



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Committee of the Whole Minutes
August 23, 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. Zwicker	Councillor
	G. Miller	Councillor
	R. Allen	Councillor
	C. Osborne	CAO
	M. Laycock	Director of Finance
	B. Carrigan	Director of Public Works
	J. Woodman	Administrative Assistant
Regrets:	P. Morton	Councillor
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk

There were 13 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 introduced the new Municipal Advisor, Ron Dauphinee. He also reviewed the fire evacuation procedures.

Councillor Pineo reminded that this upcoming weekend is Avondale Wharf Days, and invited all to attend.

Councillor Daniels announced on August 28th Southwest Hants Fire Department will be hosting the unveiling of the communities' new helipad between 2-4 pm.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

CAO Osborne requested that item 8 (b) under the CAO's Report be deleted from the agenda and deferred to September 13th Council meeting.

MOVED and SECONDED the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – July 26, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of July 26, 2016 Committee of the Whole be approved as circulated, noting any errors or omissions.

Motion Carried.

5. Presentation (s)

There were no presentations.

6. Hearing (s) – Dangerous & Unsightly

There were no hearings.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Report of CAO

a. First Amendment to the Repeal By-law

CAO Osborne reported the Repeal By-law was created to allow the ability to more easily repeal other by-laws, adding that this is the first amendment since it was adopted by Council. She noted it doesn't include a large number of additional by-laws and if Council supports it, it would go down to the final few that need to be maintained that relate to property planning within the community of Hantsport

MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence regarding the First Amendment to the Repeal By-law be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried

MOVED and SECONDED that a recommendation be made to Council to proceed to First Reading of the First Amendment to the Repeal By-law.

Motion Carried.

b. Municipal Climate Change Action Plan – Work Plan

MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence regarding Municipal Climate Change Action Plan – Work Plan be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Miller reported that some of the items have been completed and others are ongoing and the document will be updated. He pointed out that there is a climate change conference happening in Halifax in the fall and commended Jeanne Bourque who has been asked to be a presenter.

c. MFC Fall Debenture

MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence regarding MFC Fall Debenture be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

The Director of Finance reported this is a process the Municipality has gone through previously with MFC loans. He noted this particular debenture is related to two fire trucks that were delivered in August. He indicated if Council chooses to move forward he will submit the paperwork to MFC.

MOVED and SECONDED that a recommendation be made to Council to authorize the Warden and Municipal Clerk to sign the Resolution for Pre Approval of Debenture Issuance, subject to interest rate confirmation not to exceed 5.5%, to enable the Municipality of the District of West Hants to issue a 10-year debenture of \$1,940,000.

Motion Carried.

d. Newport Station School House

CAO Osborne reported the building has been transferred three times since 1968 and is currently being used primarily for personal, spiritual or health purposes and not for any broad general purposes. She confirmed the Municipality has no property interest at all, adding when the deed was originally gifted to the first group there was included a

requirement that any change in ownership come back to the Municipality, who wanted to retain the right to have a say as to who the property transferred to. . She suggested that is administratively onerous to have interest in the property in that it can delay the timely transfer of ownership or interest on behalf of the current property.

It was agreed to revisit the motion at the next council meeting and have it added to the agenda.

e. Director of Finance – Financials

MOVED and SECONDED that the Financials of August 23, 2016 be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

The Director of Finance indicated he has shown the impact of the change in RCMP costs in this projection. He explained when preparing the budget, he was given the projection for RCMP by the Department of Justice in March. The Municipality was not made aware of the budget projection change until mid-July. CAO Osborne added that staff assumed the Municipality was already paying for the final approved full position but now understand it didn't actual begin until the end of March 2016 or after the fiscal year. The Director of Finance indicated that he has spoken with the Municipal Advisor regarding his concerns with the situation.

The Director of Finance also noted he is projecting a significant increase in revenue from the landfill tipping fees. He suggested the increase in revenue will offset the increase in expenses and lessen the impact on the reserves which will help to balance budget..

The Director of Finance also reported that while it was his expectation to have the auditors present at this month's meeting, he didn't receive the draft budget in sufficient time to review prior to this meeting. He confirmed it has been delayed until the next COTW meeting in September.

9. Reports – Other Committees

a. Fire Restructuring Committee

Chair Cochrane reported there was meeting on August 17th, he noted the purpose of the meeting was to provide updates, adding that staff continues to investigate land in the Falmouth area. He explained that it was reported that the consultants are compiling the report and it is anticipated that staff should receive it the first week of September to review. The next meeting is scheduled for September 7th at 11:00 am.

10. Correspondence

a. July 14, 2016 – Municipality of the District of Barrington – Suspension of Resolutions Submissions

MOVED and SECONDED that the correspondence dated July 14, 2016 regarding Municipality of the District of Barrington – Suspension of Resolutions Submissions be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

11. Miscellaneous/New Business

a. Brooklyn Arena

Councillor Matheson reported there is a shortfall in funding, and added that the group is actively fundraising to help alleviate the shortfall. He felt that the Municipality should assist with the shortfall.

MOVED and SECONDED that a recommendation be made to Council that \$150,000 be taken from our gas tax reserve, and be given to the Newport Rink Commission to help cover the short fall for the construction costs of the new rink in Brooklyn.

Councillor Zwicker asked if there was any financial information provided from this group. Councillor Matheson confirmed there was not however, he confirmed the shortfall is over \$300,000 and the group is working to fundraise as much as possible. He explained the reason for a significant amount of the shortfall is due to the fact the group was required to include an elevator for wheel chair accessibility which cost \$75,000, as well they decided to redo the pad which was an extra cost and wasn't covered under insurance. He indicated the washrooms had to be three times bigger than the old rink due to code change requirements. He added these items all totaled the cost of the shortfall.

Councillor Miller asked whether there was a motion on the books stating that no additional money would be allocated to the Newport Rink. Councillor Matheson confirmed that was correct however clarified that motion applied to the old rink and would not apply anymore.

Motion Carried.

b. Falmouth Sewage Rates (seasonal motels)

Councillor Miller reported that he had recently received an e-mail from the owner of the Avon River Hotel, Falmouth who expressed concern about the sewer charge. He explained they indicated that they will no longer be open in the winter season and would like all of the units classified as seasonal and that they be charged at the seasonal rate. He noted that he spoke with the Director of Finance on the issue who expressed concern that he would need direction from Council to charge the quarter rate for seasonal even though the units are winterized. He advised the Director of Finance was also concerned about how he would confirm that they are not open all year-round. He has since discovered that PVSC is responsible for confirming the seasonal status of a property as the owner applies every year to be deemed as seasonal. It was agreed that staff should be directed to investigate the matter further.

Warden Dauphinee expressed condolences to the Municipal Clerk who is on bereavement leave.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Gary Cochrane, Chair

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk