



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 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, May 18th, 2022, at 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

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

Also Attending:

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

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- 9d. Gas prices
- 8c. Eastern Counties Regional Library Review – Justin Houston, Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture, Heritage & Tourism
- 8d. Property Use – St. Mary's ATV Club

4. Approval of the Agenda:

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

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, May 11th, 2022.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Presentations

Nova Scotia Power (NSP) – Mary Black, Darlene Bonvie, Baron Young, Jason Lyver, & Matt Drover

- Nova Scotia Power provides elected officials a dedicated contact to support their community members, Councillors were provided with this number to reach out should the need arise.
- Weather patterns are changing, winds have been increasing over the last 10 years. Nova Scotia's response has been an increase in spending over the past 8 years.
- An update was provided of the winter storms of 2022. Eight storms affected customers across Nova Scotia. There have been winds over 100 km/hr in several locations. Those high winds brought down trees and debris onto lines which resulted in damaged equipment. NSP's approach has been to open

their Emergency Operations Center throughout the storms. Crews were put in place early, including over 500 people and were ready to respond. The challenges NSP faced throughout these storms were snow and ice covered roads which slowed down response times.

- NSP's restoration principles include: 1. Reactive, Public Safety & Emergency Situations. 2. NSPI Critical Infrastructure & Transmission and Substations. 3. EMO Critical Infrastructure. 4. Main line distribution. 5. Branch line distribution feeders. 6. Individual service.
- Since 2015 \$1.7 million of work was completed over 93 kms. For the 2022-23 year there is \$1.4 million worth of work planned over 52 kms.
- NSP works with its customers to manage vegetation. Customer tree trimming requests are managed on a case-by-case basis. Its focus is on trees of immediate risk to service reliability.
- NSP has an asset management program. Inspections are conducted on transmission lines and feeder lines, poles, conductors, vegetation issues and pad mounted transformers. The goal of this program is to protect employees, customers, and the environment from hazardous conditions, identify asset condition and improve accuracy of the system model.
- Recently \$2.2 million has been spent by NSP to replace structures, \$200,000 is planned to be spent in Eight Island Lake to replace and upgrade equipment including lines and poles, and planning is underway to upgrade off road service. A portion will be moved each year.

8. Correspondence

a. St. Barbara Atlantic Operations – Laird Brownlie

- Correspondence was received from Laird Brownlie of St. Barbara's Atlantic Operations providing information about the types of jobs that will be available during the operational phase of the proposed Cochrane Hill Gold Mine Project. On the job training will be provided for entry level positions. There are many positions that required skilled tradespeople. St. Barbara asked Council to provide the company the opportunity to address Council's concerns relating to Archibald Lake and show their plan to protect it in a formal, federally mandated process in a transparent and open manner.
- Council expressed their dissatisfaction that not all the requested information was provided. Council would like more information about the number of jobs and the salary information for each job.

b. Port Bickerton Lighthouse Road – Don Dodge, Port Bickerton & Area Planning Association

- Correspondence was received from Don Dodge, Port Bickerton & Area Planning Association asking if the Municipality has any planned maintenance to be completed to the Lighthouse Road this spring.
- CAO, Marissa Jordan reached out to Paul Flynn from the Provincial Department of Public Works. It was confirmed that the Lighthouse Road is a Municipal Road and asked if there was any possibility of a partnership to provide upkeep and service to the road. These types of relationships are typically by cost share and the process is being investigated. For this season, Council will have to decide what maintenance to do for this year. Funds for this would not be allocated from the operating budget, funds would come from capital or gas tax.
- Councillor Harpell and a Municipal staff member is going to check the conditions of the road to determine what work needs to be done this fiscal year. Councillor Harpell will bring the information to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

c. Eastern Counties Regional Library External Review – Justin Houston, Deputy Minister of Communities Culture, Heritage & Tourism

- Correspondence was received from the provincial Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage outlining the External Review of the Eastern Counties Regional Library. The review will investigate the current situation, conduct a service level review as it relates to the dispute, make

recommendations to address the current situation and recommend sustainable and equitable solutions going forward. The process will include interviews with relevant stakeholders, community consultations, jurisdictional scans and other tools as required. An interim report will be submitted halfway through the process, and a final report will be submitted by the end of August 2022.

(Councillor Zinck left the meeting at 4:43 pm)

d. Request for Land Use – Milton Gallant, St. Mary's ATV Club President

- Correspondence was received from the St. Mary's ATV Club. The St. Mary's ATV Club has requested permission to construct a portion of trail on PID # 37507662, belonging to the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's.

(Councillor Zinck entered the meeting at 4:44 pm)

On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council agreed to grant permission for the St. Mary's ATV Club through the All Terrain Vehicle of Nova Scotia (ATVANS) to construct a portion of their trail on PID # 37507662, belonging to the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's.

Recommendation adopted.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. Municipal Volunteer of the Year Nomination

- Council discussed and voted for the Municipal Volunteer of the Year.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agreed to nominate Nominee A as the Municipal Volunteer of the Year.

Recommendation adopted.

b. Workplace Harassment and Discrimination Policy

- The Workplace Harassment and Discrimination Policy was developed by staff. The objective of the policy is to provide a healthy workplace environment. The authority of the policy is derived under section 48.3 of the MGA. The policy will apply to all council members, all employees, contractors, agents and applicants of the Municipality or anyone attending a Municipal workplace, including members of the public. Staff have a few minor changes and will have the Municipal Solicitor review prior to bringing it to Council for final approval.
- Council suggested adding a section to include if an individual is not comfortable to approach the situation on their own, they can approach someone who they are comfortable with to speak on their behalf. Council also suggested to include a section around bullying and how small incidents can build up. Training in microaggression was also suggested.

c. RCMP Review of Service Needs

- CAO provided Council an update on the two different types RCMP service review processes.

(Councillor Baker left the meeting at 5:07 pm)

- There is the General Duty Policy Resourcing Model (GDPRM) which is a computerized simulation that assists in the workload analysis of the General Duty uniform first responder resources at a given detachment. This model is specific to time to respond to a call, travel time taken to arrive at a scene, shift schedules, officer availability, officer back up and assistance, etc. To initiate this process, Council must write a letter to the Department of Justice stating that they would like to have this review process completed.

(Councillor Baker entered the meeting at 5:09 pm)

- There is also the Review of Policing Service Options. This option includes community consultation and provides the opportunity for Council and the Department of Justice to collaborate to review RCMP services, alternative options with the help of a review committee.
- Council asked staff to gather information regarding the cost of these Policing Review options to bring the next COTW Meeting. Council would like for the public to let them know their thoughts on policing in St. Mary's.

d. Gas Prices

- Council discussed the high and rising fuel prices.
- Council agreed to write a letter to Premier, Tim Houston and MLA Greg Morrow to voice their concerns about the unaffordable prices of fuel, and the distress it is causing for those on a fixed income.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Motion approved.

Recorded By
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Wier