



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, February 7th, 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, February 7th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Greg Wier

Deputy Warden James Fuller

Councillor James Harpell

Councillor Courtney Mailman

Councillor Beulah Malloy

Councillor Charlene Zinck

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Everett Baker

Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)

Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- Addition to 9. Other Matters of Business G. Vulnerable Person Registry

4. Approval of the Agenda:

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

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held January 17th, 2024.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- Council asked about the Lift Station, and Chief Administration Officer (CAO), Doug Patterson informed Council that it has been delayed due to the snow and weather conditions and will resume as soon as they can.

7. Correspondence:

- a. Provincial Response to municipal request for assistance to broaden cellular phone service.
- b. Provincial Response for assistance with Construction and Demolition waste disposal.

8. **Presentation:** Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia – Hugh MacKay

- See the attached presentation.
- Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia did not show due to the weather conditions and will reschedule for a future Committee of the Whole.

9. **Other Matters of Business:**

a. Canoe Procurement Services

- See the attached staff report.
- Combining the purchasing power of over 5,000 public and not-for-profit organizations throughout the country, Canoe is one of the largest cooperative procurement groups of its kind in Canada. This program gives our members the opportunity to access hundreds of pre-tendered trade programs that leverage the buying power of over 5,000 active members, which in turn saves both time and costs.
- If the municipality becomes a Canoe Procurement member then we have the ongoing choice on when and how to use the service. A best practice would be to consider Canoe Procurement tools and resources as part of all procurement plans.

On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council approve the municipality becoming a member of the Canadian Canoe Procurement group.

On motion of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council requests an update from staff within 7 months that illustrates degree of savings or quality differences achieved.

Recommendation adopted.

b. Connect 2 Grant Options for Active Transportation

- Verbal Update from CAO, Doug Patterson.
- Communities Culture Tourism and Heritage have given consulting advice and would like to know Council's interests and options for the Connect 2 grant.
- Staff are going to bring this item back to Council on February 21st, 2024 COTW.

c. CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund: Next Steps

- See the attached staff report.
- The Municipality received a letter from the Honourable Sean Fraser regarding our municipal housing Initiatives on January 15, 2024. The letter was a response to the municipality's earlier update to the minister on our activities to support growth in housing including details on our application to the GMHC Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

d. 2024 Cost of Living Review: Budget planning

- See the attached staff report.
- Each year during budget deliberations Council reviews the Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate for all items from December to December to assist with determining the cost-of-living (COL) rate to apply to salaries, hourly wages and honorariums.

e. Rink Fund: Options for 2024 Recplex Work

- See the attached staff report.
- The Recreation Facility Development (RFD) Grant is an annual provincial grant program to assist community groups, municipalities and other not for profit organizations to develop facilities in order to increase public participation in sport and physical recreation. Projects approved for funding are eligible to receive up to two-thirds of the total capital costs of the project to a maximum of \$150,000.
- The deadline for applications is February 14th, 2024.
- In 2023-2024 the Municipality received an RFD grant to complete phase 1 of outside building repairs/steal siding for approximately ½ of the building and sprinkler repairs to the St. Mary's Recplex. As part of the Council's capital project planning phase 2 of the outside building repairs and steal siding was scheduled to occur in 2024-2025 at \$60,000 Municipal contribution.
- The three options below include additional components of either replacing the inside rubber flooring/walking track, purchasing a new to us Zamboni or both along with the siding replacement (including wall repairs and exterior lighting).
 - **Option A** – Phase 2 siding replacement, outside wall repairs, exterior lighting, and replace inside rubber flooring. Total municipal capital contribution of \$60,011.
 - **Option B** – Phase 2 siding replacement, outside wall repairs, exterior lighting, and used Zamboni. Total municipal capital contribution of \$64,067.
 - **Option C** – Phase 2 siding replacement, outside wall repairs, exterior lighting, replace inside rubber flooring and used Zamboni. Total municipal capital contribution of \$99,780.

On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council recommends to direct staff to add additional components of Option A to the 2024-2025 Recreation Facilities Development grant application.

Recommendation adopted.

f. Fibromyalgia Awareness Day

- See the attached staff report.
- May 12th, 2024 is the 32nd anniversary of Fibromyalgia Awareness Day as recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Fibromyalgia Association of Canada contacted, to ask if the Municipality would light up our communities' buildings/landmarks in purple, in recognition of the 2-4% of Canadians living with fibromyalgia. That is almost 2 million Canadians who have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia. There are still many more Canadians waiting to be diagnosed or who are not counted in these numbers because they have other primary conditions, such as cancer, cardiac issues, etc. Last year 133 buildings and landmarks across Canada lit up in purple to promote fibromyalgia awareness.

On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council supports illuminating the Municipal office and Sherbrooke Library in purple from dusk on May 12th until dawn on May 13th in support of Fibromyalgia Awareness Day.

Recommendation adopted.

Tyler MacLaughlin, Active Living Coordinator left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

g. Vulnerable Person Registry:

- Councillor Mailman had brought up that some residents were asking about a Vulnerable Person's Registry to let others know that when bad weather happens these (self-proclaimed) vulnerable people may need some help whether that be food, shelter, heat, or plowed out.
- Council determined that staff will look into a Vulnerable Persons Registry.

10. In Camera: Legal

On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agree to move In-Camera for legal at 4:52 p.m.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agree to reconvene to regular session at 5:20 p.m.


Motion approved.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Harpell, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Motion approved.

Recorded By
Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk



Approved By
Warden Wier