



WEST HANTS
NOVA SCOTIA

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Special Council Minutes
April 23, 2019 5:30 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Call of Roll

Present:	A. Zebian	Warden
	P. Morton	Deputy Warden
	R. Jannasch	Councillor District 1
	D. Keith	Councillor District 3
	T. Leopold	Councillor District 4
	D. Francis	Councillor District 5
	R. Hussey	Councillor District 6 (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)
	J. Daniels	Councillor District 7
	R. Zwicker	Councillor District 10
	M. Laycock	Chief Administrative Officer
	C. Rochon	Director of Finance
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk
	C. Remme	Communications Coordinator
Regrets:	K. Monroe	Councillor District 2

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. Announcements

Warden Zebian advised that the Council meeting is live-streamed on Facebook and reviewed the standard fire evacuation procedures.

Councillor Keith spoke of the Scotia Bank television ad that features children playing hockey wearing West Hants Warrior sweatshirts.

Councillor Leopold announced that the Ellershouse Community Clean Up would be taking place on Saturday, April 27th and the Windsor/West Hants Community Clean Up would be taking place on Sunday, April 28th.

4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

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

5. Report(s) of the Committee(s) and Officer(s)

- a. Committee of the Whole

i. 04-16-2019 COTW Excerpts

2019-2020 Budget

MOVED and SECONDED that Council maintain the Economic Development Officer position to March 31, 2020.

Motion Carried.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council reduce the budget in accordance with Scenario 1 presented at the Special Committee of the Whole on April 16, 2019, without the removal of the Economic Development Officer position.

Councillor Leopold shared her displeasure with Council in the decision to cut the Brooklyn Fire Department's cleaning position by \$20,000. She went on to say that discussions had not taken place during the budget meetings and would like to see Council consider holding off on the decision until the completion of the fire service review that is being done as part of the consolidation. Councillors Francis and Keith stated they agreed and would not be supporting the motion.

Warden Zebian voiced concern that that the service may be affected with the cut of the position. He stated that he had spoken to the Brooklyn Fire Chief who stated that the position would be split between the Brooklyn Fire Station and Station 2 if the motion is passed. He added that he did not support the cut.

Councillor Hussey voiced that he supported the cut noting that the station was seeking twice the amounts of the other stations in West Hants for janitorial services. He stated that he would like to see the same amounts given to each of the stations in the region.

Councillor Leopold stated that the impact of the cut having contributed to a reduction in the tax rate is negligible and felt as though the decision was more of an exercise in authority than an effective way to relay a cost savings to residents. She went on to say that if there is concern surrounding affecting service levels, she would be apprehensive to cut the funding for the position.

Councillor Keith agreed with Councillor Leopold stating that it important that service levels are maintained for residents. The Councillor went on to say that many of the volunteer firefighters pay their own expenses such as fuel and suggested that Council consider further discussions on the matter.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Keith, Leopold, Francis and Warden Zebian voted nay.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2019-2020 operating budget as presented outlining total general rate budgeted expenses and transfers of \$16,680,647 and total area rate budgeted expenses and transfers for the community of Hantsport of \$671,547.

The Director of Finance pointed out an error in the figure of \$16,680,647 noting it should state 16,681,278. She noted that the change would have no affect on the tax rate.

MOVED and SECONDED to amend the motion to a figure of 16,681,278.

Amendment Carried.

Motion Carried as amended.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2019-2020 Capital budget as presented at Special Committee of the Whole on April 16, 2019.

Motion Carried.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2019-2020 Reserves budget as presented at Special Committee of the Whole on April 16, 2019.

Councillor Leopold asked for a description of what the Post Transition Cost for Hantsport Dissolution and Hantsport Infrastructure Reserve were that are shown in Special Reserves. The Director of Finance explained that the Hantsport Infrastructure Reserve was an item put through last years' budget that had a contribution of \$194,000. She went on to say that \$248,500 will be contributed this year and is part of the area rate which will be used to maintain the infrastructure after the Hantsport transition funding has been depleted.

The Councillor asked if these funds would cover the cost of the new recreation director position approved for Hantsport to which Director Rochon replied no, that the position would be funded through the area rate.

Councillor Leopold asked if a balance remained in the Hantsport Transition budget. Director Rochon advised that she has been working with Directors and the Department of Municipal Affairs to finalize projects dealing with infrastructure in the community of Hantsport.

The Councillor asked if, at the end of the budget year where some of the balances are below \$100, if projects would begin to be funded out of the Smoothing Reserve. The Director replied that the Smoothing Reserve is used to help cover the lost equalization payments that used to be received for Hantsport, not for infrastructure. She advised that the Infrastructure Reserve had been set up to help fund infrastructure costs.

Motion Carried.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2019-2020 West Hants Water Utility budget as presented at Special Committee of the Whole on April 16, 2019.

Motion Carried.

- b. Report of the Chief Administrative Officer
 - i. Main Street & Prince Street Rehabilitation, Project # WHPW18-20 (Recommendation Report)

The CAO reviewed the recommendation report. He advised that the projects are contingent on receiving funds through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and funds are available through the Hantsport dissolution, adding the projects were identified in the Opus Report which was completed during the Hantsport transition.

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council accepts the tender of Gary Parker Excavating Limited in the amount of \$1,448,614.75 (includes HST), with the Municipal contribution of \$391,125.98 to be paid from the Hantsport Transition Fund, contingent on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) application approval.
Motion Carried.**

6. Miscellaneous / New Business
 - a. 2019-2020 Budget Resolutions
 - i. Taxing Resolution 2019-2020

MOVED and SECONDED BE IT RESOLVED that the sums that are required for the lawful purposes of the Municipality of the District of West Hants for the year 2019-2020 after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than the general rates for the year and making the allowance for the abatement and losses that may occur in the collection of taxes and taxes for the current year that may not be collected or collectable is \$16,681,278 and this Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a general tax rate of one dollar and eight zero cents (\$1.80) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of the assessed value of commercial property and the assessed value of residential property and general resource property that will equal one dollar and zero three two three cents (\$1.0323) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of the assessment on residential and general resource property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sums that are required for the lawful purposes of the Community of Hantsport for the year 2019-2020 after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than the area rates for the year and making the allowance for the abatement and losses that may occur in the collection of taxes and taxes for the current year that may not be collected or collectable is \$671,547 and this Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of an area rate tax of two dollars and zero two cents (\$2.02) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of the assessed value of commercial property and the assessed value of residential property and general resource property that will equal six two seven seven cents (\$0.6277) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of the assessment on residential and general resource property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the taxpayers in the said Municipality are required to pay the whole of their taxes on or before the 1st day of September, A.D., 2019 provided that if the total amount of taxes owing not be paid in full on or before the 1st day of September, A.D., 2019 the balance of current and prior years taxes then owing will bear interest at a rate of 15% per annum, such rate to be calculated monthly at the end of each month at a rate of 1.25% until the sums are paid.
Motion Carried.**

- ii. Hantsport Memorial Community Centre Area Rate Charge 2019-2020

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council support the area rate for the Hantsport Memorial Community Centre in the following amounts: Residential - \$0.0790 per \$100 of Taxable Assessment and Commercial - \$0.2544 per \$100 of Taxable Assessment for a combined total of \$84,560, for fiscal year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.
Motion Carried.**

iii. Blomidon View Resident's Association Uniform Charge 2019-2020
**MOVED and SECONDED BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants authorizes the levying and collection, for the purpose of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$105.00 per share based on an undeveloped lot (1 share) and \$420.00 based on a developed lot (4 shares) for the year ending March 31, 2020 and such amounts collected, less 10% plus HST administration fees, be forwarded to the Blomidon View Resident's Association.
Motion Carried.**

iv. Chalet Hamlet Property Owner's Association Uniform Charge 2019-2020
**MOVED and SECONDED BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$284.00 plus HST per member for the year ending March 31, 2020 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Chalet Hamlet Property Owner's Association.
Motion Carried.**

v. Chateau Village Property Owners' Association Uniform Charge 2019-2020
**MOVED and SECONDED BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$413.40 plus HST per member for the year ending March 31, 2020 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Chateau Village Property Owners' Association.
Motion Carried.**

vi. Falls Lake West Owners Association Uniform Charge 2019-2020
**MOVED and SECONDED BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$210.00 (inclusive of HST) per member for the year ending March 31, 2020 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Falls Lake West Owner's Association.
Motion Carried.**

vii. North Canoe Lake Cottage Owner's Association Uniform Charge 2019-2020

MOVED and SECONDED BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants authorizes the levying and collection, for the purpose of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$57.22 for properties before the bridge on Canoe Lake Cove Road and \$228.88 for properties beyond the bridge on the same road for the year ending March 31, 2020 and such amounts collected, less 10% plus HST administration fees, be forwarded to the North Canoe Lake Cottage Owners Association.

Motion Carried.

7. Date of Next Meeting – May 14, 2019

The next Regular Council meeting will be held on May 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Abraham Zebian, Warden

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk