way it's supposed to work.

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Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

I treat you with dignity & respect & I expect you to treat me that same way, there's no room for this stuff on council & you intentionally post on social media saying that we are trying to push something through is completely false. This was a way to get you here so we could give you the correct information, but no you decided to act irresponsibly.

Mayor:

Why didn't you send out an email to council saying we were calling a special public meeting tonight so we can get all councilors together? Why is meeting called tonight?

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

So we could give you the information.

Mayor:

So Councillor Jason Sullivan isn't a good enough councilor to show up. Why is Jason Sullivan not here tonight, you know he is in Nova Scotia getting a boat ready to come back.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

In six (6) months I've seen Jason Sullivan twice.

Mayor:

He is still a councillor, he emailed back & asked can you put it off until the next public meeting & you didn't do it.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

We scheduled several meetings with the engineer you could not even email back & say I can't attend, that's common courtesy. One time you mailed back & asked to reschedule for the new year. We've done that.

Mayor;
When an estimate comes out for 300,000.00....

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
Not as estimate, it's a ballpark figure, it's not over 300,000.00. You also actually quoted a price that could be compromising the fairness if this were to get out. We have not mentioned one word about even if we were going to support this project. We've not mentioned any attempt or made any promises that we will or any monetary amount that we will, nothing. This is information.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:
Patrick we are entertaining road work to.

Councillor Wendy Wareham:
Yeah because none of that getting done either.

Mayor:
Well you have lots of tax payers here tonight that have concerns.

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Councillor Wendy Wareham:
I'm talking about the facts, you told people to come down here & voice their opinion. You know the process if someone wants to speak, they have to submit a written request to council to be approved to speak.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:
We have our backs turned to the gallery, you have all these residents riled up intentionally, that was your intention.

Mayor:
Residents are concerned.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
They are concerned because of false information you provided, knowingly.

Mayor:
You sent out an email the other day & said this is urgent & we got to have this meeting, it's time sensitive.

Yes there are steps to follow, it's also Come Home Year & 2 or 3 other events planned, so obviously...

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

So if lights were in there they could avail of the field. I'm not going to say there's going to be.

Mayor:

There's a festival in Witless Bay every year & that's successful.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

We as a council would never take that kind of money & put into something like that unless it was feasible & good financial decision for the town. Making irresponsible decisions for the town is over.

Mayor:

Well glad to know that so we will move forward. So we can motion here tonight to cancel it.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Why can't we look into it?

Mayor:

You just said we are not making irresponsible decisions.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Do you have all the information; I don't have all the information?

Mayor:

When Southern Shore Crush was talking about putting in the lights in there everyone I spoke to said in excess of 150,000.00. Have you seen where the poles are positioned, 2 or 3 poles, none on the soccer field. The poles on the basketball court won't be much good for putting lights on the field.

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Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Over 800 kids use these fields, they've had to turn down national tournaments, there are still lots of opportunity for music festivals, I'm saying we should look into it. It's not going to cost us one penny, but you would know that if you attended the meetings. And also these digs that you are constantly throwing all the time is enough, there's no room on council for that stuff. Like I always said I always treat you with respect & dignity, would you please in the future restrain yourself from acting like that? As council member's we are held to a higher standard, you know better than to go to social media with false information.

Mayor

I'm in this Chair until September & I will act as I feel I need to act because I represent all tax payers & if you want to get rid of me you will in September because I'm not running.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

You will get rid of yourself, misled every person here, are you that threatened?

Mayor:

Before it starts they should have a voice, before we entertain doing this I think there should be a public referendum & every resident in the harbor should come in & vote whether or not we should ever proceed.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Will then I think the public should have all the information first, don't you, to make as informed decision?

Mayor:

You were asked to postpone the meeting of until February so Jason Sullivan could attend & be part of the discussion, you didn't even consider that.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

The meeting was called when Jason Sullivan said he was in Nova Scotia.

Mayor:

He came back & asked you to postpone it until February.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

The BBBA had requested on 4 or 5 occasions to meet.

Mayor:

Councillors are required to attend one public meeting monthly, the regularly scheduled public meeting.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

And it's just like one time I said before, how effective & efficient can a councilor be if they attend one in three meetings.

Mayor:

And the reason we have a council representative on the BBBA. They meet with the BBBA & bring back the information to council & she was asked to postpone this until February, it never happened. You want it done before the sports season starts.

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Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

If we decided to do it.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Jason came back & said he wasn't in the province after the meeting was called, by that time you had already made your post. How can we cancel a meeting with all these people present here, because you gave out false information with all these people upset & anger, like they should be because the mayor was elected & supposed to look out for their best interest in giving them advise where you don't have all the information, throwing us under the bus.

Mayor;

I got the same information sheet that was sent out yesterday by the BBBAA saying why we should support it. I've seen the proposal that was in December.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

That's a ball park figure not an official estimate.

Mayor:

Anything over 200,000.00 is concerning.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Absolutely!

Mayor:

And if you think you are getting lights in there for that, Eddie McDonald told me we are not getting anything in there for under 150,000.00, that's just the soccer field.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Who said we are paying for it?

Mayor:

Is there a grant from the town gone in to the government, who's paying for it?

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

This is a part of the process, to see if we can avail of any funding, at the end of the day what it may be.

Mayor:

Do you know the economic condition of this province? And you expect the government to give us 300, 000.00.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

We're not asking for 300,000.00, it's like the town asking for 1,000,000.00 for Irishtown Rd.

Mayor:

We're not getting it.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

Like we said last month, we have to sit down as a group & prioritize our road work. We have to see what grants are available if any. What the BBAA are willing to consider & what concessions council can make is what all this is about is. But you took it & blew it all out of proportion.

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Mayor:

Where is the written proposal? So you are going to do it verbally so it can change on the fly.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

Was going to be done on the up & up.

Mayor:

How many poles do you need?

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

That would have to go to tender. If we see fir that this may possibly work for this town, if we can get grants, if we can get some private money, if we can get some money from the town or the BBAA, all has to be considered.

Mayor:

Before April?

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

It doesn't matter when, the process has to start somewhere & we have to consider if it's a feasible venture.

Mayor:

Obviously not feasible if anybody walked in & looked at the softball field, the dugouts that the kids get into are not fit. The roof is falling down & you want to have a big event in there. There's no talk about replacing them, how much is that going to cost.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

I never said there's a big event in there this summer; I said there's a possibility.

Mayor:

Anything that goes on in there, the kids being in there alone, your entertaining lights.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:

They put bathrooms in there on their own.

Mayor:

Fields are the responsibility of the town.

Councilor Wendy O'Driscoll:
All the infrastructure for the power is in there.

Mayor:
The poles are in there.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
The source is in there, but you would know that if you came to the meeting.

Mayor:
I'm in there all the time; I can look up & see the lights are on the wires.

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Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
You misled people.

Mayor:
No one was misled; you are allowed to have your opinion, that's what we are here for.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
That's not what you did.

Mayor:
Well you are entitled to your opinion.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll
Do you want me to read out your post?

Mayor:
I wrote it so I know what it is about. If you are asking for an apology you not going to get one, I feel certainly justified.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll, Tucker & Luby:
We don't expect that of you. This is the old boys club.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll starts to read out the Mayor's Facebook post

Mayor:
I'm not staying here all night so go ahead & make the decision you came here to make.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:
Obviously Patrick you are not interested.

Mayor;
I'm here.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
You came here to see people rip a strip of us.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:
Did you think we were going to approve in access of 300,000.00 & Jason had a figure of 500,000.00 for lights when our roads are falling apart. We have not; correct me if I'm wrong, have we applied for any federal money in the past 4 or 5 years for our roads?

Mayor:
Yes

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
Oh we have, have we?

Deputy Mayor Harold Mallowney:
Nothing major.

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Mayor:
We applied 2 years ago, call Engineering & ask.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
You always say, no sense talking to this one or that one, where's your proof. That's what you always say to Joan.

Mayor:
Call the engineer, call a meeting with him. You're asking Harold, how is he supposed to know, I'm on public works.

Councillor Wendy O'Driscoll:
Harold is on council over 20 years & knows procedures & he don't make reckless statements.

Mayor:
Wendy you are grand standing, let's get on with the meeting or I'm going to adjourn.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

The only grandstanding is you on social media & totally inappropriate & unprofessional.

Mayor:

No grand standing, the public has to know.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

There absolutely was & you wound up these people & other people in the community.

Mayor:

You have people concerned about where their tax dollars are going.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

What you are doing is fear mongering, for some obvious reason you feel the need to do that, I don't personally.

Mayor:

I feel people need to be informed.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

So people can come to the office & get all the information you want, it's all there in the office. All the emails they have & have not answered, all the meetings that these people did not attend, it's all there for you people.

Mayor:

What are you here for, make your motion.

Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

We're not making a motion.

Mayor:

You called us here to have a general chat?

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Councillor Evelyn Tucker:

Well how else were we getting you here?

Mayor:

How ridiculous, I adjourn the meeting – 7:35 p.m.