



WEST HANTS
NOVA SCOTIA

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Council Minutes
January 14, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Warden Zebian 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 (CAO)
	C. Rochon	Director of Finance
	B. Carrigan	Director of Public Works
	R. Brown	Municipal Clerk
	C. Remme	Communications Coordinator

There were 5 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.

Deputy Warden Morton announced that the Hantsport Winter Carnival will be taking place January 23-26th launching on Sunday, January 19 with the building of the igloo on the HMCC grounds. He went on to say that many of the activities taking place are free, including the fireworks which happen on Saturday, January 25th.

a. Councillor Zwicker Long Service Award

Warden Zebian called upon Councillor Zwicker to present him with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Long Service Completion Award.

The Warden stated that the program offers recognition to those who served as an elected official for ten years and over, noting that Councillor Zwicker had dedicated eleven years to his roles in municipal government.

The Warden thanked Councillor Zwicker for his dedication adding that his residents, colleagues and staff benefited from his knowledge over his tenure and were appreciative of his commitment. He presented Councillor Zwicker the plaque of recognition.

4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

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

11.b. Mill Lake Information Report (Councillor Daniels)

and the following removals:

6.a. Kody Blois – Kings Hants MP

13.b. Brooklyn Elementary School

13.c. Fire Services Study

Motion Carried.

5. Public Hearings

There were no Public Hearings.

6. Presentation (s)

There were no presentations.

7. Approval of the Council Minutes of December 10, 2019

**MOVED and SECONDED that the Council minutes of December 10, 2019 be approved.
Motion Carried.**

8. Business Arising from Minutes and any Related Correspondence

There was no business arising from the 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)

- a. Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

- i. RFP WHPW19-08 Engineering Services (Recommendation Report)

The Director of Public Works reviewed the Recommendation Report RFPWHPW19-08 Engineering Services. He advised Council of the issues with the infrastructure on Willow Street in Hantsport, adding that staff are recommending that the design and engineering services for the rehabilitation of all water, sewer, stormwater, street and sidewalk

infrastructure for the road be completed prior to consolidation to allow for the project to be "shovel ready" in the spring.

Councillor Zwicker noted that the terrible conditions of Willow Street have become clear since the improvements to Main Street and Prince Street. He thanked the Director of Public Works for bringing the recommendation forward and for the improvements that have been completed in the community of Hantsport.

MOVED and SECONDED that Council award a Contract to "3332892 Nova Scotia Limited" for Engineering Services for Willow Street, Hantsport, in the amount of \$54,825 plus applicable taxes and contingencies with funds coming from the Hantsport Infrastructure Reserve.

Councillor Hussey questioned if a background check had been completed on the company that is being recommended noting that it had only recently been incorporated in December of 2019. The Director replied, stating that 3332892 Nova Scotia Limited have the same staff as the engineering company that completed the other projects in Hantsport over the past five years and were highly recommended by municipal staff.

CAO Laycock advised Council that, because this project would extend beyond the consolidation date of March 31, 2020, it would require the Co-ordinating Committee's approval and would be on the agenda for the January 27, 2020 meeting.

The Director of Public Works spoke further on the conditions of Willow Street noting that with Prince and Main Streets being closed for upgrades, truck traffic was diverted to Willow Street which escalated the deterioration. He noted that Public Works staff have been filling the holes as they have been able, understanding that the street requires a more permanent solution.

Motion Carried.

b. Mill Lakes – Information Report

Councillor Daniels advised Council that the most recent meeting of the Mill Lakes Watershed Committee would be the last under the Town of Windsor prior to the Committee migrating into the new Regional Municipality so she felt as though it was important to bring forward the work that was being done by the Committee prior to the consolidation.

The Councillor noted that the Committee will be presenting best management practice documents to the Town of Windsor for approval which will provide tools for industry and landowners and will be attached to the Source Water Protection Plan.

The Councillor noted that the practices will address environmental protection in the watershed and will give the new Regional Municipality, the NS Utility and Review Board, the Department of Lands and Forest and the Department of Environment leverage to apply fines when there is deviation from the Source Water Protection Plan. She noted that the buffer zone between water and a harvest site had been increased to thirty meters in the documents adding that the distance is like regulations in other areas across the Province. She

commended the Committee and private landowners that sit on the Committee for their exceptional work.

**MOVED and SECONDED that the report be received and placed on file.
Motion Carried.**

12. Correspondence

a. 12-12-2019 Letter from David Howell – Water and Sewer Billings

Councillor Hussey noted that he had seen several water bills over the past several months and Mr. Howell is correct in saying that the bills have increased by about 40%. The Councillor went on to say that he intended on putting a motion forward to have the sewer charges removed from the water bills and placed back on the tax bills.

Councillor Leopold questioned how letters such as Mr. Howell's is handled by staff as it was addressed to the CAO and Council and if a response had been sent. CAO Laycock stated that staff review correspondence to prepare for any questions that Council may have, adding that as there was not a request for action to be taken, a response had not been sent.

13. Miscellaneous/New Business

a. Ellershouse Community Hall Comfort Centre Designation – Councillor Leopold

Councillor Leopold stated that she brought the item forward after the discussion regarding the Community Centre's request for a generator and a question that was raised of whether the facility was a designated comfort center. The Councillor asked for more information on how to proceed with a comfort center designation for the facility.

The CAO advised that the request for designation would normally go through the REMO Coordinator noting that the role had been vacant for some time. He went on to say that the previous Coordinator had compiled documents which would allow for consideration of a comfort center designation that would have gone to the REMO Advisory Committee then to Council for approval but the documents were not reviewed as the Committee had not had the opportunity to meet.

CAO Laycock went on to say that the comfort centre designation is not something that should be taken lightly by any facility considering applying adding that there are a number of criteria that they must meet along with a high level of commitment during an emergency situation and must consider the costs and labour associated with the designation.

The CAO advised Council that the draft documents are completed and will go to the new Regional Council for consideration. Councillor Leopold thanked the CAO for the information stating that she wanted to have the item on the agenda for any Councillors who remain at the Council table for the new Regional Municipality. Warden Zebian advised that he had spoken to the new Regional CAO, Mark Phillips, on the matter to ensure he was aware.

Councillor Keith questioned the ability of the Municipality to manage an emergency. The CAO voiced that everyone should be prepared for 72 hours which is the national standard.

He went on to speak of response during Hurricane Dorian stating that staff are prepared and will react to situations accordingly adding that the Provincial EMO would be capable of assisting the Municipality, if necessary, as well. He added that South West Hants was a great example of “neighbours checking on neighbours” and residents of West Hants have traditionally stepped up in any situation that we have been faced with.

Councillor Daniels expressed that, as a member of the REMO Advisory Committee for seven years, she felt confident that the Municipality was prepared for any event adding that all the members have received training and plans are in place. She reiterated that everyone should have a 72-hour emergency kit.

Warden Zebian voiced that there were deficiencies identified during Hurricane Dorian that have been addressed and residents should remain confident in our staff and REMO during any emergency.

b. Future Meetings – CAO Laycock

CAO Laycock asked, that as the Municipality of the District of West Hants will cease to exist as of March 31, 2020, as active campaigning would be taking place, and as two staffs will begin integrating and working on administrative tasks for the consolidation along with potentially moving physical locations, that Council consider the value of not holding the February and March Committee of the Whole and March Council meetings.

The CAO went on to say that the ability for Council to make decisions beyond February 11, 2020 Council would be very limited adding that knowing Council’s wishes would allow staff to prepare tasks and begin focusing energies on the consolidation.

Warden Zebian asked Council to forward their comments to the CAO prior to Council on February 11, 2020.

14. Date of Next Meeting – February 11, 2020

The next Regular Council meeting will be held February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Abraham Zebian, Warden

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk