



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, October 16th, 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, October 16th, 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 James Harpell

Councillor Courtney Mailman

Councillor Beulah Malloy

Councillor Charlene Zinck

Absent with Regrets:

Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)

Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Baker, the Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Zinck, the Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held October 2nd, 2024.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- There was no Correspondence.

8. Presentation: Simply Blue Group – Megan Harris, Andrew Parsons, Rory Shannihan.

- See the Agenda/Package for the presentation.
- Simply Blue Group is a leading renewable energy developer headquartered in Ireland, with offices worldwide.

- Simply Blue is a part of a global movement to replace fossil fuels with clean energy. Our dedicated Hydrogen and Sustainable Fuels Team is focused on the development of competitive sustainable fuels projects, which will use green energy to produce sustainable fuels targeted at aviation and marine transport.
- Simply Blue would like to build a renewable energy park (REP) on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia, the REP will be powered with renewable electricity generated from our solar and wind farms. This self-produced power will be used along with sustainable biomass and water to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and renewable methanol.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. November Council Date

- The November Regular Council meeting falls on a holiday, due to this, Council discussed rescheduling the regular council meeting for the next day as per the "Council Procedural Policy".
- Council decided to set the Council meeting date to November 12th, 2024.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agree to reschedule the November 11th, 2024, Regular Council date to November 12th, 2024.

Recommendation adopted.

b. Review of Snow Removal Contract

- See the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Doug Patterson, chief Administration Officer (CAO) informed Council of the updates made to the Snow Removal Contract, such as; the term of the contract is going to be for three years compared to the one year previously.
- Stonewall Park has been added to the list of parking lots to be maintained.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council agree to award the three-year contract beginning December 2024 until March 31st, 2027 for Municipal Snow Removal & Ice Control Services Tender to Waternish Construction for a monthly retainer of \$10,000.00 which includes 10 plow events and 10 salt events per month with services above the monthly retainer at a rate of \$700.00 per plowing, \$100.00 per salting, and \$200.00 per sanding. The funds to be expensed from the corresponding annual municipal operating budget.

Recommendation adopted.

c. Update on Accessibility and Anti-Racism

- See the Agenda/Package for the report.
- The *Dismantling Racism and Hate Act*, passed in 2022, required municipalities to develop equity and anti-racism plans by April 1, 2025. The Accessibility Directorate has recently provided tools to municipalities to update their Accessibility Plans. Municipalities encouraged to use resources prepared by the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism in tandem with resources prepared by the Accessibility Directorate to develop a single plan that meets legislative requirements of both Acts.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agree to Direct staff to draft a plan for Equity, Anti-Racism, Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy that

enables the Municipality to address systemic hate, inequity and racism and identify, remove and prevent barriers of accessibility including the development of an Equity, Anti-Racism, Inclusion & Accessibility Plan.

Recommendation adopted.

d. Ecum Secum Fire Hall Project Planning

- See the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Earlier this year, staff building official/building inspector made a recommendation to the Ecum Secum fire that they begin plans and preparations to develop a new hall that would replace the existing hall.
- The department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage approved funding for \$60,000.00 for the purposes of making a plan for the redevelopment of the building and that the municipality would lead that process and support the hall.
- Staff have been working with a committee from the hall and staff have recommended that the plan and solution for a building development/future construction project is to identify all building needs and create construction ready documents with all needed engineering and features identified. Work is under way to identify all needs, and a building consultant has been hired to begin initial plans.
- The \$60,000.00 in project funds is held and administered by the municipality of behalf of the fire hall where payments to services and vendors will be made by the municipality as the fire hall selects services recommended by staff and where the fire hall has been enabled to take part in decisions to ensure that their goals for the re-developed structure will be met.
- Staff including the finance department have reviewed our audit needs for approval of project payments to services contracted to complete work for the re-development plan. Our audit requirements will be met by the payment from the municipality directly to vendors where staff confirm that the funds are for completed services under the planning project and our normal audit control of two signatures on the cheques will be in place.


e. Fire Services Capital Needs

- Doug Patterson, Chief Administration Officer (CAO) informed Council of the urgent needs that the St. Mary's Municipal Fire Departments are facing. The Fire Departments are in need of financial assistance, much more than Municipal Government can handle. Council discussed ways in which they could help advocate for the Fire Departments.
- Council decided all members will sign a letter to the federal and provincial government in support of the Fire Departments.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Malloy, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden

