



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Special Committee of the Whole Minutes
December 12, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers

Present:	P. Morton	Chair, Deputy Warden
	A. Zebian	Warden
	R. Jannasch	Councillor District 1
	K. Monroe	Councillor District 2
	D. Keith	Councillor District 3
	T. Leopold	Councillor District 4
	D. Francis	Councillor District 5
	R. Hussey	Councillor District 6 (arrived 5:31)
	J. Daniels	Councillor District 7
	R. Zwicker	Councillor District 10
	C. Osborne	Chief Administrative Officer
	M. Laycock	Director of Finance
	K. Kehoe	Director of Parks and Recreation
	M. LeMay	Director of Planning and Development
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk
	C. Remme	Executive Assistant/Communications Coordinator

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Call to Order

Deputy Warden Morton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Announcements

The Deputy Warden reviewed the fire evacuation procedures.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion Carried.

4. Miscellaneous / New Business

a. Strategic Plan

CAO Osborne reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on the Strategic Plan noting that the Plan had been seen by Council at the November Committee of the Whole. She went on to say that staff are looking to confirm that the plan's goals and actions are what Council expected and for a motion if Council would like to adopt the plan. She continued, stating that staff would like Council to identify which goals they would like to be priorities if the strategic plan is adopted.

Councillor Hussey voiced that he felt as though economic development should be the top priority of Council suggesting that a committee be created with the Town of Windsor to begin work right away.

Councillor Jannasch expressed that he would like to see Council focus on agriculture specifically Action 2.1.1 that would identify and assess strategies to protect and develop agricultural property. He added that obtaining the information would tie back to the economic development strategy.

Councillor Daniels agreed that economic development should be a priority of Council adding that she would like to see the goals and priorities shared with the Town of Windsor. She went on to say that she would like to see someone on staff who could be responsible for economic development noting that the position could be share with another municipality.

Councillor Leopold asked for clarification on the calendar of actions stating that she felt that all actions seem to have objectives of two years. The CAO explained that the timeframes were placed with the action items to form structure. She went on to say that, if the Plan is adopted by Council, staff can work on an appropriate timeline and bring it back to Council for approval asking if Council saw areas where there could be flexibility in the schedule.

The Deputy Warden expressed that he felt as though Council should choose a few of the priorities to focus on to ensure that they are done correctly.

Councillor Monroe stated that champions have already been established through teamwork and community connections such as in the case of the VCFN. She expressed that vitality of communities is driven by economic development adding that it has been stagnant in West Hants for many years.

CAO Osborne asked Council to consider that every goal would have financial implications and that there are limited staff resources available to pursue the objectives. She noted that having a sense of the direction Council wished to pursue would help staff in preparation of the budget. Councillor Zwicker voiced that breaking the Plan down into portions that could be divided up between Council and staff would make it seem less daunting.

Warden Zebian agreed with Councillor Monroe noting that many of the Councillors had been elected on the premise that they would focus on economic development in the area. He went on to say that he felt as though Councillors should be heavily involved in the endeavor but felt as though the role of an economic development officer should be investigated.

Councillor Hussey voiced that as the Municipality does not have the funds for an economic development officer, a committee with the Town as well as some members of the public could begin the work. He went on to say that there are many other goals identified in the Plan that would fall in line with the work of the economic development committee.

Councillor Francis voiced that economic development should be the number one priority and agreed that striking a committee for that purpose would help. She went on to say that she felt as though the two-year start date specified in the document should be the completion date.

CAO Osborne advised that the Strategic Plan would require a lot of research and acquisition of information which Council could drive through policy. She advised that adoption of the Strategic Plan would then allow staff to come forward on how to move forward.

Councillor Daniels agreed with the CAO, noting the Plan should be driven by stakeholders with support from Council if needed. Councillor Hussey expressed that his suggestion of striking a committee was to get people involved noting he felt as though the approach should be driven from the top. Councillor Monroe stated that Council was elected to move the Municipality forward noting that there had been no movement in economic development, stating she was willing to do whatever was necessary to move the goal forward.

Councillor Leopold voiced that the priority should be economic development specifically actions 1.1.1 and 1.1.3 with community connections and goal five being second priority.

Councillor Keith asked how the Municipality could focus on economic development without having land to develop. CAO Osborne advised that an economic development plan would identify what the Municipality currently owns and what should be looked at being purchased. Councillor Keith went on to say that he felt as though land should be attained by the Municipality prior to moving forward with economic development.

Councillor Daniels emphasized that economic development is more than development of industrial parks and focusing on growth areas in the municipality but knowing how to move forward and improve. She pointed out that residents are not looking for big industrial areas but tools such as the internet. The Councillor expressed that the Municipality should not be purchasing land in the hopes that someone may buy it but to have a plan to move forward.

CAO Osborne noted that the Strategic Plan is the first West Hants noting that there has also never been a formal articulation on what the community supported. She went on to say that the plan identifies Council's goals and gives staff direction.

**MOVED and SECONDED that Committee of the Whole recommend that Council adopt the Strategic Plan as presented at Committee of the Whole on November 28, 2017.
Motion Carried.**

**MOVED and SECONDED that the presentation be received.
Motion Carried.**

Councillor Leopold asked where the discussion that took place would fall into the motion and in moving the plan forward. CAO Osborne advised that Council's priorities had been identified giving staff direction on where to focus.

Councillor Monroe emphasized that a process should be formed to give Council the opportunity to look back and know that progress has been made. Councillor Francis spoke of item 8.1.1 regarding creation of a standing committee adding that it could be created right away as opposed to the timeframe suggested in the document. CAO Osborne advised that the committee could be created at their discretion adding that staff will be coming back to Council with recommendations on how to move forward.

Councillor Jannasch expressed part of the frustration of Council and residents is that there is no means to present work being done by Council noting much of what the current Council has done has been internal. He went on to say that he would like to find ways to get information out to residents. CAO Osborne noted that, now that it was received by Council, the Plan would be released. She added that the newsletter that would be sent out in January would also include information on the Strategic Plan.

5. Public Consultation (20 minutes maximum -5 minutes per representative)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held on January 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Paul Morton, Deputy Warden

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk