

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday May 3, 2017**

MEETING, DATE & TIME:

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday May 3, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke.

ATTENDING:

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

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Councillor Baker

ALSO ATTENDING:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance
Jody Cook, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MALLOY COUNCIL APPROVED THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS TO OTHER MATTERS; BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, WELCOME SIGN INSTALLATION BIDS, SHEET HARBOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER, LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA SESSION ON MUNICIPAL IMPACTS.
MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR KAISER-KIRK COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD APRIL 19, 2017 AS PRESENTED
MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Letter has been sent to Minister of Environment regarding Liscomb Point
- IT report for councillors is on agenda for next Committee of the Whole
- No additional update from EHS
- All Councillors received the GALA financial request

PRESENTATION:

1. Emily Pond, Municipal Advisor
 - Emily explained the formula for calculating the Education Tax that is collected from Municipalities.
 - The Regulation is Section 76 in the Education Act
 - The Municipal Education Transfer (MET) Rate is 0.3048 per \$100 of uniform assessment
 - Funding for the P-12 education system incorporates two revenue sources to provide stability in education funding; 80% from general provincial revenue and 20% from municipal property taxes.
 - There is no link between enrollment or number of schools and a municipal education contribution. Uniform assessment is used as a measure of proxy for ability to pay.
 - Research from across the country shows it is common to use property tax revenue to fund education
 - Since 2012, the MET rate has been static and Department of Education budget is increasing
 - Discussion was held on how it is unfair that services are not related to enrolment and that the Province views education for all Nova Scotians not just for board's or individual schools

2. Mr. Isenor and Mr. Rooney, G.A Isenor Consulting and Blaine S. Rooney Consulting
 - Draft of Water Rate Study and process of applying to Utility and Review Board were presented council
 - A comparative analysis showed the deficit to the water utility if there were no increases to the rates including the new replacement project and the regular maintenance.
 - Determined a 20% increase in rates for year 1, 3.9% in year 2 and 5% in year 3, this is to fund the debt payments to complete the project and to have funds to pay down accumulative deficit.
 - The new water line project will improve leaks and save in utility expenses
 - Consultants are suggesting proposing to the board a 70% write off of the old infrastructure to align the assets and to defer the depreciation payment for one year.
 - Mr. Isenor explained that Sherbrooke Water Utility is small but serves high standard water quality and the debt stays with the customers of the utility as a separate entity with the municipality as a guarantor
 - Next steps after council approval are signing of affidavits and public hearing leading to possible rates changes effective October 1, 2017.
 - Marian reviewed impact on customer rates

On recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort and Seconded by Councillor Malloy, that council approve the water rate study

- Suggestion by Councillor Findlay to talk to DOTIR regarding paving upgrades during the water line replacement project.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Recommendation Report – Joint Municipal Accountability and Transparency Committee (JMAT)
Marvin reviewed some of the possible legislation changes:
 - Code of Conduct to include consequences
 - Process for reporting complaints
 - Including independent person on Audit Committee

b. Police Advisory Board Representative

There is an appointment vacancy with Agencies, Boards and Commissions for the Police Advisory Board. Marvin has sent letter to Department of Justice explaining we do not require as the local RCMP Sergeant meets with council on a regular basis.

OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS:

a. Grants to Organization –

On recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort and seconded by Councillor Smith, council moved to in camera session to discuss grants to organizations' financial information

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

b. Economic Development Committee Applications – Stephen joined the meeting

- Five applications were received out of a possible 8 positions. Two councillors and one youth who do not require an application. Discussion was held on filling the gap and targeting individuals that may have an interest in the districts who are not currently represented from the submissions. It was suggested to begin meetings so that momentum is not lost and continue to add members.
- Council will review the applications on Monday May 8th at 5pm

c. Welcome Signs Installation Tender

On recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort and seconded by Councillor Smith, council moved to in camera session for tender discussion

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

On recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort, that council hires Sheldon Rudolph Trucking & Backhoe Services for an amount of \$3,475.00 plus HST for the installation of five municipal welcome signs.

d. Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce Dinner - Councillor Findlay requested council's support in attending

On recommendation of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Malloy, that Councillor Findlay attend Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce Dinner

e. Municipal Impact of Legalizing of marijuana session on May 26 - Councillor Kaiser-Kirk will attend in place of CAO

ADJOURNMENT

On recommendation by Councillor Malloy and there being no further matter of business, council adjourned meeting at 4:58PM

Recorded By
Executive Assistant

Approved By
Warden Mosher