



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, March 19th, 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 19th, 2025, at 6:30 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
Keren Ruller, Director of Economic Development

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- Addition of #10. In-Camera: Contract Negotiations

4. Approval of the Agenda:

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

Motion approved.

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

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

Warden Fuller called for errors and omissions to the previous minutes, hearing none, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held March 5th, 2025.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Honorable John A. Lohr Regarding Wind Turbine Setback
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the correspondence.
 - Correspondence was received about the new regulations will require that the maximum distance between a commercial wind turbine and a dwelling cannot be more than either four times the

height of the turbine, or the distance needed to keep noise levels below 40 decibels outside the home and limit shadow flicker to no more than 30 minutes a day or 30 hours a year.

8. Presentation:

- a. Kara Allen, Visitor Services Manager - Coastal Nova Scotia
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the presentation.

9. Other Matters of Business:

- a. Tourism & Social Media Campaign
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
 - Keren Ruller, Director of Economic Development informed Council of the tourism website and social media campaign research that the municipality has been doing to promote events, attractions, facilities, and parks in St. Mary's.
 - The objective is to be competitive in attracting visitors and enhancing online user experience of the tourism website and social media platforms. It is essential to create a website that focuses on usability, aesthetics, and functionality with search engine optimization (SEO). Council has identified tourism as a key focus for the Economic Development Department for the 2025-2026 year.

On motion of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approve \$8,625.00 Plus HST for Digital Nova Scotia Grant on the advertising campaign. This grant will provide \$17,250.00 worth of digital tourism advertising for a cost of \$8,625.00 to the municipality with the remaining 50% matched by Digital Nova Scotia. Further, Council approves the award for digital marketing and tourism support to Sociable Media Inc. in the sum of \$11,500. Plus HST.

Motion approved.

- b. General Government Grants Policy Amendments
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
 - Based on the recent call for applications from nonprofit organizations under the General Government Grants Policy council has determine a need for amendments to the policy. Staff have taken direction provided by Municipal Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 5th, 2025, and incorporated recommend changes into the policy.
 - Council also requested that due to the proposed amendments a one-time extension on the application due date occur for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
 - The municipality will put out a second call for applications to the General Government Grants policy with a deadline of May 14th, 2025.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve to amend section 6 of the General Government Grant Policy and state a minimum total project of \$1,000 along with removing the stipulation that organizations are only eligible if they have not received the grant within the last two fiscal years along with all other recommend non substantive

changes. Furthermore, Recommend that Municipal Council re-issue the call for General Government Grant applications for the 2025-2026 fiscal year with a deadline for applications of May 14th, 2025.

Recommendation adopted.

- c. 2025-2026 Municipal Operating Budget Draft 2
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
 - Marian Fraser, Director of Finance informed Council of the updates recommended by Council to the 2025-2026 Operating Budget Draft 2.

- d. 2025-2026 Internal & External Committee of Council Appointments
 - Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
 - The Internal/External Committees of Council was brought up to decided if Council members wanted to change the committees they are on. Council decided that all members were happy with the committee they sit on and that no changes needed to be made.
 - Municipal Clerk stated that there is no alternate for the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Councillor Tibbo was appointed, formal appointment will be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 2nd, 2025.

10. In-Camera: Contract Negotiations

On motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council agreed to move In-Camera for contract negotiations at 7:20pm.

Motion approved.


On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council agreed to reconvene to regular session at 7:44pm.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

On motion of Warden Fuller, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 7:44pm.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden Fuller