



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

## 2. Attending:

Warden Wier  
Deputy Warden Fuller  
Councillor Baker

Councillor Malloy  
Councillor Zinck

## Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Mailman  
Councillor Harpell

## Also Attending:

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

## 3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

## 4. Approval of the Agenda:

*On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the agenda as presented.*

***Motion approved.***

## 5. Approval of Minutes:

*On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

***Motion approved.***

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- The CAO updated Council that further correspondence was received from the Old Fashioned Christmas Association (OFCA) and staff met with Mr. O'Connell to identify and OFCA's tasks that the Municipality can work on for the committee for the upcoming event. The OFCA has requested that Council consider adding the OFCA as a standing outside committee of Council. The CAO clarified that Council has the opportunity at the municipal Annual General Meeting each year to decide if it will remain as an outside committee, in addition to all other standing committees.

*Councillor Baker left the meeting at 4:05 pm.*

- Council discussed the possibility of adding OFCA as a standing outside committee. Warden Wier & Councillor Malloy offered to stand on the committee.

*Councillor Baker returned to the meeting at 4:07 pm.*

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to add Old Fashioned Christmas as a standing outside committee of Council.*

***Recommendation approved.***

- It was the consensus of Council that Councillor Malloy and Warden Wier will be the 2022/23 representatives for OFCA.

## **7. Correspondence**

### a. Code of Conduct Consultation Survey – Code of Conduct Working Group (COCWG) & Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing

- Correspondence was received from the Code of Conduct Working Group & Department of Municipal Affairs requesting that Council respond to the survey on the proposed recommendations on content to include in the municipal code of conduct. They have requested that councillors and staff respond individually. The survey is open until Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

## **8. Other Matters of Business:**

### a. Volunteer Recognition Schedule & Event

- The Director of Community Development & Recreation provided an update to Council on the Municipality's Volunteer Recognition Program for 2022.
- The provincial volunteer awards ceremony will occur in Dartmouth on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Municipality's Volunteer of the Year is not able to attend the event. The Municipality's volunteer recognition event will occur on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 6-8 pm and will be a St. Mary's Volunteer Appreciation Open House. The event will be held in Heritage Park at Sherbrooke Village. The Exhibit Center has been booked as a back-up. The event will feature live music, refreshments and a thank you gift for St. Mary's Volunteers, with a larger gift for the Volunteer of the Year. An invitation with details will be sent out in September.

### b. Truth & Reconciliation

- In 2021, the Federal Government designated September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year as National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. National Day for Truth & Reconciliation recognizes the tragic legacy of residential schools, the missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of these institutions. There are several calls to action for municipalities in Canada that are included in the National Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Final Report including:
  - i. #3. Fully implement Jordan's Principle to ensure First Nations children are not denied or delayed in accessing essential public services.
  - ii. #57. Educate public servants on the history of Indigenous peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Indigenous rights, Indigenous law and Indigenous – Crown relations.
  - iii. #93. Create / revise information kits for newcomers to reflect on the history of Indigenous peoples, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.

- The Director of Community Development & Recreation recommended that the Municipality:
  - i. Purchase orange shirts for Orange Shirt Day through an Indigenous vendor for all councillors and staff.
  - ii. Staff and councillors collectively participate in a Truth & Reconciliation focused training session.
  - iii. Update the Municipality's "Guide Plan for Indigenous Learning" and provide a copy to all staff and councillors.
  - iv. As part of new staff / councillor orientation, require all to watch and / or listen to ECO Canada's webinar, "Indigenous Awareness 101". Ensure all current staff and councillors complete this training as well.
  - v. Develop and adopt a Culturally Responsive Policy for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's by 2024. Connect the policy to St. Mary's 2026 Strategic Plan and the Municipality's Accessibility Plan.
- The Director of Community Development & Recreation updated Council that staff are working to create a memorial plaque in honour of truth & reconciliation in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Council discussed the recommendations.
- Deputy Warden Fuller suggested implementing recommendations that would encourage public outreach as well.
- Director of Community Development & Recreation to research what items can be purchased to demonstrate the Municipalities support of truth & reconciliation.

#### c. Seeds of Literacy Program

- The program will have a grand launch event on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Books and additional equipment for the program were purchased over the winter. All books will feature a borrowing card and will be logged in a catalogue that will be made available at the program. The Municipality has successfully applied for and received \$8,500 to help with the staffing, logistics and developing free little libraries for the program. The next step is to hire a program coordinator to launch the program from locations in the community on a rotating schedule. A set of books will be left at each community centre that will be rotated by the coordinator. Staff will also begin to develop the Free Little Libraries and where they will be located. They will be small boxes that will have books available in them for residents to take home and add to.

#### d. Permanent Public Transit Funding in Canada – Public Engagement

- The Government of Canada has committed \$3 billion annually in permanent public transit funding, starting in 2026-27. They are now engaging with the public to gather feedback, ideas and solutions to help inform the design and delivery of permanent public transit funding that will support the expansion and upgrading of public transit and active transportation networks in communities across Canada. An online questionnaire is available until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The survey is available at: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1gxDOKXt8kalavKjBf1JvNyJiMjlVoFKjIFVvcnLX1NUQ01MTUFaQzc3OEpBTjJYSFNQWktUMk1QRi4u&wdLOR=c22168F89-3BD0-4844-902C-0800ACAF537B&lang=en-US>.

#### e. Guysborough County Housing Network Workshop – Planning for the Future

- The Guysborough County Housing Network Workshop is being held on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 3 pm. Council agreed by consensus to attend the meeting and to provide mileage to councillors that attend this event.

f. Council Meeting Locations

- Council agreed to host the upcoming Council meetings as follows at 7:00 pm:

September 12, 2022	District 4	Indian Harbour Lake – Jordanville Community Centre
October 11, 2022	District 2	Ecum Secum Fire Hall
November 14, 2022	District 3/5	Greenfield Oldsters Clubhouse
December 12, 2022	District 7	Liscomb Legion
January 9, 2022	District 8	Port Bickerton Community Centre
February 13, 2022	District 1	Stillwater Community Centre

g. Property Valuation Services Corporation – Municipal Consultation

- Property Valuation Services Corporation is conducting consultations with municipalities to hear about their services and any challenges or priorities of the Municipality. Jimmy MacAlpine, Government Relations Officer will be reaching out to gather feedback.

h. Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption – St. Mary’s Fish & Game Association

- The St. Mary’s Fish & Game Association applied for non-profit property tax exemption.
- The DOF reviewed the application with Council. The applicant is one year behind in property taxes, which makes them ineligible under the municipal Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption Policy. The organization must also host two community events annually as per the policy, and this was not demonstrated within the application. The property tax account must be paid up to date before a decision can be made. If this occurs, the application will be brought back to Council for consideration.

i. 2022-23 First Quarter Finance Report

- Property tax bills were sent in May and were due to be paid by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- The deed transfer tax received has exceeded what was projected.
- There is an anticipated deficit from the Regional Housing Authority due to costs from the previous and current years. These costs are over what was budgeted. A meeting has been set to discuss the details of the costs.
- The interest on investments in the bank accounts is gaining interest, if this trend continues it will result in additional revenue above what was budgeted.
- The Department of Community Development and Recreation is working on re-opening the Fitness Centre, there have been no expenses for this item yet or the Recplex.
- There is a fuel adjustment clause within the contract for garbage & recyclables which could potentially cost the Municipality a large amount of money at the end of the fiscal year.
- The tender for snow plowing has been distributed and will be expensed from the public works budget.
- Deputy Warden Fuller made the comment that for the next fiscal years budget the Municipality might have to over budget for the Nova Scotia Housing Authority due to unanticipated costs.

j. In-Camera – Contract Negotiations

**On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council moved to an in-camera session for contract negotiations at 4:42 pm.**

**Motion approved.**

**On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council reconvened to regular session at 5:25 pm.**

**Motion approved.**

*On recommendation of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agreed to proceed and sign the contract with the Provincial Department of Public Works and BD Clifton for the Sherbrooke Main Street Capital Projects, including replacement of storm sewer, library beautification, paving of Main Street, sidewalks and paving of 16 main parking lot.*

**Recommendation approved.**

*On recommendation of Councillor Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agreed to proceed and sign the contract for the upcoming approved project with Infrastructure Canada dated June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

**Recommendation approved.**

**Adjournment**

*On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:27 pm.*

**Motion approved.**



Recorded By  
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk



Approved By  
Warden Wier