



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, March 6th, 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, March 6th, 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

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- Addition to #9. Other Matters of Business, item F: AGM Meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the agenda with the additions.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councillor Zinck, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held February 21st 2024.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- 2024-25 Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Association Grant Request

8. Presentation: Ecum Secum Fire Hall – Andrew Pace, Mike Durnford, Doug Pace & Tiffany Pye

- The Fire Brigade needs a new facility that would house both fire and community services in the Ecum Secum area.
- The organization's current facility requires major repairs such as the roof, walls, floor, kitchen, electrical and washrooms. These upgrades would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix

and repair. The site of the current facility is also an issue, as it provides very little parking space and will be challenging to meet accessibility standards mandated by the province by 2030.

- The current location is also very close to the ocean, meaning the facility experiences high winds during storms and could experience coastal flooding in the future. The salt water also has a damaging effect on the facility.
- The organization has concluded that a new location and facility is the best way forward for the community. The Brigade is seeking a more suitable location that will allow accessibility needs to be met and will be located away from the ocean.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. 2024/2025 General Government Grants

- See the attached staff report.
- Director of Finance (DOF) Marian Fraser informed Council of the General Government Grants received for 2024/2025.
- Some Grant Applications require a presentation to Council.
- Through the eligibility process grants require a minimum cost of \$2000 and anything over \$5000 requires a presentation to Council, with that being said, the St. Mary's ATV Club, Goshen Community and Recreation Centre do not qualify due to receiving the grant within the last 2 years. Heritage Goldenville Society and St. Mary's Shooters Association do not qualify due to requesting under \$2000, they should ask for a District Grant from their Councillor.

b. 2024/2025 Council and Warden Remuneration Comparison

- Staff were directed at the last Committee of the Whole meeting to research the Warden, Deputy Warden, and Council Remuneration. Council was informed of the municipal units honorariums for 2023/24 which are; Warden \$27,881, Deputy Warden \$19,590, and Councillors \$16,539.
- Council had a consensus to go with Option 2; Warden \$28,885, Deputy Warden \$20,295, and Councillors \$17,134.

c. 2023/2024 Municipal Operating Surplus

- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF) informed the Council that as past practice Council has passed a motion to transfer any operating surplus above \$5,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund to assist with rebuilding the reserve each year.
- As part of draft #1 budget process Marian Fraser, DOF provided year-end projections that did have a surplus for the year 2023/24.

On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council approve to transfer any Municipal Operating Surplus for the 2023/2024 fiscal year above \$5,000 to the Municipal Capital Reserve fund at year-end.

Recommendation adopted.

d. Coastal Protection – Review Provincial Changes

- Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) informed Council of the Coastal Protection Act.

- The municipality was waiting to see what the province was going to do with the Coastal Protection Act to see if the province was going to help protect our coastlines. The province has cancelled their plans to produce a coastal protection act.

e. 2024 Annual Ad Participation

- See the attached staff report.
- Council discussed the ad submissions that the Municipality participates in annually, Council thought that they should recognize all the National Holidays in the Guysborough Journal and the more personal ads to our community posts in the Municipal Newsletter.
- Council asked staff to bring the ad submissions item back at a future COTW meeting for a final decision.

f. AGM Meeting

- The Council was informed the Annual General Meeting (AGM) may need to be rescheduled.
- Council discussed what day works best for them and they decided to reschedule the AGM Meeting from April 8th, to April 15th 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

On the recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agree to move the AGM Meeting from April 8th to April 15th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Recommendation approved.

10. In-Camera: Legal Matters

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council agree to move In-Camera for Legal matters at 5:00 p.m.

Motion approved.

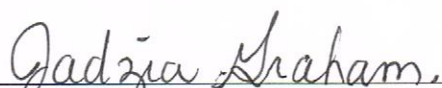
On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agree to reconvene to regular session at 5:35 p.m.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Motion approved.


 Recorded By
 Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk


 Approved By
 Warden Wier