



## MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS

**Committee of the Whole  
October 27, 2015 6:00p.m.  
Sanford Council Chambers**

Present:	G. Cochrane	Chair
	R. Dauphinee	Warden
	S. Pineo	Councillor
	R. Matheson	Councillor
	T. Brown	Councillor
	J. Daniels	Councillor
	R. Allen	Councillor
	R. Zwicker	Councillor
	M. Laycock	Director of Finance
	K. Dempsey	Director of Planning
	K. Kehoe	Director of Recreation
	R. Sherrard	Director of Public Works
	J. Bourque	Planner
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk
	J. Woodman	Administrative Assistant

Regrets: C. Osborne

Guests: Greg Miller

There were 20 members of the public in attendance.

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements

Chair Cochrane reviewed the fire regulation procedures for the Council Chambers.

K. Kehoe, Director of Recreation announced that the MWH encourages all residents to attend the Parks & Open Space Plan Consultation workshops to help develop a plan to build, upgrade and maintain parks, recreational areas, and sporting locations in West Hants. The sessions are as follows:

- Three Mile Plains Hall November 5
- Hantsport Office November 8
- Falmouth Elementary November 9
- Dr. Arthur Hines School November 12
- West Hants Middle School November 16

Posters have been put throughout the Municipality and the information can be found on the website and Facebook page.



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Councillor Daniels reminded on November 4 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Windsor Legion she and Councillor Morton will be hosting a public information meeting on types of municipal reform and she encouraged everyone to attend.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

Additions:

- Councillor Education (Miscellaneous/New Business a)
- RV Park & Go (Miscellaneous/New Business b)

**MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved as circulated, noting the additions.**

**Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes – August 13 & August 25, 2015

**MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of August 13 & August 25, 2015 be approved as circulated, noting any errors or omissions.**

**Motion Carried.**

5. Presentation (s)

Greg Miller – Municipal Amalgamation

Mr. Miller explained that West Hants and Windsor were created well over two hundred years, and since that time both units have grown significantly and are in each other's backyard. He pointed out that they already share services, resources and even a common identity and are literally one community. He stated, however, there is still the 200 year old government structure that forces the areas to be treated separately. He recognized that West Hants Council does what's best for their residents as does the Town of Windsor; however there is not one common government that does what is best for everyone. He indicated that their group feels this needs to change.

He suggested that everyone needs to work together to create a strong new foundation for the future. He pointed out that there was not a need for two governments for 20,000 residents, and suggested that it would be more efficient to have one governing unit. He confirmed the groups he is working with started a petition for amalgamation. He explained the Municipal Government Act allows various parties to apply for amalgamation which can



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be citizens as long as they have a petition that gets 10% or more of the electors. He confirmed the combined electors in West Hants is approximately 15,000, meaning they have to have around 1500 signatures, and confirmed as of today they had approximately 2300, with most obtained by going door to door. He advised that most people were in favour of what they were proposing. He stated that the signatures came from all over geographically.

He felt that amalgamation should be considered a positive outcome, adding by starting now there is a year to accomplish this before the next election and there would be no disruption to the four year election cycle and any sitting councillor would not have to cut short their mandate.

He requested that Council make a motion supporting them in their petition and cause, support the application to the Utility and Review Board and have West Hants Council partner with them in a joint application to the Utility and Review Board.

He thanked Council for the opportunity to present and closed with the following remarks that an amalgamated community is a very positive outcome for our area and they encouraged Council to meet with the department of Municipal Affairs to discuss the many advantages of amalgamation.

A letter of introduction and petition was circulated.

**MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence from the presentation on amalgamation be received and placed on file.**

**Motion Carried.**

Martin Laycock, Director of Finance suggested that Council table any discussion until additional information is received. He reported on November 10 the Municipal Advisor and Solicitor will be in attendance at the Council meeting which is open to the public. He indicated this is an opportunity to ask any inquiries in order to make an informed decision on how to move forward in the future.

Councillor Daniels agreed that Council should be better apprised as to what is being asked this evening and she thanked Mr. Miller for presenting and commended him for showing leadership in the community.

6. Hearing (s) – Dangerous & Unsightly – None

There were no hearings.



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7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

8. Reports of the CAO

Wet-Dry Liquor Plebiscite 3<sup>rd</sup> Report – Information Report

**MOVED and SECONDED that the Wet-Dry Liquor Plebiscite 3<sup>rd</sup> Report be received and placed on file.**

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk, reported the request for a wet/dry liquor plebiscite to Elections Nova Scotia was approved by Council. She confirmed when the request for a plebiscite for sale by the bottle and sale by the glass was reviewed by NSLC, AGD and Elections Nova Scotia, it was determined that the dry areas for both questions were not identical in all areas of West Hants. As a result it was determined that a single plebiscite with both questions on the ballot could not be performed in all dry areas, two separate plebiscites would have to be held at a significantly increased cost.

She noted upon review of the request from residents it was determined that both are looking to start businesses in Polling District 9, Falmouth and that it was decided that the Falmouth and Mount Denson area is dry on both questions. She also added that Elections Nova Scotia, NSLC and AGD will go ahead with the original request for a wet/dry plebiscite on both questions in the Falmouth and Mount Denson areas, polling districts 8A and 9.

Director of Finance Report

a. Actual Budget Variance Report

**MOVED and SECONDED that the Director of Finance Report be received and placed on file.**

**Motion Carried.**

Martin Laycock, Director of Finance reported there is no significant change since he last reported in regards to West Hants. He pointed out the insurance charges increased slightly which would relate to the purchases for fire services. He noted in regards to Hantsport the major item that stands stems from the 3 month audit was dissolution costs that is an in and out. He noted both units are showing a slight surplus at this point in the year.



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Councillor Daniels asked if the issue was addressed with the Valley Regional Housing Authority in regards to them being late with their budget. Martin Laycock, Director of Finance confirmed that he did address the issue and requested that a better timeline be established.

Councillor Zwicker asked at what point for Hantsport the general rate/area rate would be looked at. Martin Laycock, Director of Finance confirmed this will be discussed in the next budget process.

Councillor Pineo inquired about the \$10,000 budgeted amount for the Hantsport Library. Martin Laycock, Director of Finance advised he would need to look into the matter and send her a response. He did note that there was a hold back of approximately \$14,000 for the library based on the recommendation from the Director of Public Works.

9. Reports of Other Committees

There were none.

10. Correspondence

- a. September 22, 2015 – Plebiscite Request

**MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence dated September 22, 2015 regarding Plebiscite Request be received and placed on file.**

**Motion Carried.**

- b. October 4, 2015 – New Boundaries

**MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence dated October 4, 2015 regarding New Boundaries.**

**Motion Carried.**

No action is to be taken.

11. Miscellaneous/New Business

- a. Councillor Education



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Councillor Daniels asked if consideration could be given for funding assistance towards the costs of training to encourage councillors to participate. It was agreed that consideration should be given to this during budget deliberations.

b. RV Park & Go

Councillor Daniels suggested that she has been thinking about different areas to encourage economic community development. She explained throughout the summer she had numerous discussions with tourists who would like to see an area they could park for the day as they are not permitted to park at the shopping facilities. She asked if staff could investigate an area to facilitate this by the Rocks Road. Councillor Zwicker expressed concern that it may create competition for the camping parks in the area. Councillor Daniels didn't feel it would as its purpose would be for temporary parking not overnight to allow them to go to other destinations while traveling. It was agreed as time permits the Directors of Public Works and Recreation be asked to investigate whether the site would be feasible first before researching the matter further. Councillor Pineo cautioned that staff check with the insurance company to if this would create added expensed or liabilities to the Municipality's current policy.

12. In Camera Session

There were no in camera sessions.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

**MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting adjourn.**

**Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Gary Cochrane, Chair

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Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk