



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Committee of the Whole Minutes
May 24, 2016, 6:00 p.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
	P. Morton	Councillor
	G. Miller	Councillor
	C. Osborne	CAO
	M. Laycock	Director of Finance
	K. Kehoe	Director of Recreation
	R. Sherrard	Director of Public Works
	K. Dempsey	Director of Planning
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk
	J. Woodman	Administrative Assistant
Guests:	Claude O'Hara	Glooscap First Nation
	Amanda Peters	Glooscap First Nation
	Alexander Wilson	CBC Limited

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

1. Call to Order

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Announcements

Chair Cochrane reviewed the fire evacuation procedures.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved with the following changes

11c. – Fire Station Update

11d. – Hantsport Sign

Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – April 19, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of April 19, 2016 Special budget be approved as circulated, noting any errors or omissions.

Motion Carried.

5. Presentation (s)

a. Glooscap – Long Term Care Facility – Claude O’Hara and Amanda Peters

Mr. O’Hara presented a power point presentation. He indicated the idea was presented at Imagine Hantsport, June 2013 and a committee formed to explore partnerships and steps necessary to quantify and qualify LTC need for Hantsport/Glooscap. He advised Glooscap First Nation leadership shared the same concerns for elder compassion/care and a partnership formed. He reported it is a three-year process that included a Feasibility Study and Business Plan funded by INAC and Glooscap First Nation.

MOVED and SECONDED that the presentation be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

b. Falmouth Storm Water Management Plan – Alexander Wilson – CBCL Limited

The Director of Public Works reported that the Municipality has discussed and considered storm water management in the Falmouth growth center. He explained that Mr. Wilson took the lead on the project and observed the study area to determine when it rains which direction the water runs. He noted that Mr. Wilson had created maps that shows the capacity of the storm water channels, culverts and reviewed weather data and he was able to determine how much rain fell in certain areas. He explained that Mr. Wilson built a computer model that gives an indication based on the data gathered what would happen in a significant rain event and revealed what areas might be at risk.

Mr. Wilson gave a presentation showing various maps and graphs. He noted that there are current flooding issues in Falmouth and debate on where the flooding comes from.

MOVED and SECONDED that the presentation be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

Councilor Pineo mentioned that she was glad that the presentation was given as it has been an issue of concern with residents of Falmouth. She suggested the timing was ideal as the Municipality would soon be entering into a Plan Review for the planning documents and it would be an opportunity to implement some of the recommendations from the report. She asked if this is going to be on the backs of developers would it not be the best time to implement development fees and identify storm water management as part of the future for construction. She advised that she was pleased to see the recommendation for cluster systems and felt it should be an option. She felt it was beneficial to show the residents that it was proven to be a natural phenomenon and there wasn’t anything really that the Municipality could do to change it.

CAO Osborne suggested that the MCAPP Committee receive the final report. She suggested the committee may want to first file the report then make recommendations to Council for consideration. It was agreed to wait for the recommendations.

MOVED and SECONDED that the report on Falmouth Storm Water Management Plan be referred to the MCCAP committee to review the final report.

Motion Carried.

Warden Dauphinee addressed the issues with ditching and owners not permitting them to be cleaned out to help alleviate issues. He also mentioned a condemned culvert owned by the railway which is also an issue where the Municipality has no jurisdiction. CAO Osborne suggested now that there is a study in place the Municipality could write a stronger letter to those who have the authority to help fix some of the problems. Mr. Wilson clarified the report assumed maintenance was to be maintained.

6. Hearing (s) – Dangerous & Unsightly – None
7. Business Arising from Minutes – None
8. Report of CAO
 - a. Director of Finance – Financials – March

MOVED and SECONDED that the Director of Finance report for March be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

The Director of Finance indicated he was confident that there would be a surplus, however cautioned they are preliminary figures which are subject to the final audit in August. He pointed out a change was brought to his attention today in regards to fire grants in Kings County, adding there will be an additional \$42,000 for Hantsport Fire for the 2016 budget year. He advised there was significant savings with snow removal in this fiscal year and suggested after the audit is complete staff will make a recommendation for Council's consideration to move some of the remaining funds into a snow reserve. He added there is also a \$30,000 possible audit adjustment for sewer reserve. He noted, in accordance to policy, the majority of surplus would go into the operating reserve which is currently underfunded.

Warden Dauphinee questioned why the audit results would not be complete until August. The Director of Finance confirmed the auditors are scheduled for the first two weeks in June, and the third week for Region 6. He indicated that staff has been preparing all the documents the auditors have requested and suggested they have a very rigorous process after they leave the Municipality. He suggested that he didn't believe it was feasible for the auditors to provide the information any sooner than anticipated, considering that Hantsport is now included in the process. He confirmed this is the last year of the contract with the current auditors and they will go to tender this year.

Councillor Zwicker asked if it was Council's decision how to use the surplus for Hantsport. The Director of Finance suggested that part of the policy is to service debt but the final decision is Council's.

There was a brief discussion on grants. CAO Osborne confirmed that the Director of Recreation and herself are reviewing the grant applications and will make recommendations to Council for consideration within the next few weeks. She thanked the Director of Finance for the work he has done with the financial statements and the accuracy he has shown the time that he has been with the Municipality. She noted that extra funding in the Hantsport general fund is money that was essentially set aside to assist with offsetting costs the province was not paying and noted at some point this will come to Council with a recommendation on how to address it.

b. Irishman's Road Soccer Field

MOVED and SECONDED that the report on Irishman's Road Soccer Field be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

The Director of Recreation reported in the fall of 2015 during regular site inspections, staff identified that the upper field back fence line and ground was falling away and needs to be stabilized to ensure public safety.

Councillor Daniels asked if data was available on the usage of each of the recreation sites. The Director of Recreation responded they don't keep specific data, however added previous to this year the department didn't have a facility use application form and didn't have the opportunity to collect that type of data, adding now it has been implemented they have the ability to know who is using the field and for what purpose.

MOVED and SECONDED that a recommendation be made to Council to approve up to \$10,000 to be used to repair the fence and upper soccer field at the Irishman's Road Recreation Site to be taken from the 5% Reserve Fund.

Motion Carried.

c. Waste Collection Contract – Extension

MOVED and SECONDED that the report regarding Waste Collection Contract – Extension be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

Warden Dauphinee noted there was issues with the trucks with Waste Management Canada and asked if this would be addressed with GFL. The Director of Public Works confirmed staff

has had preliminary discussions on the matter, and suggested from day to day experience that GFL is doing a good job with their equipment and have implemented the extra resources during the periods of breakdown. He suggested however they have determined from past experience once the trucks reach the five year mark they are worn out, adding the five year contract will end on March 31, 2017. He confirmed they have assurances from GFL they will include resources in the contract should it be extended.

MOVED and SECONDED that a recommendation be made to Council that the current contract with GFL Environmental Limited be extended for one year as provided for in the current agreement.

Motion Carried.

9. Reports – Other Committees

a. Police Advisory Board

Councillor Miller reported the board met on May 9 and Staff Sergeant Stairs along with Sheri Bezanson, Crime Analyst, made a presentation on 'Calls for Service' over the last four years. He confirmed both frequency and location were analyzed and overall, calls were down, however in some cases the severity of calls had increased. He advised it was noted that incident locations are trending towards more remote areas of West Hants.

MOVED and SECONDED that the Police Advisory Board report be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Pineo advised previously the RCMP were asked for information on the amount of fines collected on the local highways. CAO Osborne reported the Director of Finance raised the issue of the lowness of the SOT fines and there was discussion and the RCMP suggested that they believed they had written more tickets than it was thought, and it is believed that payments are not coming through as quickly as in the past due to timing of payment of the fine. She confirmed that staff is investigating the matter further.

Warden Dauphinee asked if the RCMP issued many tickets for littering. Councillor Miller indicated the RCMP advised that this issue is low on their priority list. CAO Osborne advised that the Waste Reduction Coordinator has partnered with a member of the public on the issue of littering as well as representation from Region 6 and staff is hoping through this process to come up with an approach to deal with littering in the area.

10. Correspondence

a. Bill 177 – NS Legislature

Councillor Daniels reported this particular bill amends the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Municipal Charter to authorize municipal council to make a by-law providing for the phasing in for a period of up to 10 years an increase to the taxable assessed value of certain commercial or contaminated properties located in a commercial development district established by the by-law and further providing for the cancellation and reduction or refund of taxes paid as a result of the phasing in and allowing the municipal plan strategy to include a statement of policy respecting the eligibility criteria for the establishment of a commercial development district. She clarified this basically means it is an incentive for community and economic development which is good to a degree.

She advised a follow up letter was received today from UNSM explaining their take on the issue. She indicated when speaking with the local MLA she advised how dismayed the Municipality was for not being contacted by the Province directly to allow for meaningful conversation on how it would affect this Municipality or what would happen if an adjacent municipality happened to formulate a better rate for a commercial development area, creating competition. She suggested that the Council should be more aware of anything that can affect the Municipality and bring it to the table for conversations instead of assuming it will be taken care of by others.

CAO Osborne reported that she had just met with the new Municipal Service Advisor and they discussed Bill 177 and reviewed the process and noted there are limitations. She clarified it allows reduction in the assessment however doesn't change the tax rate or assessment by PVSC. She indicated it would be Council's decision whether to implement a by-law for this and noted the Municipality was not aware of it until recently.

b. Discretionary Funds for Community Visioning/Community Driven Development

Councillor Daniels advised that she has been approached by constituents asking if the Municipality has this. She felt that the Municipality should consider engaging the community in decision making. She indicated through the grants program the decision is made in house which groups are to receive funds and questioned if there was a different way to do this to engage the community and build the community capital. She suggested the grants distribution could be enhanced and suggested it could be allocated equally into each of the respective districts and offered it wouldn't have to be the entire lump sum of the grant program.

She felt this would give the community a say and opportunity to make political decisions pertaining to what they value in their communities. She suggested it would be an opportunity to meet neighbors and feel more connected to their neighborhoods. She indicated the benefits would be transparency and accountability as the community would have control of the allocation of these funds through a public process. She continued saying it would be a positive change, less reliance and expectation in the areas that local government controls. She added there would be public education and informed decision making components and the community gets a better understanding of the complex

political issues and community needs and have the ability to collaborate with various other organizations. She advised this would enhance their knowledge and optimize the potential for a successful project which in turn shows justification when outsourcing for other funds so the groups are not reliant on this grant.

Councillors Miller and Zwicker agreed with Councillor Daniels suggestion and felt if it was thought out properly it could be very beneficial.

Councillor Pineo cautioned if this process were to occur it would require strict guidelines on what the funds could be used for.

MOVED and SECONDED that a recommendation be made to Council to have staff explore Discretionary Funds for Community Visioning/Community Driven Development and prepare a staff report for Council's consideration.

Motion Carried.

CAO Osborne suggested that the Municipality should look at the entire grants process. Councillor Matheson suggested he would like additional information before deciding on the issue.

c. Fire Station Update

CAO Osborne reported the consultant was asked to provide a preliminary assessment on the best location for a station or stations, the consultants responded with two suggested areas and from that the committee has instructed staff to move forward and start to work on Garlands Crossing as a potential area and to try and look at a location for another station in the Falmouth area.

She reported the consultants will provide a draft report by June 3 and on June 13th the committee will receive and review the report and start working on the results. She indicated that she and the Director of Public Works are going to prepare the RFP tender for hiring consultants for the geotechnical/environmental work on the Garlands Crossing in order to determine which portion is buildable and also to determine where an appropriate site would be to locate the fire station. Councillor Matheson requested this topic be included in future agendas so all councilors are updated on a regular basis.

Councillor Matheson expressed frustration that time was wasted when the location was already known. He suggested this process should move along, and pointed out the issues that everyone was concerned about did not occur, insurance didn't increase, the volunteers were there and the response time is exceptional.

d. Hantsport Sign

There was a brief discussion on whether the Welcome to the Town of Hantsport sign should be taken down to reflect the change in joining with the Municipality. Councillor Zwicker suggested that he didn't feel it was necessary to occur at this time and felt there were more significant issues that Council could deal with. CAO Osborne reported the plan is to do something with the sign when staff has the time to do it. She suggested staff is looking at first changing the highway signs.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Gary Cochrane, Chair

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk