



WEST HANTS
NOVA SCOTIA

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Council Minutes
May 14, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Deputy Warden Morton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Call of Roll

Present:	A. Zebian	Warden
	P. Morton	Deputy 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
	J. Daniels	Councillor District 7
	R. Zwicker	Councillor District 10
	M. Laycock	Chief Administrative Officer
	B. Carrigan	Director of Public Works
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk
	C. Remme	Communications Coordinator

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

3. Announcements

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

Councillor Hussey announced that the Valley Maple Leafs are selling rain barrels as a fundraiser and anyone interested can visit <https://rainbarrel.ca/valleymapleleafs>.

Councillor Francis announced the fundraising launch event for the new Sports Complex would be taking place on June 6th at the School House Brewery stating that it will be a community event and more details would follow.

Councillor Francis went on to speak of the Greatest Patchwork Picnic being put on by the Happy Communities Project on June 2nd at Victoria Park adding that that the Avon Community Farmers Market will also open on June 2nd.

Councillor Monroe stated announced that the Great Little Art Show had its' grand opening event and would be taking place in Avondale until the end of May. She added that there would be a community yard sale taking place in Avondale on June 15th.

The Councillor went on to speak of a recent trip she had taken noting that she noted that there was more clearcutting in this area than there was anywhere else she travelled. She went on to say that she found that there seemed to be less litter and garbage outside of Hants County and fewer potholes. She voiced that more pride should be taken in our communities to address the issue of littering and, although she was unclear on what could be done as a group to address the issue of road conditions in the region, something should be done.

Councillor Jannasch spoke of the presentation on the escalating effects of climate change taking place on June 5th at the Centre Burlington Hall. He stated that the presentation, being made by Meghan McMorris of the Ecology Action Centre, stemmed from conversations that were had with parents of children who were frightened by climate change and would provide tools to assist in these discussions.

Councillor Daniels informed Council of the Annual Yard Sale and Auction taking place at the Southwest Hants Fire Station on May 25th. The Councillor went on to speak of the Emergency Preparedness Community Event thanking those who took part. She commended REMO Coordinator, Angela Henhoeffter stating that she went above and beyond to make the event a huge success, adding that she hoped it would become an annual event. Warden Zebian noted that West Hants/Windsor REMO is now on Twitter.

4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved as circulated with the following additions and deletions:

-Add 12 (d) 05-2019 - Letter from Benda Mullins, Principal, Brooklyn District Elementary School

**-Add 14 (d) In-camera - 22(2)(e) – Contract negotiations
Motion Carried.**

5. Presentation (s)

There were no presentations.

6. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

7. Approval of the Regular Council Minutes of March 12, 2019 and April 9, 2019; Special Council Minutes of March 26, 2019, April 16, 2019 and April 23, 2019; and Public Hearing Minutes (50 Lynch Road, Newport Corner – Development Agreement to Permit a Campground and Hantsport Household Livestock Land Use By-law Amendments) of April 9, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of March 12, 2019 and April 9, 2019; Special Council Minutes of March 26, 2019, April 16, 2019 and April 23, 2019; and

Public Hearing Minutes (50 Lynch Road, Newport Corner – Development Agreement to Permit a Campground and Hantsport Household Livestock Land Use By-law Amendments) of April 9, 2019 be approved as circulated noting any errors or omissions. Motion Carried.

8. Business Arising from Minutes and any Related Correspondence
There was no business arising from minutes or any related correspondence.

9. Report of the Warden
Warden Zebian read his report.
MOVED and SECONDED that the Report of the Warden be received and placed on file. Motion Carried.

10. Reconsideration or Rescission of Resolutions of Which Notice Has Been Given on a Previous Day
There were no reconsiderations or rescissions of resolutions.

11. Report(s) of the Committee(s) and Officer(s)
There were no reports of the Committees and Officers.

12. Correspondence
- a. 04-05-2019 Letter from MP Cheryl Gallant – Bill C-68
 - b. 05-01-2019 Letter from NSTIR – Hantsport Aboiteau Structure
 - c. 05-01-2019 Letter from NSTIR – William Hall Connector Highway Safety
 - d. 05-2019 Letter from Brenda Mullins, Principal, Brooklyn District Elementary School

MOVED and SECONDED that Council authorize \$500 to come from Operation Reserves or Gas Tax Reserve to repair the cracks in the tennis courts at the Brooklyn Community Tennis Courts.

Councillor Daniels noted that discussions had taken place on the Tennis Courts at the Council table in the past. She voiced that motions such as this would be more appropriate at Committee of the Whole so staff can be made available to answer questions and more discussion can take place prior to a decision being made at Council.

Deputy Warden Morton questioned who had been responsible for the Tennis Courts at the school in the past. Councillor Keith stated the project had been completed in 1984 and constructed by the Home and School Association, residents of the area, teachers and volunteers. He added that the Tennis Courts had been constructed 36 years ago and there was nobody responsible for the maintenance. The Councillor noted that it was incredible that they had lasted as long as they had and that filling the cracks in the surface would help in extending its life.

MOVED and SECONDED that the motion be deferred to Committee of the Whole and ask staff to come back with an information report that would reflect feasibility and the appropriate costs associated with upgrades.

Councillor Leopold expressed that the request was not for upgrades to the facility but more to secure the current state of the Tennis Courts, so the Tennis Courts do not fall into further

disrepair. She went on to say that there are several upgrades that could be entertained at a later date. The Councillor stated that the surface would require immediate action as the frost has come out of the ground.

Councillor Monroe noted that she was impressed with the site when she visited and questioned if the CAO felt as though the motion was appropriate. The CAO responded that the site is a community asset and reiterated Councillor Leopold's point that the request is for preventative maintenance. CAO Laycock went on to say that generally funding requests for community assets would be considered during the grant process, but it is in Council's purview to entertain requests when they are received.

Councillor Francis questioned why Council would consider patching the tennis courts as it stated in the letter from the principal that the school does not use the site. She stated that she had no issue fixing the surface but felt as though consideration should be given to upgrades to the site to increase the usage for the community questioning if Gas Tax could be used. The Councillor suggested that staff investigate, and discussion continue at Committee of the Whole. CAO Laycock advised that Gas Tax cannot be used for repairs on the site, only for upgrades to facilities.

Councillor Keith pointed out that the site is used by the community for tennis, ground hockey, and dog obedience classes. He stated that Council can consider upgrades at a later date suggesting that the community be involved in discussions surrounding upgrades to determine what they want at the site.

Warden Zebian stated that he had a conversation with the principal and visited the site stating that the Tennis Courts are in great condition and would benefit from the preventative maintenance being requested.

Councillor Jannasch voiced that he has no issue with the request to maintain the site as it is a community asset but would like to see more information on what needs to be done. The Councillor went on to say that it does not seem to be a project for Parks and Recreation at this point and would like to see some leadership from the community on what should be done.

Councillor Zwicker voiced that asking for staff to invest time in investigating the request would add to the request of the cost and suggested that Council approve the request for funding to maintain the site, which could engage the community to improve the facility further.

Councillor Monroe questioned if Council would consider passing the motion for the request to maintain the site then have staff investigate further upgrades to the facility for the future. The CAO responded yes; further investigation can be done by staff.

Councillor Hussey stated that he agreed with most of the Councillors around the table regarding the funding request of \$500 and suggested that any further upgrades should come as a request to Council from the community to consider.

Amendment Defeated.

Motion Carried.

MOVED and SECONDED that the letter from Brenda Mullins, Principal of Brooklyn District Elementary School be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried.

13. Miscellaneous/New Business

a. Hantsport Train Station – Councillor Zwicker

Councillor Zwicker spoke of posts that he had seen on social media and an email he received from the curator at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 about condition of the Hantsport train station which has fallen into disrepair. The Councillor went on to say that the Hantsport Railway Company had recently applied plywood to the windows of the station to prevent injuries and further vandalizing, expressing that it is a shame to see a part of a community's history degrade as it has. He questioned if there was anything that could be done from a staff perspective to investigate and address the issues.

The CAO advised that the site had been visited by staff to ensure that it was not dangerous or unsightly and it was found to be secure. He went on to say that, as the site is privately owned, there is nothing the Municipality can do as it meets the required standards.

Councillor Zwicker questioned if there was another jurisdiction that could step in to navigate the process given the building's historic nature. The CAO advised that Council could give direction to staff to investigate the issue further then to write a letter to those who have jurisdiction and may be able to act.

Councillor Hussey questioned if the owners had been approached about possibly donating the building to the Municipality or another community group which would allow the repairs and maintenance to be done. He went on to ask if the train station had been recognized as a heritage property.

Councillor Monroe expressed that she is extremely tired of seeing the heritage in the area fall into disrepair and questioned if there was an ability for the property could be expropriated from a heritage standpoint or if negotiations could take place with the owner.

Councillor Leopold questioned if the conversation would be more appropriate at a Planning Advisory Committee meeting as it is a designated heritage property adding that Council could seek advice from the Director of Planning and Development who may have more knowledge on means to address the issue.

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council direct staff to investigate any further possibilities for improvements of the Hantsport railway station from the heritage perspective.
Motion Carried.**

b. Brooklyn Fire Department Radios – Warden Zebian

Councillor Daniels declared a conflict of interest and removed herself from the Council table.

Warden Zebian spoke of a meeting he had with the Brooklyn Fire Department who have begun making changes and corrective actions to reflect the budget set by Council. He went on to say that they have requested that Council reconsider funding for the radios that they had presented during Council budget deliberations; as not having the devices creates a safety concern. The Warden went on to say that there are opportunities for staff to negotiate prices for the devices and that there are grants available that could offset the cost.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council direct the CAO and REMO Coordinator to identify funds through long-term debt servicing in the 2019/2020 municipal budget to purchase the radios requested by the Brooklyn Fire Department in the 2019/2020 Capital Budget, after all grant options are explored and best price sourced from competitors.

Councillor Jannasch asked for the estimated cost of the radios. The CAO advised that the cost discussed was approximately \$24,500 and it was proposed to be spread out over ten years which would have no implications on the tax rate.

Councillor Monroe questioned if the lifespan of the radios matched the ten-year spread to which the CAO replied yes. She questioned how many radios were needed. CAO Laycock replied that the request was for 13 radios.

Deputy Warden Morton questioned what type of radios were being requested; noting that he would like to have a report prepared before consideration be given to the request. The CAO advised that the request was for VHF radios. He noted that the motion on the table was to direct staff to move forward with purchasing the radios and that a report would not be coming back to Council.

Councillor Leopold voiced that she supported the motion; noting that it is approximately the same amount that Council had cut from their budget. She went on to say that the equipment is imperative for the firefighters to do their job.

Motion Carried.

Deputy Warden Morton voted nay.

Councillor Daniels joined the meeting.

14. In Camera

- a. MGA 22(2)(e) - Contract Negotiations
- b. MGA 22(2)(a) – Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property
- c. MGA 22(2)(e) - Contract Negotiations
- d. MGA 22(2)(e) – Contract Negotiations

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting move in-camera.

Motion Carried.

The meeting moved in-camera at 7:37 at p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

MOVED and SECONDED that the Municipality enter into a contract with Tate Engineering for \$125,000 plus applicable taxes to perform Project Engineering Services for the West Hants Sports Complex.

Motion Carried.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council authorize the CAO to submit to the Province of Nova Scotia for approval the appraisal of lands located in PID 45245578, and portions of PIDs 45182797, 45245560, 45245552, 45184025, and 45182904.

Motion Carried.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council authorize the CAO to submit to the Province of Nova Scotia a letter of offer and all other required documents to purchase lands located in PID 4524557 and portions of PIDs 45182797, 45245560, 45245552, 45184025, and 45182904 for a total purchase price of \$1.

Motion Carried.

15. Date of Next Meeting –June 11, 2019

The next Regular Council meeting will be held June 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Abraham Zebian, Warden

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk