



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Budget Committee of the Whole Agenda **AMENDED**
June 03, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Presentation

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcements
4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions
5. 5:30-6:00 **Presentation: Develop NS**
6. 6:00-6:30 Rural Internet Discussion
7. 6:30-7:15 In-Camera (Legal)
8. 7:15-7:30 Capital Budget and Reserves Budget Scenarios
9. 7:30-7:45 Break
10. 7:45-8:15 Post-consolidation Priority List
11. 8:15-9:00 **Budget conclusion and Recommendations**
12. Adjournment



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Budget Committee of the Whole Minutes
June 3, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Mayor Zebian called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Call of Roll

Council Present:

Abraham Zebian, Mayor
Rupert Jannasch, Councillor, District 1
Scott McLean, Councillor, District 2
Mark McLean, Councillor, District 3
Jeff Hartt, Councillor, District 4
Debbie Francis, District 5

Paul Morton, Deputy Mayor, District 8
Bob Morton, Councillor, District 6
Ed Sherman, Councillor, District 7
Richard Murphy, Councillor, District 9
Laurie Murley, Councillor, District 10
Jim Ivey, Councillor, District 11

Staff and Guests Present:

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Todd Richard, Dir. Public Works
Kathy Kehoe, Dir. Community
Development
Shelleena Thornton, Administrative
Supervisor
Deborah Page, Develop NS

Carlee Rochon, Dir. Financial Services
Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk
Madelyn LeMay, Dir. Planning &
Development
Monique Arsenault, Develop NS

Members of the public watched the meeting using Facebook Live.

3. Announcements

Residents were encouraged to leave comments on Facebook and to continue to social distance.

4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

**MOVED by Councillors Murphy and Murley that the agenda be approved.
Motion Carried.**

5. Presentation: Develop Nova Scotia

Deborah Page, Director of Marketing and Communications, and Monique Arsenault, Director of Alignment and Community Impact, gave a presentation about Develop Nova Scotia highlighting its' purpose and areas of focus. The Internet for Nova Scotia

Initiative is a project to get 95% or greater of Nova Scotia high-speed, high-quality internet. Develop Nova Scotia announced two rounds of requests for proposal for projects to meeting target. The first RFP closed in June 2019 and resulted in 86% of Province having access to internet at the minimum speeds. The second RFP closes June 5, 2020 and announcement of successful projects is anticipated in August 2020.

Discussion Points:

- Costs to provide service per kilometer in West Hants depends on the provider and the specific area.
- Municipalities can be engaged by sharing information in the community, providing funding, or being an owner/operator of service; however, there is no requirement for municipalities to provide funding.
- If an area is currently provided service at the minimum speed then the area would not be eligible a project for Develop Nova Scotia, if not at the minimum speed then new projects could be initiated which may mean competition in the area. There is on going conversation about monitoring of speed to determine accuracy of the service being provided.
- Develop Nova Scotia can answer questions from resident regarding any of the projects they fund and what areas are underserved. They cannot answer questions about why service provider(s) is not providing adequate service that is regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).
- Internet service provider contracts state the rates must be competitive with urban rates, but full pricing governance is done through the CRTC.
- It will not be known if a third round of projects will be needed until round 2 closes.
- There are two Federal programs for internet, one with CRTC and the other is the Universal Broadband Fund through Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Develop Nova Scotia has been engaged with both programs. The CRTC is aware of Develop Nova Scotia projects from the first RFP to know what infrastructure that is coming, as their definition of being served is having the infrastructure in place.
- The Develop Nova Scotia applicants are permitted to provide internet service via wireless technologies but that technology if installed must meet the internet delivery capacity of what fibre provides within five years of its installation.
- The location of the last 5% of the Province not covered is unknown, it could be a single home at end of road where it is cost prohibitive for wired service or where geography of the property prevents a signal for wireless; it would be a case by case basis.

Ms. Arsenault and Ms. Page left the meeting at 6:27 pm.

6. Rural Internet Discussion

This discussion was held in-camera as it could affect future agreements with service providers.

7. In Camera (Legal)

MOVED by Councillors Ivey and Murphy to move in-camera.

Motion Carried.

Meeting moved in-camera at 6:28 pm

MOVED by Councillors Murphy and M. McLean that the meeting move out of in-camera.

Motion Carried.

Meeting reconvened at 7:35 pm.

8. Capital Budget and Reserves Budget Scenarios

Director Rochon provided an update on Capital and Reserve Budgets based on changes over the previous budget meeting. There was no further discussion on these budgets from Council.

9. Break - There was no break held.

10. Post Consolidation Priority List

CAO Phillips informed the post consolidation priority list was being discussed with a grant supervisor at the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH) to determine which grant programs could be used on the projects listed including salt water marine access. He suggested further discussion be held at another meeting.

11. Budget Conclusion and Recommendations

Director Rochon provided an overview of the final Operating budget noting changes made over the last few meetings and the proposed tax rates based on a two-cent increase.

a. Budget Approval

MOVED by Councillors Murphy and Hartt that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council approve the 2020-21 operating budget as presented outlining total general rate budgeted expenses and transfers of \$13,102,611, a total area rate budgeted expenses and transfers for the community of West Hants of \$7,417,582, a total area rate budgeted expenses and transfers for the community of Hantsport of \$677,903, and total area rate budgeted expenses and transfers for the community of Windsor of \$3,974,304.

Motion Carried.

Councillors M. McLean, Hartt, S. McLean, Morton and Murley voted nay.

MOVED by Councillors Murphy and Ivey that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council approve the 2020-2021 West Hants Water Utility and Windsor Water Utility Budgets as presented on May 27, 2020.

Motion Carried.

Councillors M. McLean and S. McLean voted nay.

MOVED by Councillor Murphy and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council approve the 2020-2021 Capital budget as presented to Committee to the Whole on June 3, 2020.

Motion Carried.

Councillors Hartt, M. McLean, S. McLean, Morton and Murley voted nay.

MOVED by Councillors Murphy and Jannasch that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council approve the 2020-2021 Reserves Budget as presented to Committee of the Whole on June 3, 2020.

Motion Carried.

Councillors Murley, S. McLean, Hartt and M. McLean voted nay.

b. 2020-21 Taxing Resolution

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council,

BE IT RESOLVED that the sums that are required for the lawful purposes of the West Hants Regional Municipality for the year 2020-2021 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 \$13,102,611 and this Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a general tax rate of ninety-nine cents (\$0.99) 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 four three one eight cents (\$0.4318) 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 West Hants for the year 2020-2021 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 \$7,417,582 and this Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of an area rate tax of eighty cents (\$0.80) 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 six two zero five cents (\$0.6205) 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 2020-2021 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 \$677,903 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 sums that are required for the lawful purposes of the Community of Windsor for the year 2020-2021 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 \$3,974,304 and this Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of an area rate tax of two dollars and ninety-two cents (\$2.92) 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 four six eight two cents (\$1.4682) 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., 2020 provided that if the total amount of taxes owing not be paid in full on or before the 1st day of September, A.D., 2020 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.

TAX DUE DATE – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Motion Carried.

Councillors S. McLean, M. McLean, Hartt, Morton and Murley voted nay.

c. Hantsport Memorial Community Centre Area Rate Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council support the area rate for the Hantsport Memorial Community Centre in the following amounts: Residential -

\$0.0797 per \$100 of Taxable Assessment and Commercial - \$0.2565 per \$100 of Taxable Assessment for a combined total of \$86,082, for fiscal year April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

Motion Carried.

Councillor S. McLean voted nay.

d. Windsor Business Enhancement Society Area Rate Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council support the area rate for the Windsor Business Enhancement Society in the amount of \$0.0747 per \$100 of Taxable Commercial Assessment for a total of \$41,210, for fiscal year April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Hartt voted nay.

e. Blomidon View Resident's Association Uniform Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the West Hants Regional Municipality:

Authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$105.00 per share based on an undeveloped lot, \$420.00 based on a developed lot, and \$210 per share based on a seasonal dwelling lot for the year ending March 31, 2021 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Blomidon View Resident's Association.

Motion Carried.

f. Chalet Hamlet Property Owner's Association Uniform Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the West Hants Regional Municipality:

Authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$426.65 (inclusive of HST) per member for the year ending March 31, 2021 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Chalet Hamlet Property Owner's Association.

Motion Carried.

g. Chateau Village Property Owners' Association Uniform Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the West Hants Regional Municipality:

Authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$484.92 (inclusive of HST) per member for the year ending March 31, 2021 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Chateau Village Property Owners' Association.

Motion Carried.

h. Falls Lake West Owner's Association Uniform Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the West Hants Regional Municipality:

Authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$287.50 (inclusive of HST) per member for the year ending March 31, 2021 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the Falls Lake West Owner's Association.

Motion Carried.

i. North Canoe Lake Cottage Owners Association Uniform Charge 2020-2021

MOVED by Councillor Ivey and Deputy Mayor Morton that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 81 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the West Hants Regional Municipality:

Authorizes the levying and collection, for purposes of private road maintenance, a uniform charge of \$58.36 for properties before the bridge on Canoe Lake Cove Road and \$233.46 for properties beyond the bridge on the same road for the year ending March 31, 2021 and such amount collected less 10% plus HST administration fees shall be forwarded to the North Canoe Lake Cottage Owners Association.

Motion Carried.

12. Adjournment

**MOVED by Councillors Murphy and Murley that the meeting adjourn.
Motion Carried.**

The meeting ended at 8:08 pm.

Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk