

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday March 15, 2017**

MEETING, DATE & TIME:

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday March 15, 2017 at 9:00 am 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
Jody Cook, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BAKER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MALLOY COUNCIL APPROVED THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS TO OTHER MATTERS; RFP FOR STONEWALL PARK
MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**ON MOTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN DORT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BAKER COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 1, 2017 AS PRESENTED.
MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Once Marvin hears back from Mr. Fraser, DNR regarding Liscomb Point, Council will state their position in letter to MLA Lloyd Hines

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dort and Seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council moved to in camera session for personnel discussion

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dort council reconvened to regular session

2017/18 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

- a. Grants to Organizations budget to remain the same as last year; \$34,000

- b. Marian reviewed three different tax rate increase options and examples of tax bill impacts.
- c. Discussion was held on each option's transfer from reserves amount required
- d. Change in solid waste charge was discussed to put in general rate or increase flat rate.
- e. Council gave direction for Marian to prepare an additional Tax Rate Option that includes 3 cent increase on tax rates and \$5 on flat rate of solid waste.
- f. Dates for next COTW and AGM were set

Strategic plan discussion – Staff joined the meeting

- Jody presented all of the goals individually for council and staff discussion on implementation steps for each objective in St. Mary's 2026.
- Some strategies are in progress, have already been completed and new ideas were proposed.
- Staff will compile feedback from in house planning sessions and develop an implementation plan will be developed.

PRESENTATION: Jamie Chisholm, Regional Director DOTIR

- Jamie explained the different types of funding sources;
 - o Annual maintenance budget for pot holes, grading, calcium etc.
 - o RIM program for tendered work including asphalt patching, shoulder gravel, gravel patching, brush cutting, and ditching
 - o Capital program includes complete rebuild – nothing planned this summer for St. Mary's under the capital program
 - o Maintenance paving includes resurfacing asphalt and shoulder gravel, part of which will be completed on Sonora Road next year
- Updates and Summer plans were provided from Jamie;
 - o Liscomb River bridge looking to tender for replacement 2018/19
 - o Asphalt on Rte 348, shoulder patching on Highway 7 in aspen area, gravel on College Road, and Waternish, brush cutting in Sonora and Rte 348, ditching on Welsh Rd, and more depending on tenders how much can get completed
- Warden expressed Council's top priority for is Sonora Road.
- Council round table concerns;
 - o Councillor Malloy – West Side IHL is eroding and narrowing.
 - o Councillor Findlay – Cameron Road, Municipal J Class roads, and Hospital Road solution; Cameron Road will be ditched and graded this year
 - o Councillor Kaiser-Kirk – content with paving work completed however there remain 100 people on Port Bickerton West and Lighthouse Road that weren't completed at the same time.
 - o Councillor Baker – brush cutting along road
 - o Councillor Dort – Highway 316 from Highway 276 to county line is on schedule for this year. Ditching is great for draining which creates less potholes. Don't want to see Highway 7 is a condition that affects tourism traffic.

- Jamie explained the repaving Policy; traffic must exceed 500 vehicles a day to be eligible for full repaving. If not reached project can go to other funding sources.
- Warden mentioned Cameron settlement, from lower Caledonia up is also very bad.
- Silvers Bridge temporary repair is completed and plan is to bring it back up to standard in the spring. Jamie commented the cause damage was unable to be proved.
- Maintenance standard for plowing roads is 24 hours after snow stops.
- Warden thanked Jamie for his time.

OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

a. Solar Project update

- Report was received by Consultant with recommendations of revenue based on 37 or 38 cents per Kwh as is a competitive bid process
- Marian provided a Capital and Operating Project summary
 - o Total potential increase in reserves at end of 20 year term would be \$25,956
 - o Operating budget project profit over 20 years selling at rate of 37cents/Kwh totals \$222,786
- Fixed rate for 20 years life of the project selling to NSP to put back into grid.
- Insurance cost is built in
- Maintaining the equipment
- Program is not formally announced by Province Department of Energy
- Council is in agreement to move forward and be ready when RFP is released.

b. Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Association Request

- Discussion was held on the use of Association by local VFD and RCMP.
- Marvin will research on other municipal unit and see who else has donated.

c. RFP for stonewall park

On motion of Deputy Warden Dort and Seconded by Councillor Findlay, Council moved to in camera for contract discussions

On motion of Deputy Warden Dort Council reconvened to regular session

On Recommendation by Deputy Warden Dort and Seconded by Councillor Baker that council awards the contract for new Trail Head in Stonewall Park to Greene-lynch landscaping in the amount of \$13,554.48 INCLUDING HST

ADJOURNMENT

On recommendation by COUNCILLOR BAKER there being no further matter of business, council adjourned meeting at 3:12PM

Recorded By
Executive Assistant

Approved By
Warden Mosher