



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, November 20th, 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 Fuller called the COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, November 20th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden James Fuller
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Scott Beaver
Councillor Dana O'Connell
Councillor Emma Tibbo

Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- Addition to #7. Correspondence – Sherbrooke Volunteer Fire Department Letter
- Addition to #9. f.) Appointment to Fire Services Advisory Committee
- Addition to #10. In-Camera – Personnel

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Tibbo the Council approved the agenda with the additions.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver the Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held November 6th, 2024.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence: Sherbrooke Volunteer Fire Department Letter

- Doug Patterson, Chief Administration Officer (CAO) received a letter from Kenneth Pye, Chief of the Sherbrooke Volunteer Fire Department regarding the status of their request for support for funding for a new fire truck.

8. **Presentation:** Hospital Administration – Andrew Heighton and Lindsay Stevens

- Andrew Heighton and Lindsay Stevens provided a presentation to Council on the current operational status of the hospital. Hospital administration staff have provided council their current successes and challenges. Lindsay informed council that the hospital is one of few that haven't had an Emergency Room (ER) closure, there are no vacancies in nursing recruitment, they have a new triage space added to the emergency department.
- Some of the challenges the hospital face are the space and location, due to growing needs, aging facility and growing population, staff are trying to explore solutions to continue to meet health needs of the community.
- Council agreed that staff should write a letter to support the Hospital and urge the importance of the St. Mary's Memorial Hospital to the Municipality.

9. **Other Matters of Business:**

a. November 30 Tree Lighting Event

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Staff informed Council that all permits and safety precautions are in place to provide a safe and fun event in the municipality.

b. Sherbrooke Volunteer Fire Department – Follow Up

Councillor O'Connell declared "Conflict of Interest"

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report and previous presentation made by the department.
- Council acknowledged the fire department's letter and council and staff are currently exploring options to increase funding. Staff are searching for solutions to the ongoing needs of the fire departments.

c. Construction and Demolition Waste Services

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Significant regulatory changes interrupted past practices and as a result the municipality does not have a current public C&D waste disposal service solution in operation. Work and research efforts continue to find new solutions.
- Currently there is a large accumulation of C&D material on hand at the municipal transfer station that was collected in calendar years 2022 and 2023. Environmental regulatory changes initiated in July 2023 made this material both costly and logistically difficult to dispose of. However, it is a problem that stands to benefit from ongoing time being spent to seek the most cost-effective options for the permanent disposal of the material.
- Council asked staff to explore options for accepting brush collection.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell Council direct staff to continue work to provide a cost-effective residential C&D service and to identify the lowest cost option for the final disposal of the existing C&D waste still on hand at the transfer station.

Recommendation adopted.

d. Extended Producer Responsibility Recycling Program Update

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- There is an important change coming to recycling in Nova Scotia where producers of recyclable material have a responsibility to ensure their recyclables are collected and that the producer also has the responsibility to cover the costs of recycling collection programs. All provinces are in various stages of updating their recycling programs to an EPR approach.
- December 2025 is potentially when the new recycling program will begin.

e. Councillor Code of Conduct

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Council received correspondence from the Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing stating that a Code of Conduct Working Group was established to develop a set of recommendations on the code of conduct framework, which included content to include in the code, sanctions that may be imposed if a breach occurred, and options for an investigator model for all municipalities in the province.
- After a recommendation to approve the policy at a Committee of the Whole, Council must be provided with the final copy of the policy at least seven days prior to a Council Meeting, therefore this policy could have final approval at the Regular Council Meeting on December 9th, 2024.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy Council agree to send all of council and CAO to attend NSFMC Code of Conduct training.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver Council repeal the Code of Conduct Policy adopted on June 10th, 2019.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor O'Connell Council approve the Municipal Code of Conduct Policy as presented.

Recommendation adopted.

f. Fire Services Administration Committee Appointment

- As per the *Fire Services Advisory Policy* there can be 3 members of Council appointed to the Fire Services Advisory Committee, Council would like to appoint Warden Fuller as a Committee member on the Fire Services Advisory Committee.

On recommendation of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor Tibbo Council agree to appoint Warden Fuller to the Fire Services Advisory Committee.

Recommendation adopted.

10. In-Camera: Personnel

On motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council agree to move in-camera for personnel at 7:13 pm.

Motion approved.

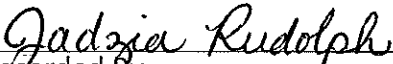
On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy Council agree to reconvene to regular session at 7:46 pm.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden Fuller