



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Wier	Councillor Mailman
Councillor Baker	Councillor Zinck
Councillor Harpell	Councillor Malloy

Also Attending:

David Hutten, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance
Donna-lynn Provost, Municipal Clerk & Special Projects Coordinator

With Regrets:

Deputy Warden Fuller

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- 9f. Municipal Awareness Week
- 9g. Beautification and Streetscaping Program – Phase 3 – Municipal Affairs and Housing
- 9h. Cimco – Customer Service Agreement for St. Mary's Recplex

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the agenda with deletion of item 7, Correspondence, and additions of 9f, 9g, and 9h.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- No business arising

7. Correspondence:

- Message in a Bottle, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21-Removed.

8. Presentations:

- a) Guysborough Housing Network – Community Consolation Event – Nancy O'Regan

The Guysborough County Housing Network began in June 2019 in response to a request to collaborate on a CMHC research project with the Strait Richmond Housing Coalition. The project was not approved, but we continued to meet and add more members (list attached). Membership in the network includes Municipal representatives, representatives from government departments and agencies, local service providers and not-for-profit groups and interested individuals. Covid slowed things down a bit, but we continued to meet on Zoom to share what was happening across the county.

Affordable, Accessible Housing Needs:

Over the past year, several of our local service providers have reported that the lack of affordable, accessible housing and high heating costs are reaching the crisis stage for many families and individuals struggling with lack of employment, poverty, and intimate partner violence.

We have participated in the Provincial Commission on Affordable Housing last year and the Build Together Project currently underway. Lack of affordable housing is an issue for our residents as is the condition of some of the housing currently available. Securing housing is challenging for hospitals and other agencies that are busy recruiting new staff to move to our communities. With the boom in the real estate market, there are fewer homes available as rental units for families.

Housing Research:

Last year, with the support of the StFX Extension Department and University College of Cape Breton we applied for funding for a research project from CLARI, a research institute formed by universities and colleges to support community-based research. To create long-term strategies to improve access to housing, we need to understand our current situation and project what our needs might be in the future.

We are currently partnering with the St. FX Extension Department and Cape Breton University to carry out a preliminary STATSCAN analysis to show us the current housing situation and demographics. We hired 2 students over the summer on a part-time basis to create a rental housing stock inventory in each district to create a database of rental units, social housing, homes that rent out rooms, boarding opportunities and Airbnb's that provide short and long-term rentals during the off season.

That project is continuing into this fall and winter, and we hope to begin community consultations in November in the African Nova Scotian communities, the District of St. Mary's, Canso, Mulgrave, and Guysborough.

The consultations are intended to share what we have learned about the state of housing need in our county and gather feedback on priorities. We will identify some key priorities and share those with each municipal unit and the provincial government.

Ms. O'Regan asked Council to think about partnering on a consultation with the Guysborough Housing Network to find the needs of the community, with the invite to have a staff or Council member co-chair the event. Ms. O'Regan also invited CAO, David Hutten to attend a meeting.

b) Community Health Board – Dorothy Bennett, Paula MacIsaac, Corey Worth

- The Community Health Board is a group of Nova Scotia Health volunteers from the communities working together in an advisory capacity to improve the health of communities it serves.

- The Community Health Board has a legislated mandate and is guided by the Nova Scotia Health's Vision, Mission and Strategic Directions.
- The Vision is healthy people, healthy communities – for generations
- The Mission is to achieve excellence in health, healing, and learning through working together (everything is done in partnerships with other organizations)
- The Values are respect, integrity, courage, innovation, and accountability.
- The focus is on activities that make the communities healthy. Try to improve where we live, work and play.
- There are 37 Community Health Boards in Nova Scotia, 9 of which are in the Eastern Region.
- The main focus areas are, poverty, early childhood development, food security and social inclusion.
- Annual Wellness funds Grants are awarded to non-profit groups working to improve the health and wellness of their communities. They must include one of the four priorities areas.
- Only country in the G7 world that does not have a school lunch program, with that comes the behavior issues from children who are hungry, teachers are spending about 45% of their time dealing with these behaviors, instead of teaching children.
- Sean Fraser MP is head of the committee looking at a school lunch program.
- Spring 2022 the Community Health Board will be going out in the communities to have consultations and gather feedback on the areas in need of attention.
- Since 1989 we have not made any headway in the area of poverty.

c) Municipal Health and Wellness Policy – Mallory Fraser, Municipal Active Living Coordinator

- Policy development started with the previous Municipal Active living Coordinator
- The purpose of this policy is to encourage, support and offer health related program that will assist employee in achieving ownership for their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, resulting in improved over health and wellbeing for all employees.
- When employee work in a safe and healthy work environment it is shown that they are more productive.
- Factors that influence a healthy work environment such as noise levels, toxic substances, air quality, ergonomic design of the workplace as well as the social environment which refers to the psychosocial factors of the workplace that effect health and stress levels. The Mental Health commission of Canada outlines 13 factors which address psychological health and safety in the workplace. They include organizational culture, psychological and social supports, clear leadership and expectations, civility and respect, psychological demands, growth and development, recognition and reward, involvement and influence, workload management, engagement, balance, psychological protection and physical safety.
- Within this policy, full time employees are eligible to \$100.00 per calendar year for a Wellness Claim to support their health. Eligible expenses include but are not limited to, fitness equipment, structured exercise class, healthy eating programs, tobacco cessation programs, team or individual sports registration.
- Claims would be submitted to the CAO for approval and tracking.

Council agreed to table this policy until the next COTW, November 3, 2021 for Council to review.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a) Scales at the Transfer Station

- Staff to look into a structured dumping fee charge to cover the cost of the C&D burial fees.

b) Community Works Program – Public Works Technician Project

- Grant was received for student Engineer for the Water Treatment Plant to assist with Department of Environment Regulations and Reporting Requirements.
- This grant is 50% cost share.

c) Old Fashioned Christmas 25 Year Anniversary

- Council would like to recognize the 25 Year Anniversary of Old Fashioned Christmas.
- Councillor Malloy will take it to the next Old Fashioned Christmas meeting to gather ideas on how best to honour the 25th year.

d) Light it up Event – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- Light it up is a one night, national co-ordinated special lighting event in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).
- Persons with disabilities contribute to businesses and communities and help companies be successful and competitive.
- The Municipality will be participating in this, October 21, 2021 by lighting up Municipal facilities with blue and purple lights, and invite all St. Mary's businesses to participate.

e) Free Equipment Rental During Covid-19

- During the Covid-19 pandemic staff suggested free equipment rentals to the community.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to free equipment rental during Covid-19.

Recommendation approved

f) Municipal Awareness Week

- Clerk suggested ideas for Council to partake in during Municipal Awareness Week
- Council provided feedback and the Municipal Clerk will work on these in preparation of Municipal Awareness Week.

g) Beautification and Streetscaping Program - Phase 3 – Municipal Affairs and Housing

- \$25,000 grant was received for Beautification and Streetscaping Program – Phase 3

9) Cimco – Customer Service Agreement for St. Mary's Recplex

- Package includes mid-season check along with start up and shut down.
- Cost saving for the Municipality to accept the Customer Service agreement, with start up, and shut down maintenance as well as a discount on parts and services.
- \$5633.00 plus HST paid annually

On recommendation of Councillor Zinck and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agreed to accept the 3 year contract for \$16,900 plus HST for the contract with Cimco.

Recommendation approved

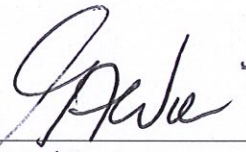
Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Coucillor Mailman, there being no further matters of business, council adjourned at 5:24pm

Motion approved.



Recorded By
Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator



Approved By
Warden Wier