

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday March 1, 2017**

MEETING, DATE & TIME:

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday March 1, 2017 at 10:00am in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke.

ATTENDING:

Warden Mosher
Deputy Warden Dort
Councillor Findlay
Councillor Malloy
Councillor Kaiser-Kirk
Councillor Baker

ALSO ATTENDING:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BAKER COUNCIL APPROVED THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS; IN-CAMERA SESSION FOR LEGAL PURPOSE – ELECTION ISSUES
MOTION CARRIED**

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR KAISER-KIRK, COUNCIL MOVED TO IN CAMERA SESSION FOR PURPOSE OF LEGAL DISCUSSION ON ELECTION ISSUE

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MALLOY, COUNCIL RECONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BAKER COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2017 AS PRESENTED.
MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Update on setting a public meeting with EHS; Marvin has been in contact with Jeff Fraser and Lions Hall in Sherbrooke with possible dates for the end of March. Concerns were voiced over the possible

misconception of what the meeting is about; EHS operations versus changing their mind to relocate the base.

- Marvin has sent letter asking for a ministerial review of the decision, with no response yet and will followup

2017/18 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

- Low Income Exemption

On recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort and seconded by Councillor Baker, council set the Low Income Exemption household income threshold for 2017/18 at \$19,300 with an exemption on tax bill of \$110.

- Community Hall Exemptions – list of exempt properties from 2016/17 were given to council for consideration
- Financial Conditions Index Review – Marvin reviewed the Provincial FCI figures in regards to residential tax effort and position of St. Mary’s municipality and the potential impact if tax rates were to increase

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Vesting Tax Sale Properties

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Dort and seconded by Councillor Kaiser-Kirk, council moved to in camera session for tax sale discussion

On recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort, council reconvened to regular session

PRESENTATION:

Matt Parker – Designation of Liscomb Point Provincial Park, Nova Scotia

- The proposed section on Liscomb Point is crown land with ocean frontage, 1,260 acres in size 510 hectares, 7.5 coastline, provide public access to coastline , ecological species at risk, migratory birds, outdoor recreation opportunities, hiking trails, beach access, connection to a protected beach, and would contribute to the NS protected areas target
- Protecting this piece of plan was included in the Provincial Parks and Protected Land plan in 2012 to enhance recreation value of the property. At that time two open houses were held to provide an overview of the plan (consultation) and get comments. Open houses were held in Sheet Harbor and Guysborough, in 2012.
- Parks Act and Regulations are to develop and operate provincial parks and preserve natural components of Nova Scotia.
- Activities not available/allowed in protected area - hunting or trapping , resource development, use off highway vehicles, but fishing is allowed
- Activities available/allowed in protected area – Infrastructure development for outdoor recreation, wharf, boat ramp, trails, interruptive, parking lot, cultural history infrastructure
- Protected area would provide opportunities such as - wild islands tourism advancement partnership (WITAP), partnership with Liscombe Lodge resort , partnership with local community groups
- In summary Mr. Parker stated that the provincial government would like to proceed with designating the area discussed as a provincial park

Questions/Discussions regarding Mr. Parker's presentation on Liscomb Point:

- How far is the property from Liscomb lodge? 5.5km by road from Liscombe lodge
- How close are the nearest home owners? Unsure as Mr. Parker has never been to the property
- Who initiated this project? NS Parks Plan from the protected beaches – there is a road that runs through it
- Are you working in consultations with the WITAP? Mr. Parker has not attended any of their meetings yet
- How much of the provincial 12.5% of protected area is in St Mary's? Unsure, Mr. Parker to send information to Mr. MacDonald
- Can be designation be taken away if an industry came in? Yes it can be changed from an order in council (provincial) but would take time
- It was discussed that this is a big concern because the Municipality is presently trying to generate economic development – Municipality is interested in tourism and want to help – but because there is so much crown land in the municipality it limits the municipality.
- Discussion was held on if there would be a public meeting held on this issue. Mr. Parker said a management plan would have to be done and it consists of stakeholder engagement.
- Warden thanked Mr. Parker for the presentation and awaits answers to the questions asked by council.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Street Light Policy – Marvin reviewed the history of developing the policy to address additions of street light areas, and to address the gap issue. Policy amendments were reviewed.

On Recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort and seconded by Councillor Kaiser-Kirk, that council accept the amended policy as presented

- Councillor Findlay opposed until the audit is complete

OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

- a. Bird Day Resolution – Ron Stansfield brought it forward in conjunction with the Municipal bird house challenge by the Community Development and Recreation Department

On Recommendation by Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and Seconded by Councillor Findlay that council name April 8th, 2017 as St Mary's Bird Day

- Staff will bring awareness through a media release

- b. Lyme Disease Awareness month – a sample proclamation email from Lyme Disease Association was sent to all municipalities to proclaim May 2017 as Lyme Disease Awareness month

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Dort and Seconded by Councillor Baker council proclaimed May 2017 as Lyme Disease Awareness month in St. Mary's

- c. District 3/5 funds – decision by council that all applications will be held for the new Councillor and Marvin will contact the organizations who submitted requests.

- d. Department of TIR – Councillor Malloy voiced concern of condition of Sonora Road. It was suggested to invite Jamie Chisholm and local foreman to COTW meeting. It was decided that all Councillors bring top priority for their area to discuss.
- e. Meeting dates were set. Special meeting after election will be held March 23rd, at 9am and AGM on April 5th at 1pm

ADJOURNMENT

On recommendation by Councillor Baker there being no further matter of business, council adjourned meeting at 2:50PM

Recorded By
Director of Finance

Approved By
Warden Mosher