



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 13, 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 Regular Council meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:15 pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

## **2. Attending:**

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

## **Also Attending:**

Marissa Jordan, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)  
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk

## **3. Additions to the Agenda:**

- 11. Council Meetings in the Community

## **4. Approval of Agenda:**

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

*Motion approved.*

## **5. Approval of Minutes:**

*On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Malloy, Council approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

*Motion approved.*

*On motion of Councillor Mailman and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

*Motion approved.*

## **7. Recommendations from Internal Committees of Council:**

Committee of the Whole, May 11, 2022 – No absences

*On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to rescind the Proof of Vaccination Policy.*

*Motion approved.*

*On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to table the possibility of writing a letter to support the designation of Archibald's Lake wilderness area for six months.*

*Motion approved.*

Committee of the Whole, May 18, 2022 – No absences

*On motion of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, 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.*

*Motion approved.*

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

*Motion approved.*

Audit Committee, May 18, 2022

*On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, the Audit Committee agreed to amend the St. Mary's Audit Committee Policy to include the recommended duties and responsibilities suggested by MNP including examples and schedules.*

*On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy, the Audit Committee amended the previous motion to add words "including examples and schedules" to the previous motion.*

*Motion with amendment approved.*

Committee of the Whole, June 1, 2022 – Absent: Warden Wier

*On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agreed to reschedule the June 15<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting to June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm.*

*Motion approved.*

## **8. External Board / Committee Reports**

a. Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee (ERSWM) – Councillor Malloy

- Please see the attached report.
- Councillor Malloy asked Council to inform them of rope or traps. They will pass the information along to ERSWM who will liaise the Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada (FGCAC). The FGCAC has offered to present to Council on the importance of their support to the FGCAC if Council is interested. Council agreed to invite the FGCAC to present to Council.

b. Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)– Councillor Mailman

- Please see the attached report.

c. Community Health Board (CHB) – Deputy Warden Fuller

- Please see attached report.

d. Sherbrooke Village Restoration Committee – Deputy Warden Fuller

- Please see attached report.

## **9. CAO Report:**

- CAO, Marissa Jordan highlighted ongoing projects including the Electoral Boundary Review. The consultants have begun information gathering and will be completing background reports, conducting interviews with Council and senior staff and launch the public survey. The Municipality co-hosted a Community Housing Consultation in partnership with the Guysborough County Housing Network to learn what the housing situation is in Guysborough County. An

Economic Development Officer has been hired on an eight-month term. The Director of Public Works has been hired and will be hiring another public works operator soon. The 2022-23 tax bills were sent in the mail, they are due to be paid at the end of July. The audit is complete. The Department of Community Development & Recreation has signed a contract with the Province of Nova Scotia to offer Before and After Care Program beginning in September. Staff have not received any information for the Sherbrooke Saturday Market costs yet.

## **10. Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review Committee – Survey**

- As Municipalities head into the renegotiation of the Service Exchange Agreement it is important to take stock of their needs and aspirations to better serve their constituents. The province is also reviewing the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (HRMC), and it is important for NSFM to collectively envision an MGA/HRMC that helps municipalities confront modern challenges. This survey will help to develop an in-depth understanding of the problems and opportunities that should be addressed in these two importance processes. The deadline to submit the survey is today, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Council discussed the answers to each question of the survey. Council believes that Municipalities should not maintain the responsibilities of land use planning, building inspection, and recreation. Council believes that the Province should maintain the responsibilities Public Transit and Policing. Council believes that discretionary expenditures such as Physician Recruitment and Long Term Care should be better supported by the Province. The top three Municipal expenditure responsibilities that Council believes should be reviewed are Policing, Solid Waste, and Education. New service responsibilities that would be unacceptable include Roads, Public Health and Long Term Care. Council believes all of the recent changes to the MGA that have implications for the abilities and responsibilities for Municipalities are useful such as expanded power to expend, the mandate to establish a Municipal Code of Conduct, the ability to finance developments that increase accessibility, the ability to enable municipalities to sell land below market price in some cases, the ability to engage in negotiation for the purpose of increasing affordable housing units and the ability to create commercial development districts. Council does not believe that any of these abilities are not useful.

*(Councillor Baker left the meeting at 4:57 pm)*

- Council believes that the abilities to provide an Incentive Programs for Business, or the ability to access Tax Sale revenue in a shortened time, and control over the use of crown land should be granted by the Municipal Government Act.

*(Councillor Baker entered the meeting at 5:00 pm)*

- Council finds that Worker Compensation Board Premiums for Volunteer Fire Fighters, and Minimum Planning Requirements to be causing considerable pressure on the budget and capacity to accomplish core goals. The Water Utility Regulations set by the UARB add significant pressure on the budget. In the opinion of Municipal Council the warden system should not be replaced by the mayoral system. Question 13 is not applicable. The conditions in which Council believes Municipal consolidation to be advisable is fiscal insolvency. Question 15 is not applicable. Council feels that the tool most viable for fulfilling all responsibilities with new or expanded sources of revenue is renewable energies. Grants that the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's have received for operational expenses include Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes such as the Far, the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant, Farmland Grant, Nova Scotia Power Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes and the Provincial and Federal Grant-in-Lieu of Taxes, the Municipal Innovation Program,

the Provincial Capital Assistance Program, Fire Protection Grant, Beautification and Streetscaping Program, Community Works Program, the Canadian Community Building Fund and the 911 grant. To improve the grants the reporting process could be simplified and of time that the grants are available could be extended to meet the needs of small municipalities who are not always shovel ready. Federal grants can be onerous for a small municipality. Grants that the Municipality has received for capital expenses include the Rink Revitalization Fund. To improve the grants the reporting process could be simplified and of time that the grants are available could be extended to meet the needs of small municipalities who are not always shovel ready. Council believes that equitable policing services and grants to cover utility rate studies deserve special consideration in terms of expenditure responsibilities, legislation, or financial support.

## 11. Council Meetings in the Community

- Council discussed having Regular Council Meetings at community locations within each district.

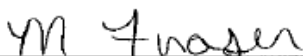
*On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, the next 7 regular council meetings will be held at community locations throughout the Municipality at 7:00 pm.*

*Motion approved.*

## Adjournment:

*On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Harpell, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5: 32pm.*

*Motion approved.*



Recorded By  
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk



Approved By  
Warden Wier