



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, April 6th, 2022

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, April 6th, 2022, at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Wier	Councillor Malloy
Deputy Warden Fuller	Councillor Mailman
Councillor Zinck	
Councillor Harpell	

Absent with Regrets

Councillor Baker

Also Attending:

Marissa Jordan, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- 9f. NSFM Spring Conference

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the agenda with the additions.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, March 16th, 2022.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Presentations

a. RCMP

- Corporal Mike Wilson and Corporal Marc Michon presented to Council as representatives for the RCMP. Corporal Wilson is currently posted to the Canso detachment and is filling in as the District Commander for Guysborough which includes Canso, St. Mary's, and Guysborough. Corporal Michon arrived in Sherbrooke in April of last year and will be here for the next 3 years.
- At the Sherbrooke detachment there are four positions including the corporal and three constables. One constable position is vacant, but officers have been identified to fill the position. Officers from the Guysborough detachment have been filling the void until the new officer arrives. St. Mary's has a minimum of a four-year commitment for officers.
- The officer's priorities are based on an Annual Performance Plan. The three priorities for St. Mary's are road safety, crime reduction and community exposure. From these priorities, objectives are created within each priority; these objectives are used to assign different initiatives. Road Safety initiatives include joint operations with DNR for ATV vehicle compliance, traffic services Section from Antigonish to conduct check points, and general road safety. Crime Reduction initiatives include cyber safety presentations and conditional sentence order management. This type of initiative helps reduce re-offending. Community Exposure initiatives include pro-active patrols and school safe plans. It has been difficult to conduct Community Exposure initiatives over the pandemic. RCMP will be getting back into these initiatives as it is allowed.
- Over the past year RCMP, have issued 303 summary offence tickets in Guysborough County & 302 warnings were issued. There were 639 files throughout the year for St. Mary's. The types of files that were investigated included domestic violence, assault causing bodily harm, sexual assault, sudden death investigations, impaired driving, disturbing the peace, failing to comply, attend most fire scenes, uttering threats, fraud complaints relating to the internet, complaints from the elver and the lobster fishery, harassment via internet and 70 Mental Health Act calls.
- In the past year, Sherbrooke RCMP have been working to increase their presence on the road. The district has been equipped with a Drugalyzer, a new instrument used to detect drugs using a mouth swab. All vehicles are equipped with radars to do speed enforcement and a new blow box for detecting alcohol has been purchased.
- Officers are experiencing more Mental Health related calls. RCMP has been collaborating with Social Workers to provide support. EHS has also been a great partner to assist on the mental health calls.
- The current Community Liaison Officer is outgoing, Corporal Michon is going to determine with his team who will be the best candidate for this position. Closer to graduation, RCMP will do a presentation to grade 12 students on impaired driving.
- Council asked if an officer would be able to present at Seniors Socials to give presentations. Corporal Michon responded that it can be set up, and for someone to reach out to him to make the arrangements.
- RCMP response time to calls is dependent upon where the officer is located when the call comes through. The minimum officer coverage for St. Mary's is two officers on each side of St. Mary's and Guysborough. This means that they could be on patrol or on call.

8. Correspondence

a. Proposed Amendments to the Nova Scotia Building Code – Joe Rogers, Building Code Coordinator

- Amendments are being proposed to the Building Code that will reformat the wording of all regulations in the province. It is anticipated that the regulations will come into effect October 1st, 2022. A 45-day public notice period is being held from March 14th to April 29, 2022. It is asked that a copy of the regulations is made available for the public to view.
- Staff will post online and make sure a paper copy is available at the office.

b. End-of-Life Wire Trap Management Feasibility Study – Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada

- The Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada (FGCAC) has expressed their interest in applying for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to support their project of managing end-of-life wire lobster traps in Nova Scotia municipalities by conducting a feasibility study.
- They are requesting a contribution of \$3,500.00 from ten different municipal partners and the funding that is being applied for is due at the end of this month.
- Council asked if there are federal funds available for this study, as the work would fall under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans purview. CAO, Marissa Jordan explained that it has not been brought to her attention if additional federal funds were secured for the project and staff will gather information and bring it to the next COTW Meeting.
- Council has deferred this issue until the next COTW Meeting.
- Council asked the Director of Finance if there are available funds in the budget. The Director of Finance informed Council that if this project is supported it was not included in the budget, but it could be included under Environmental Health Services as a potential overage.

c. Archibald's Lake Wilderness Area Designation – Saint Mary's River Association

- Through a letter distributed to Council, the St. Mary's River Association has asked Council to send a letter to Premier Tim Houston and the Minister of Environment, Tim Halman, fully supporting the designation of Archibald Lake as a Wilderness Area.
- Council agreed not to send a letter at this time.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. Municipal Recreation Programming & Covid Regulations Update

- Nova Scotia is currently in phase 3 of the Provincial Re-Opening Plan. There is no longer a Provincial State of Emergency. There are no covid-19 restrictions in place, unless in a high-risk setting such as a hospital or long-term care facility.
- There will be no more regular Covid-19 updates at COTW Meetings.

b. Municipal Boundary Review

- A request for proposals was issued for the Municipal Boundary Review project. Submissions for proposals closed March 9th. The current Boundary review must be completed and submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility Review Board by December 31, 2022.
- Three proposals were received, and staff evaluated each proposal using a scoring matrix.
- Staff recommended awarding the Municipal Boundary Review tender to Upland Planning and Design Studio in the amount of \$20,500 plus HST, this expenditure is to be allotted from the 2021/2022 Municipal operating budget as previously discussed.

On recommendation of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to award the Municipal Boundary Review tender to Upland Planning and Design Studio in the amount of \$20,500.00 plus HST, the expenditure is to be allotted from the 2021/2022 Municipal operating budget.

Recommendation adopted.

c. Proof of Vaccination (POV) Policy

- With the recent relaxation of Provincial Covid-19 regulations staff recommend the Municipal POV Policy be reviewed as stated in the policy.

- Council discussed the POV Policy and Provincial Covid-19 regulations.
- The CAO provided information received through an information session organized by the Association of Municipal Administrators which included CAO's and a legal representative. Many Municipalities are rescinding their POV Policies because of the changes from the Province. The legal representative at the meeting explained that when hiring new staff it can be complicated to ask for proof of vaccination unless it is required to perform the duties of that job.

(Councillor Mailman left the meeting at 5:56 pm)

- Council directed staff to ask the Municipal Solicitor for advice on the Proof of Vaccination Policy and bring back as an item for an up-coming COTW Meeting.

d. RCMP Review of Service Needs

- Staff inquired with the Department of Justice about how the number of officers is determined for an area. Service needs for the Municipality can be evaluated through a General Duty Policing Review Model. This is what is used to evaluate how many officers are required in an area and if it is being serviced appropriately.
- There is no new information about the RCMP Contract. The 11.04 % raise does not include retroactive pay.
- Council asked how the review is paid for. The CAO, Marissa Jordan going to gather more information for the next COTW Meeting.

e. NSFM Spring Conference

- The conference is being held May 4-6 at White Point Beach Resort and there are funds in the budget for 1-2 councillors to attend.
- Deputy Warden Fuller & Warden Wier would like to attend the NSFM Spring Conference.

(Director of Finance, Marian Fraser left the meeting at 6:05 pm)

f. In Camera – Tax Sale, Personnel & Contract Negotiations

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council moved into an in-camera session at 6:07 pm.

Motion approved.

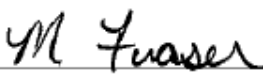
On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council reconvened to regular session at 6:38 pm.


Motion approved.

10. Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Motion approved.


 Recorded By
 Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk


 Approved By
 Warden Wier