



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee Of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday –February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## 1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S

## 2. Attending:

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

## Also Attending:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO	Marissa Jordan, Municipal Clerk
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance	

## Absent with Regrets:

Deputy Warden Dort

## 3. Approval of Agenda:

*On motion of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the agenda as presented.*

***Motion carried.***

## 4. Approval of Minutes:

*On motion of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

***Motion carried.***

## 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

### NDP Caucus:

- Staff contacted the NDP representative and will set up a meeting in April 2020.

### Municipal Office Front Desk Quote

- Council passed the motion at the Regular Council meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to go ahead with the quote presented by Tate Construction. The project will take 6-8 weeks to complete.

## 6. Presentations:

### a. Destination Eastern And Northumberland Shores (DEANS)- Cindy MacKinnon

- Cindy MacKinnon and Robin Anderson presented on behalf of DEANS. DEANS is continuing to promote tourism in this area. There are three pillars of focus are destination marketing, visitor services and industry partnerships to enhance tourism product development and visitor experience.

- Destination marketing projects include the visitor passports, a new visitor map, website, Saltscapes Expo, social media, Guysborough Country Tourism Strategy.
- DEANS provides support for nine visitor centers in our region, ongoing weekly e-newsletter from May until November, support small businesses in our regional VIC, support to Festival and Events as well as training opportunities in partnership with the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resource Council.
- DEANS has also been focusing on industry partnerships to enhance tourism product development and visitor experience. Partnerships have included Guysborough County Tourism Strategy planning group, St. Mary's Beautification and Streetscapes Steering Committee, Wild Islands Tourism Advancement Partnership and Visitor Information Centers.
- DEANS said the annual municipal contribution will remain constant at \$4016.34 per annum.

*On recommendation of Councillor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agree to provide funding to DEANS in the amount of \$4016.34 for the fiscal year 2019/2020*

***Recommendation adopted.***

## **7. Correspondence:**

### a. Order of Nova Scotia

- Correspondence was received on behalf of the Order of Nova Scotia. This is the highest honor that the province can bestow on an individual and recognizes people who have made exceptional contributions to their community and the province. Enclosed was a poster and nomination form to distribute, and the letter encouraged Council to help promote the Order of Nova Scotia in the community through public speaking opportunities, newsletters and on social media.
- The closing date for nominations is Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Council asked staff to put this information in the March newsletter.

### b. Strait Regional Centre for Education (SRCE)- International Student Program (ISP)

- Mr. Chuck Boudreau, coordinator of the SRCE-ISP, sent correspondence to share information about the International Student Program and ask Council to consider avenues in which they can collaborate for the benefit of the communities.
- The Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP) has been in operation across Nova Scotia for 21 years. Each year 1500+ students come from around the world to study elementary, junior high, and high school in public schools and live with local families.
- This program has a lot of potential for growth, specifically in rural Nova Scotia. The only limiting factor is the number of approved host families entering the program. They would like to develop those opportunities with Council's support and a partnership with our local municipalities would be beneficial to all involved.

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

### a. Female Objectives Cape Breton Unama'ki Strait (FOCUS)

- Government FOCUS and the Cape Breton Partnership are coming together to bring a first of its kind initiative to Port Hawkesbury to increase gender balance and inclusion in First Nation and Municipal Government throughout Cape Breton - Unama'ki and the Strait. The goal is to promote gender balance in government by engaging, supporting and educating women about leadership and local government.
- FOCUS asked if Council will be part of this initiative by promoting it in their communities, and consider coming on as a Leadership School for Women sponsor. They anticipate the approximate cost for each participant to be \$250 and are hoping to have 100 women attend. As a sponsor, the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's would be acknowledged in all advertising (including news releases, social media, promotional materials, and remarks during the opening/closing of the program).
- Council asked if funding is given, will it go to representatives of this area. Councillor Smith, who sits on the committee, said that any funding that is given from Council will go directly to representatives from our area. The committee is confident they will have four representatives from St. Mary's Municipality that will attend.

*On recommendation of Councillor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agree to sponsor two participants at \$250 per participant to go to the Leadership School for Women.*

Councillor Smith declared a conflict of interest.

***Recommendation adopted.***

#### b. Standing Committee on the Status of Women

- Councillor Smith brought forth a document in regards to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women. In April of 2019 the Standing Committee on the Status of Women released a report entitled Elect Her: A Roadmap for Improving the Representation of Women in Canadian Politics. The committee was tasked with undertaking a study on barriers facing women in politics. In the report they explore the history and trends of women in politics, identify seven arching factors that may result in the low number of women in the political field. Resulting from this, they presented fourteen recommendations.
- The report goes into detail about each recommendation identifying why that recommendation has been developed, the history, and the hopeful outcome if the recommendation were to be implemented.
- Councillor Smith strongly encourage members of Council, and the public, to take the time to read this report and consider the implications these recommendations could have on creating equality and equal representation in the political field.

#### c. Accessibility Plan

- Staff gave an update to Council on the recent changes to the Accessibility Act and how those changes will affect the Municipality. As per the Accessibility Act, the Municipality must have a completed Accessibility Plan by April of 2021.

- To complete this plan, an Accessibility Advisory Committee will be formed and will play a key role in developing the Accessibility Plan. This committee will advise Council on identifying, preventing and eliminating accessibility barriers to Municipal programs services and infrastructure. At least one half of committee members must have a disability or represent an organization that represents people with disabilities.
- An Accessibility Coordinator will be appointed and will work with the Committee to lead the development of an accessibility plan, to identify and remove barriers in new policies and programs, to monitor progress in implementing the plan and ensure it is reflected in the budget and receive and respond to stakeholder concerns, complaints, and suggestions about the plan.
- There will be a call out for committee members in the April 2020 newsletter with plans for the first meeting to occur mid-late April.

d. Surplus Equipment

- The open bid for the tractor and Zamboni attachment ended today at noon. Staff received three sealed bids. One was below the required minimum bid and was disregarded. Of the two remaining bids, the highest bid was Gordon Bezanson at \$4375.75 plus HST.

*On recommendation of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council accept the bid from Gordon Bezanson of \$4375.75 plus HST for the sale of the tractor and zamboni.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

e. In Camera- Tax Sale

***On motion of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Findlay, Council moved to an in camera session for Tax Sale at 1:56pm.***

***On motion of Councillor Findlay, Council reconvened to regular session at 2:55pm***

**Adjournment**

*On motion of Councillor Smith, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 2:55pm.*



Recorded By  
Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator



Approved By  
Warden Mosher