



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee Of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday –October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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## 1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S

## 2. Attending:

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

## Also Attending:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO  
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance

## Absent with Regrets:

Deputy Warden Dort

## 3. Approval of Agenda:

*On motion of Councillor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Malloy Council approved the agenda with the following addition;*

*7 e. Unsightly Road Signage*

***Motion carried.***

## 4. Approval of Minutes:

*On motion of Councillor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.*

***Motion carried.***

## 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- The tentative date for the public Streetscapes meeting has not yet been confirmed. Once confirmed council will be notified.

## 6. Presentations:

a. Guysborough County Early Years Networking Committee- Results of Early Development Instrument.

- Michelle Ward, Kids First Guysborough-Pictou Co. and Chrissi Lynch.
- This group presented to Council two years ago to review the Early Development Instrument. At that time they stated they would be back when they had new information and provide an update. They were not looking for any financial support, rather they were present to endorse the community programs with the importance of early years and families in the community.
- The Early Development Instrument (EDI) looks at vulnerability areas - the committee now has three EDO cycles to compare information.
  - 2015 - 35% of preschool children were not ready for school
  - 2018 - 16% of students are not ready coming to school.
  - Next round of EDI data will be available in February 2019
- What the Committee is currently working on:
  - Our Committee continues to work towards reducing barriers by offering programs and filling gaps in services to address the needs of our communities
  - Sharing EDI information with families, Community stakeholders, and non-traditional partners (ie. Municipal Council, MLA, Provincial Early Years Partnership, Business community)
  - Working with other communities to encourage replication of the GCEYNC videos to speak to the other domains
  - Working to improve engagement with male caregivers - engage male strategy – Kids First is doing a survey of male caregivers in the three counties to see what supports they need – will take info back to the early years group to review
  - Sharing of best practices to improve family engagement
  - Continue to increase education and information sharing among agencies and organizations working with the 0-3 population
  - Collectively advocate for additional resources to enhance what already exists
- Gaps/Barriers in Early Development Instrument
  - Transportation to Pre-Primary programs - busing has begun this year
  - Poverty
  - Geographic isolation
  - Common messages needed among everyone working with the early years population to ensure parents have the resources to improve outcomes for their children
  - Engagement of Dads in programming
  - Lack of childcare services
  - Equity of services for families in rural communities
  - Physical development - can you play on the playground , can you cut color paste, feed yourself, etc - fine motor skills
- Good news story – Guysborough County has become a leader in the province for the progress being made on the EDI this is largely due to the active engagement throughout the whole community

## **7. Other Matters of Business:**

a. Cost Share Agreement- Road Submission List:

- Hospital Rd has been repaved – cost share Municipal/Provincial
- Court Street has been repaved – cost share Municipal/Provincial
- Fourth Street was repaved by DOT
- Section through historical village pavement was removed and gravel placed
- Upgrading options – if current road is gravel double chip seal is an option – Cameron Rd, Bennett's Loop and Restoration could all be considered but there are concerns that Cameron Road may not be up to standards to do so.
- CAO reviewed the standards for roads.
- Chip seal costs generally 60% of what pavement costs.

*On recommendation of councilor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Kaiser Kirk council submit a priority list for pricing to TIR for Cameron Road, Restoration Drive and Bennett's Loop for double chip seal if they meet TIR standards.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

b. Protected Areas:

- CAO reviewed the protected provincial designated land in St. Mary's
  - Province of Nova Scotia introduced their Parks and Protected Areas Plan in 2013
  - Plan provided for protection of 13 per cent of the province's outstanding landmass by 2015
  - Designations for protected lands include provincial parks, wilderness areas and nature reserves
  - Province conducted a consultation process in 2012, which did not include any public meetings in the District of St. Mary's
  - St. Mary's did send written comments on February 9, 2012 expressing agreement on some proposed protected areas and asked that other areas be removed from the list due to land use conflicts
  - The Warden wrote to Minister of Natural Resources in April 2017, August 2017 and January 2018 expressing concerns regarding the loss of development opportunities due to the large amounts of coastal areas being proposed for protection in the municipality
  - The 2013 Parks and Protected Areas – A Plan for Nova Scotia - contains the list of lands under consideration for protection
  - Proposed protected areas in St. Mary's makes up 12.85% of the total landmass of the Municipality.
  - 3.41% of total protected areas in the province is located in St. Mary's.
  - St. Mary's makes up 3.45% of the total land mass in the province.

Council requested the CAO to write a letter requesting a senior official with Lands & Forestry (protected areas division) to come speak with Council and express disappointment due to lack of communication

with Council regarding the potential protected lands in the Municipality. Council requested a copy of the letter to be sent to Minister of Lands and Forestry, Dept. of Environment and local MLA.

c. Forestry

- Marvin Hudson, Woodlands Manager with Port Hawkesbury Pulp and Paper sent an email requesting that Council write a letter of support regarding what is happening in forestry and the concerns from changes brought on by the Lahey report as well as the impacts of these changes that have not been fully studied to see what the true impacts may be.
- Council felt they needed additional information from PHP in order to fully discuss the issues. Council suggested staff contact Andrew Fedora to gather additional information.

e. Unsightly Road Signage

- Councillor Kaiser-Kirk brought to Council's attention a number of derelict and unsightly business road signs. Especially at the end of Hwy 211/Hwy 7 intersection.
- Council does not have any authority over these signs but recognizes the importance of having them cleaned up. Council requested staff to contact TIR to bring this issue to their attention and suggest removal.

*Councillor Smith left meeting at 2:20*

c. In camera session- Municipal Tax Sale:

***On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Findlay, Council moved to an in camera session for Tax Sale purposes at 2:21pm***

***On motion of Councillor Malloy, Council reconvened to a regular session at 3:22pm.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Findlay, Council agreed to hire Liscomb Backhoe & Trucking for the burial of C&D material at the Transfer Station for a price of \$58,000 plus HST, work to be completed by November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*

*Warden Mosher declared a conflict of interest and will be not voting as a relative works for company.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

## **Adjournment**

*On motion of Councillor Malloy there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 3:23pm*



Recorded By  
Director of Finance



Approved By  
Warden Mosher