



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

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, March 5th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

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

Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk
Mallory Fraser, Director of Community Development and Recreation

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councillor Tibbo, and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held February 19th, 2025.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- a. Email from Minister John A. Lohr Regarding Resource Development
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the correspondence.
 - Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) received correspondence from Minister John A. Lohr regarding the inter-provincial trade barriers and resource development.

8. Presentation:

Nancy O'Regan, Director of Community First Guysborough Housing Association

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the presentation.

- Nancy O'Regan provided Council with a presentation on Community First Guysborough Housing Association.
- Nancy O'Regan informed Council that the association is requesting capital funding for the purchase of a property for housing initiatives, and that there is a closing date of March 31st, 2025.
- The financial application made to the CMHC Seed Loan Program was rejected due to not having audited financial statements for the previous 3 years.
- Nancy made an ask to council on behalf of Community First Guysborough Housing Association for funding from the municipality to replace the CMHC funding in the amount of \$78,852 or that the municipality purchase the property in question. It was also reported that approximately \$250,000 would be expected in future assistance from the municipality for this project.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. Appoint a Member of Council to Smart-Go Board

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Correspondence was received to ask members of Council to join Smart Go as a board member, open to any interested member of Council.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council agree to appoint Warden Fuller and Councillor O'Connell as an alternate to the Smart-Go Board (External Committee).

Recommendation adopted.

b. 2025-2026 General Government Grants

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- The Municipality received 3 applications for grants in which none of the applications were eligible for a general government grant.
- Council can consider not awarding any grants from the grants to organization section of the policy at this time but keep the funds within the budget. This would provide Council with the opportunity to review the policy and potentially consider amendments. If amendments are completed to the policy Council can then put out a new call for applications and award grants mid-way through the fiscal year.
- Annual scholarships are provided to the St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy to grade 12 students planning to further their post-secondary education. The annual grant amount remains at \$3,000.
- Council provided direction to staff to amend the eligibility requirements of the "Grants to Organizations" section of the policy to minimum total project amount of \$1000.00 and to remove the requirement of ineligible if received in the last 2 years.

c. 2025-2026 Capital Budget Draft 1 Presentation

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance provided Council with the updated Draft 1 of the capital budget details.

d. 2025-2026 Operating Budget Draft 1 Recap

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance, asked Council some questions; is Council interested in creating a user fee for summer day camp, would council like to see changes to travel expenses such as mileage go by the federal floating rate or changes to the meal per diem.
- Council directed staff to keep the mileage and meal per diems the same amount.

e. 2024-2025 Projected Operating Surplus

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance provided Council with the 2024-2025 projected operating surplus information. The projected surplus is \$200,000.00, it is contributed to increased revenue deed transfer tax, interest on investments/bank accounts and vacancies within municipal departments.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council transfer the 2024-2025 Municipal Operating Surplus on March 31st, 2025, to the following;

- a. Repay the Municipal Capital Reserve \$109,500.80 for the Recplex ice re-surfacer*
- b. Transfer \$75,000 into the newly established Fire Service Capital Reserve*
- c. Transfer any remaining surplus funds into the Municipal Capital Reserve*

Furthermore, Recommend that Municipal Council direct staff to develop a Fire Service Capital Reserve Policy that would outline eligibility requirements for a Municipally registered Fire Department servicing the Municipality of St. Mary's to access funds within the reserve and develop a corresponding application and scoring process.

Recommendation adopted.

f. Interactive Panel Project

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk informed Council of the Interactive Panel Project that is going to be placed at Stonewall Park. This project will be 100% funded by Ocean's North. This project will consist of interactive and educational boards that will have local species, endangered species, and species native to St. Mary's. This project will consist of one large billboard at the entrance of Stonewall Park and smaller panels throughout the stonewall park trails.

On recommendation of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council authorizes staff to work with local artists, environmental organizations and other stakeholders to design, and produce the panel project contents.

Further, that staff will report back with key milestones including design, installation, to ensure the project stays on track and within budget.

Further, all work on the project shall be within the \$25,000.00 applied for from Oceans North including all taxes.

Recommendation adopted.

g. FCM Attendance

- As per the Mileage/Expense policy, Council may by motion select 2 council members to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference.
- The FCM conference is in Ottawa, Ontario and is from May 29th to June 1st, 2025.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agree to send 2 members of Council being Councillor Tibbo and Warden Fuller to the FCM Conference in Ottawa, Ontario on May 29th to June 1st, 2025.

Recommendation adopted.

h. ATV Club – Follow Up on February 19 COTW

- Milton Gallant of the ATV Club provided Council with a presentation at the February 19th, COTW meeting, Mr. Gallant has requested Council's support in the ATV Club.

On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council agree to write a letter of support for the Road Trail Act for connecting highway 7 to Trout Lake Road and Connecting the Sonora Trail to businesses in Port Hilford. Further, that Council will support with communicating that the St. Mary's ATV Club is an asset to the community and businesses operating within.

Recommendation adopted.

10. In-Camera: Contract Negotiations

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council agree to move In-Camera for Contract Negotiations at 8:07pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor O'Connell Council agree to reconvene to regular session at 8:38pm.

Motion approved.

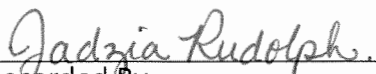
On recommendation of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, that council will not provide additional funding to Community First Guysborough Housing for the purchase of land in Sherbrooke.

Recommendation adopted.

Adjournment

On motion of Warden Fuller, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 8:39pm.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden Fuller