

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
**Committee of the Whole - Meeting Minutes**  
**February 8, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.**



1. Call to Order - Mayor Zebian called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Attendance

Council:

Abraham Zebian, Mayor  
Rupert Jannasch, Councillor Dist. 1  
arrived at 6:35 pm  
Scott McLean, Councillor Dist. 2  
Mark McLean, Councillor Dist. 3  
Jeff Hartt, Councillor Dist. 4  
Debbie Francis, Councillor Dist. 5

Paul Morton, Deputy Mayor Dist. 8  
Bob Morton, Councillor Dist. 6  
arrived at 6:04 pm  
Ed Sherman, Councillor Dist. 7 ZOOM  
John A. Smith, Councillor Dist. 9  
Laurie Murley, Councillor Dist. 10  
Jim Ivey, Councillor Dist. 11

Staff:

Mark Phillips, CAO  
Shelleena Thornton, Municipal  
Operations Supervisor  
Deanna Snair, Exec. Asst/ Clerk  
Carlee Rochon, Dir. Financial Services  
Diana Gibson, Manager of Accounting  
and Financial Reporting

Todd Richard, Dir. Public Works  
Sara Poirier, Planner

Jennifer Tufts, CEO, Valley REN  
Paul Dixon, Valley REN Board Chair  
Robert Wainman, Newport Rink  
Commission

Regrets:

Madelyn LeMay, Dir. Planning and Development

3. Approval of the Agenda, including additions or deletions
  - a) Dashboard Action Items – Information Log
  - b) Dashboard – Dangerous or Unsightly – Information log

Agenda amendment(s):

- Move items 11(a) EV Charger and 11(e) 2022-23 Region 6 Budget to Item 9(a) and (b). The remaining agenda items will follow and be re-numbered accordingly.
- Add the sent correspondence of 2022-02-04 Hon. Greg Morrow re: Avon River and Addition of Tidal Water

**MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR PAUL MORTON AND COUNCILLOR M. MCLEAN THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest - None

5. Announcements

- Mayor Zebian acknowledged that West Hants Regional Municipality recognizes that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and that this land is governed by the treaties of Peace and Friendship signed in 1726. West Hants Regional Municipality also recognizes that we are all treaty people and have responsibilities to each other and this land.
- Meeting is a hybrid version. Voting will be through show of hands (yea or nay) or by utilizing coloured cards. All COVID restrictions are being followed.
- A reminder to remain Hants County Strong; understanding and a calm demeanor will go a long way.

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

a) 2022-01-11 Committee of the Whole minutes

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MURLEY AND DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON THAT THE 2022-01-11 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES BE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED**

7. a) VREN Presentation

Ms. Tufts and Mr. Dixon provided an overview of what Regional Enterprise Networks are reviewed the presentation.

Discussion Points:

- Valley REN connects, retains, and expands local development outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality with a regionally focused approach and strong collaborations.
- Municipal contributions received are matched by the Province of NS through economic development. Successfully leveraged over \$1 million in available available funding.
- Mandate is to open and increase two-way dialogue/communication with stakeholders.

Ms. Tufts and Mr. Dixon left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

b) Newport Rink Commission Presentation

Mr. Wainman reviewed the presentation.

Discussion Points:

- Long standing facility governed by a volunteer board of directors.
- Available funding opportunities were discussed.
- Requesting financial support in the form of a \$50,000 annual contribution to assist with operational costs and for the Municipality to set asides \$100,00.00 in the budget to aid in major repairs and capital improvements.
- Explore further through the budget process and examine what the financial implications would be and how to proceed further.

Mr. Wainman left the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

8. Unfinished Business/Postponed Motions - None

9. New Business (Items moved up on the agenda)

a) EV Charging Stations MCCAP Recommendation Report

Planner Poirier reviewed the report.

Discussion Points:

- The Federal Government has allocated funding to support the Clean Foundations announcement of the Electric Vehicle Boost Program.
- Costs per user would be based on expenses incurred by the Municipality to operate and maintain charging stations.
- Municipality would be the main applicant; therefore, it would be ideal to install charging stations on Municipal properties.
- This program offers the best opportunities to get chargers in the area.

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JANNASCH AND DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE 2022-2023 MCCAP BUDGET REQUEST OF \$48,000 TO ENSURE THE MUNICIPALITY CAN APPLY TO THE CLEAN FOUNDATION ELECTRIC VEHICLE BOOST PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENT AT LEAST FOUR (4) LEVEL 2 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS WITHIN WHRM IN 2022. MOTION CARRIED**

b) Region 6 2022-2023 Budget

Manager Gibson reviewed the report

**MOVED BY COUNCILLORS FRANCIS AND S. MCLEAN THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVES THE 2022-23 BUDGET FOR REGION 6 AS PRESENTED IN THE FEBRUARY 8, 2022 REPORT. MOTION CARRIED**

10. Reports

a) CAO Activity Update - CAO Phillips reviewed the report.

Discussion Points:

- CAO Phillips clarified and answered further inquiries pertaining to the report.

b) Financial Updates – Information Report

Dir. Rochon reviewed the report ending December 31, 2021.

Discussion Points:

- Director Rochon further explained the financial variances to Council.

11. Correspondence

a) Information

1. Avon Causeway Activity Log

- i. 2022-02-01 Darren Porter re: Proposed operating scenarios for the gated structure at the aboiteau

2. Current Correspondence as of February 2, 2022

- i. 2022-01-26 Gary Nelson re: Fort Edward
- ii. 2022-01-27 Minister Johns, Minister of Justice re: Accessibility Act
- iii. 2022-02-01 Hon. John Lohr re: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- iv. 2022-02-02 Hon. Joyce Murray response to correspondence sent 2022-02-02 re: Pisiquid Canoe Club

b) Requests - None

c) Out-going as of February 2, 2022

1. Current Correspondence sent as of February 2, 2021

- i. 2022-01-26 Hon. Kim Masland re: clarification on the date on correspondence sent 2022-01-20
- ii. 2022-02-02 Hon. Joyce Murray re: Support of Pisiquid Canoe Club
- iii. Added - 2022-02-04 Hon. Greg Morrow re: Avon River and Addition of Tidal Water

12. New Business

- a) Provincial Cost Share Program – Centennial Drive Stormwater Culver Renewal  
Dir Richard reviewed the report

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MURLEY AND DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND COUNCIL SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2021/22 PROVINCIAL CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PCAP) TO FUND A PORTION OF THE SANITARY/STORMWATER SEPARATION PROJECT FOR HIGHLAND AVENUE AND CHURCHILL STREET, INSTEAD OF THE CENTENNIAL DRIVE STORMWATER CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED**

- b) Bog Road, Hantsport Rehabilitation  
Dir. Richard reviewed the report

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MURLEY AND DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE IN ADVANCE OF THE 2022-23 CAPITAL BUDGET, THE AMOUNT OF \$189,765 FOR THE SERVICES AND**

**STREET RENEWAL OF THE 200M SECTION OF BOG ROAD LOCATED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF HANTSPORT, OWNED BY THE WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

**FURTHER**

**COUNCIL DIRECT WEST HANTS PUBLIC WORKS TO PROCEED WITH A COST-SHARE AGREEMENT WITH THE PROVINCE FOR THIS SECTION AS THE NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WILL BE CARRYING OUT THE NOTED WORK ON BEHALF OF THE WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY. MOTION CARRIED (Nay: Hartt)**

- c) Innes Lane Road Association Agreement  
Dir. Rochon reviewed the report

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR IVEY AND DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND COUNCIL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INNES LANE ROAD ASSOCIATION FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF FEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRIVATE ROAD MAINTENANCE BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR. MOTION CARRIED**

- d) Police Advisory Board Resident Member Appointment  
Supervisor Thornton reviewed the report

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR FRANCIS AND DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL APPROVES MANDY SINGLETON BE APPOINTED TO THE POLICE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM MARCH 01, 2022 TO OCTOBER 31, 2024. MOTION CARRIED**

- e) PACE Program  
CAO Phillips reviewed the report

Discussion Points:

- Opportunity to reduce overall carbon emissions for the Municipality.
- Funding is coming from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and may not be available in the future.
- This is solely a residential application.

**MOVED BY COUNCILLORS JANNASCH AND HARTT THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND COUNCIL ALLOCATE \$10,000.00 IN THE 2022 / 23 OPERATING BUDGET TO SUPPORT THE JOINT COSTS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITH NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES AND PACE ATLANTIC, TO THE FCM (FEDERATION**

**OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES), UNDER THE COMMUNITY EFFICIENCY FINANCING PROGRAM, FOR FUNDING TO DEVELOP AND CARRY OUT A PACE (PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY) PROGRAM**

**FURTHER**

**IT IS UNDERSTOOD BY COUNCIL THAT THE PACE PROGRAM SUBMITTED UNDER THE APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED BY COUNCIL PRIOR TO IT BEING SUBMITTED TO THE FCM FOR COUNCILS' APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED**

f) Etter Road

Councillor M. McLean gave a verbal overview

Discussion Points:

- Previous funding of J-Class roads was discussed. These are Provincial roads for the benefits of Municipal residents.
- Discussion held on whether the Municipality should enter into a cost-sharing agreement with the Province.

**MOVED BY COUNCILLORS M. MCLEAN AND S. MCLEAN THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO EXPLORE THE OPTIONS FOR J CLASS ROAD INITIATIVES FOR THE 2022-2023 BUDGET AND TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL IN TWO WEEKS. MOTION CARRIED** (Nays: Councillor Francis and Deputy Mayor P. Morton)

g) Snow Clearing

Deputy Mayor P. Morton gave a verbal overview

Discussion Points:

- Snow clearing standards and service levels were discussed. If an increase in service levels is desired, then an increase in the budget would be required.
- Consensus is that this has been a challenging year to date. Municipality would like to review road assignments (Municipal vs Provincial) and see what roads could return to the Municipality for undertaking.

h) Valley Regional Enterprise Network (VREN) discussion

Mayor Zebian gave a verbal overview

Discussion Points:

- Council gave direction that the West Hants Regional Municipality would pull out of the VREN Agreement effective March 31, 2022.
- Consensus is that the Valley REN is moving in a positive direction and has improved. Thought is that there is value for dollar wisely spent.

- Explore a conversation with Valley REN concerning the two (2) year commitment required, would prefer to see a commitment of one (1) year with the option to leave.

Mayor Zebian stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor P. Morton assumed it at 8:46 pm.

**MOVED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN AND COUNCILLOR MURLEY THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL SEND A LETTER TO THE VALLEY REN ADVISING THAT WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY WILL REMAIN A PARTNER OF THE VALLEY REN FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022 TO MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023 IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO SEE THE INCREASING BENEFITS THE VALLEY REN OFFERS FOR THE REGION OF WEST HANTS, ALSO, THAT THE WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY FORMALLY ADVISES THE VALLEY REN THAT IT WILL CEASE TO BE A PARTNER AFTER MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023. MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Zebian re-assumed the chair at 8:50pm

13. Public Participation Period – Upwards of 45 viewers with approximately 19 comments. Most comments pertained to EV chargers and potential locations, a few pertaining to the aboiteau options provided by the Province, and some pertaining to snow removal.

**MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON AND COUNCILLOR S. MCLEAN TO MOVE IN-CAMERA AT 8:51 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**

14. In-Camera
  - a) 2022-01-11 Committee of the Whole in-camera Meeting minutes
  - b) In-camera Personnel Matter MGA 22(2)(a)

Only Council members were present for the In-camera session

**MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON AND COUNCILLOR MURLEY TO MOVE OUT OF IN-CAMERA AT 10:00 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**

15. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment – Next regular meeting will be February 22, 2022 Council.

**MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR P. MORTON AND COUNCILLOR MURLEY THAT AT 10:01PM, THE MEETING ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED**

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Mayor Abraham Zebian

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Deanna Snair, Exec. Assistant/ Mun. Cl