

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, September 20th, 2017

MEETING, DATE & TIME:

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday, September 20th, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke.

ATTENDING:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance
Denise Sawlor, Municipal Clerk/Sp. Projects Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FINDLAY COUNCIL APPROVED THE REVISED AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:

7G. Next Council Meeting Date

7H. WILD Islands

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILLOR FINDLEY IDENTIFIED AN ERROR IN THE MINUTES. THE WORD 'NOT' WAS MISSING FROM THE PROCLAMATION. THE PROCLAMATION WILL NOW READ:

"Council's position is that proclamations will not be considered in the future"

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SMITH AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BAKER COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 6th, 2017 WITH THE IDENTIFIED ERROR CORRECTED MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- a. Derelict Vehicle Bylaw/Policy – The 30 days have passed on the derelict vehicle located in Sherbrooke, options and costs regarding the issue were discussed. Marvin to bring update on

options on how to handle situation and information to the next committee of the whole meeting on October 4th, 2017.

- b. Liscomb Point Proposed Protected Land – no update or follow up has been received on this item.
- c. Sobeys Property – no update or follow up has been received on this item.
- d. Solar Project – application has been submitted for the project, still awaiting information from engineering regards structure of the facility.
- e. Update on URB water rate hearing - Proposed rates have been approved.

6. Eastern Mainland Housing Authority – Anne Scheid

- New program - Rent Supplement Program – the trend in the municipality is that population is declining and the EMHA has put programs in place to help residents be able to stay here and not have to move away for affordable housing. Program is designed for families (at least one dependent) and seniors (58+).
- The program works by EMHA having a contract with landlords who already have rental properties.
- People on low income can apply (can already be an existing tenant) and EMHA will help subsidize the rent and/or electric heating costs. During the winter month's people tend to struggle with heating costs so this program could be helpful for those people.
- Both landlord and tenant need to fill out an application form.
- Eligibility for the program is based on household gross income. Low income for this program is defined as follows
 - a. 1 bedroom \$33,500
 - b. 2 bedroom \$37,000
 - c. 3 bedroom \$44,500
- EMHA doesn't currently own any family units in St. Mary's. This program could help low income families stay in St. Mary's
- There are currently 10 positions available where this supplement program can help up to \$400 per month.
- EMHA has advertised with Kids First, RCMP and the Women's Resource Center. They are hoping councillors will help get the word out in our community. (It was mentioned that the Lions club with Christmas daddies would be a good resource as well as the municipal newsletter)
- This program is available to permanent residents or citizens of Canada.
- Housing NS has a program for developers for a forgivable loan up to 50,000 per unit. For more information look on their website.
- Program information was handed out to councillors

7. New Business

- a. UNSM Resolutions – Council reviewed the proposed UNSM resolutions and picked out the following to be the top priority for the Municipality.
 - Rural High Speed Internet
 - Cap Program
 - Forestry taxation / designated protected areas (questions regarding the quality of the land they are protecting)
 - Roads

- b. Sea-level Rise Resources and Workshop Opportunities – Follow up email regarding a session at UNSM last year – presently the deadline (Sept 8th) has passed for proposed workshops.
- c. Tax Sale Update – information was handed out regarding tax sale properties for consideration of vesting properties recommendations at the next committee of the whole.
- d. Eastside Waterline Project – staff reviewed the current budget and timeline of project tender process.
- e. Tree Removal – Along the River

- A number of high dead trees along the edge of the road between the municipal office and Waternish Bridge are becoming a safety concern especially with the increase in storms and high winds.
- Who would be responsible for removal, Contact TIR to handle it , if not then DNR to see who is responsible
- The falling of these trees could block the road or cause an accident

On motion of Councillor Findlay and Seconded by Councillor Baker THAT council pursue the removal of dead trees along the road from the Municipal Office to Waternish Bridge.

- Perhaps greater issue are the conditions of the shoulders of the roads everywhere in the municipality
- Perhaps the letter should focus on the overall issue instead of pointing out this one area

The motion was defeated unanimously

On recommendation of Councillor Smith and Seconded by Deputy Warden Dort THAT council write a letter to highlight the general issue of the shoulders of our roads and intersections and highlight this stretch of road as an example

Amendment suggested by Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Deputy Warden Dort to request in the letter that DOT come in and report on what has been done and what work is planned for the shoulders of the roads.

Amendment adopted. (1 Nay, Councillor Findlay)

Recommendation adopted. (1 Nay, Councillor Findlay)

- f. Municipal Website – councillors have received many complaints regarding the current website such as items cannot be found, minutes and agendas not being posted
 - CAO informed council that staff is currently aware of the issues and recognizes that an overhaul of the site will be required.
- g. Future meeting dates – regular monthly meeting set for Monday Oct 16th
 - CAO to send email about fire service meeting

- h. WILD Islands – Warden was contacted by Gordan Hammond , Sp. Projects and member of the committee.
- Mr. Hammond was inquiring as to who owns and maintains the land at Red Man’s Head in Little Liscomb.
 - Currently someone was looking to buy a right of way beyond here and develop the area.
 - Federal and Provincial Governments each own half the land.
 - Mr. Hammond believes this land is ideal for their project as it is at the end of the wild islands area. He asked if council could step in and delay the developer’s application for a year.
 - Communication to be made to Mr. Hammond that council has no authority in the matter since it is not our jurisdiction and that he should contact the current owners.

8. Other Matters of Business

9. Adjournment

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dort there being no further matters of business, council adjourned at 3:06PM.

Recorded By

Director of Finance

Approved By

Warden Mosher