



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

## 1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Warden Wier called the COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

## 2. Attending:

Warden Greg Wier

Deputy Warden James Fuller

Councillor Everett Baker

Councillor Courtney Mailman

Councillor Beulah Malloy

Councillor Charlene Zinck

## Absent with Regrets:

Councillor James Harpell

## Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)

Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk

Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO)

Teddy Stevens, Director of Public Works

## 3. Additions to the Agenda:

- Addition to 9.a. Sewer System Repairs
- Addition to Correspondence – Letter from Honourable Sean Fraser

## 4. Approval of the Agenda:

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

***Motion approved.***

## 5. Approval of Minutes:

*On the motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.*

***Motion approved.***

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- Council asked about the Canada Summer Jobs Grant, and staff informed it has been completed.

## 7. Correspondence:

- Letter from the Municipality of Guysborough, inviting the municipality to have a joint Council meeting with the Municipality of Guysborough.
- Letter from the Honourable Sean Fraser, received the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

## 8. Presentation: Coastal Nova Scotia:

- See the attached presentation.

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agree to give Deans-Coastal Nova Scotia their annual \$4016.35 contribution.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

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

### a. Public Works Water Plant Repairs

- See the attached staff report.
- 3 out of the 6 cushion tanks need to be replaced at the Water Treatment Facility.
- During recent inspections by Public Works staff discovered that 3 out of the 6 cushion tanks have ruptured bladders within them.
- Public Works staff have received pricing on replacement cushion tanks for the Water Treatment Facility. The cost of new cushion tanks is \$2,505.72 each for a total of \$7517.16 plus tax. These funds will come out of the Capital Reserve Budget.

*On recommendation of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agree to approve the necessary costs, to replace the three cushion tanks in order to protect the distribution system from breakage and leaks to a maximum cost limit of \$8500. Plus, tax.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

### Village Lift Station

- It was identified by Public Works staff that the piping components of the Village Lift Station has begun to fail.
- Public Works staff has reached out to numerous companies to get pricing for the work, Partner Construction which operates out of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia has been the only company willing to complete the work.
- The cost of repairs is being calculated and planned. Current estimation is for \$7500, plus HST.

*On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council approves the repairs to the Municipal lift station as soon as possible to ensure the operation of the wastewater treatment collection system. This approval is to a maximum cost of \$7500, plus HST.*

*Teddy Stevens, Director of Public Works left the meeting at 4:36 p.m.*

### b. Operating and Capital Budget Deliberations Timeline

- See the attached report.

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council recommends setting the 2024 2025 Annual General Meeting date as Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:00pm.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

### c. 2024 2025 Application for Residential Low-Income Property Tax Exemption

- See the attached staff report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance informed Council of the total income threshold, in 2023 the threshold was set at \$24,00.00 increased from the 2022 application of \$22,600.00.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance informed Council of the CPI data for November to November was set at 2.5% and October to October was set at 3.2%. (which is also the PVSC CAP rate.)

*On recommendation of Councillor Zinck, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approve the 2024/2025 Application for Residential Low Income Property Tax Exemption with the total annual household income threshold set at less or equal to \$25,280.00 and the tax exemption credit amount set at \$180.00 per application, all other eligibility requirements to remain the same as outlined in the application.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

d. 2024 Property Tax Assessment Roll Summary

- See the attached staff report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance informed Council of the property assessment notices being sent out to residents from PVSC.
- Total potential revenue increase if the tax rates remain the same as 2023/24 is \$209,488.00.

e. 2024 2025 Uniform Assessment Roll Summary

- See the attached staff report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance informed Council of the Uniform Assessment the education expense for the Municipality for the fiscal year 2024-2025 will increase by \$65,013.00, a 10.19% increase from 2023-2024.

*Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO) left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.*

*Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO) returned to the meeting at 4:55 p.m.*

f. Recreation Services for Seniors

- See the attached staff report.
- Staff would like to collect ideas from councillors for how to utilize the remaining seniors funding by the end of the fiscal. If any councillors have any specific ideas or requests from constituents or organizations, please send them along to Community Development and Recreation staff for consideration.
- Some considerations made by the Council were; healthy food cooking classes, a dietician to teach about nutrition, painting classes, a webinar or session to learn from a lawyer about wills, and a foot clinic.

g. Sunflower Accessibility Planning

- See the attached staff report.
- Staff proposed that the Municipality Advertise and buy the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower products

*On recommendation of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approves that the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's become a member of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program under the Standard Membership Plan and decide on 1-2 wearable products to purchase for members of the public and staff (in support).*

***Recommendation adopted.***

h. Kairos Blanket Exercise

- See the attached staff report.

- Staff are looking for dates and times that council is available to participate in a Kairos Blanket Exercise in January. At least two dates should be confirmed, in case one is unavailable. The number of participants that are needed to offer this workshop is 15, additional participants will have to be identified in order to host the training.
  - Once participants and a date have been determined, staff can book the session, confirm participants and make preparations to host an elder.
- i. 211 local landmarks
- See the attached staff report.
  - 2-1-1 Nova Scotia is a service funded by the Government of Nova Scotia and United Way that offers a free and confidential service that connects people in Nova Scotia to the community, programs, and resources they may need. 2-1-1 is a 24-hour, 7 days a week, and is in over 240 languages and available through email, text, web-based chat, and a virtual relay service for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - Staff informed Council that February 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 will be 2-1-1 day and that the Municipality should advertise and promote the 2-1-1 program.
  - Staff recommend that the municipality illuminate some significant landmarks and buildings in red, in support of 2-1-1 Day.

*On recommendation of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council supports illuminating significant buildings and landmarks red on and/or leading up to February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and incorporating some 211 Day posts into your social media accounts and district messaging.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

- j. Land Survey
- See the attached staff report.
  - Staff gave Council an update on the municipal land PID: # 37501095 Sherbrooke to be reserved to be potential housing project space.
  - Considering that multiple parties will be reviewing the potential of PID # 37501095 from Housing and Healthcare perspectives and to protect the existing Stonewall Park trail system, a survey of the parcel of land along with delineation of Stonewall Park would be prudent.

*On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council recommend Staff create a Request For Proposal for Land Survey and park delineation services.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

*Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO) left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.*

## **10. In-Camera: Per MGA Section 22 – Personnel**

*On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agree to move In-Camera for Personnel at 5:32 p.m.*

***Motion approved.***

*On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council agree to reconvene to regular session at 6:18 p.m.*

**Motion approved.**

**Adjournment**

*On motion of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Baker, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 6:19 p.m.*

**Motion approved.**

*Jadzia Graham.*  
Recorded By  
Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk

*W. Wier*  
Approved By  
Warden Wier

