

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, November 28th, 2019
9:30 am
Council Chambers

Council: Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Councillor Jim Mustard
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor John Dowling
Councillor Laurie Cranton

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Coordinator
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
Debbie Nicholson, Municipal Council Administrative Assistant

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 9:35 am, and welcomed all in attendance.

Emily Pond, Director Regulatory Modernization & Partnerships, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness sent regrets that she was not able to attend today's meeting. She hopes to attend a future meeting of Council and present the draft report. Council discussed establishing regulations in various industries such as food service, hospitality and short-term accommodations.

COUNCIL OFFICE EXPENSES

Council discussed office related expenses, such as office space rental for community meetings.

Recommendation to Council that Municipal staff with Council re-examine the Municipal expense policy, and make updates and revisions where applicable.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council discussed the need to identify the strategic directions the Municipality will be advancing to guide the organization forward.

Recommendation to Council that staff prepare a strategic planning review and update session with Council.

CROSSWALK CONCERN

Deputy Warden Poirier discussed a concern regarding the crosswalk near the Cheticamp Post Office. There appears to be a lack of adequate signage, and visibility for this crosswalk.

Sometimes traffic does not slow down, which has resulted in some near misses with pedestrians. Deputy Warden Poirier will bring this concern up during the discussion with Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal representatives.

ST. ROSE COMMUNITY DIVIDEND FUND

A fund is being proposed to leverage funding from the St. Rose wind project to support an initiative that Council approved this year: the Belle Cote wharf road paving project. This is a cost sharing option. Council should have the funding agreement document between the Municipality and the proponents of the St. Rose wind project at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

COMMUNITY FUNDING REQUESTS

STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE: Council discussed if Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue were approved for funds in 2019/2020, and if they received any funding to date. CAO Keith MacDonald suggested that he, along with Director of Infrastructure and Emergency Services David Coulombe would meet with Tony Sampson, and discuss their funding needs. Recommendation to Municipal staff to determine how Search and Rescue is funded through the province, and to determine if there is a consistent way the Municipality can support Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue.

LAKE AINSLIE WEAVERS AND CRAFTS GUILD:

Well repairs including a new pump, holding tank, pipes, wiring, and excavation were carried out. These were unexpected expenses, but regarded as necessary infrastructure and equipment maintenance.

Recommendation to Council to approve funding of \$3,195.00 to the Lake Ainslie Weavers and Crafts Guild with funds coming from District 3 CDC funds.

TAX WRITE OFFS

SOCIETY OF PROTECTION OF JERSEY HERITAGE:

Recommendation to Council to approve the tax write off in the amount of \$379.10 (AAN # 10454484).

INVERNESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Recommendation to Council to approve the tax write off in the amount of \$1135.90 (AAN # 10771447).

11:00 am: consensus to recess

11:35 am: consensus to resume

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

Steve MacDonald and Darren Blundon provided an update to Council. Topics Included:

Port Hastings rotary: This project is on the Capital Project Program for 2021-22. There is no design finalized. The goal is to have a more modern roundabout, with more efficient flow, and a focus on improved safety. This is estimated to be a \$3-\$5 million project.

Whycomagh rotary: A rotary design is planned for the intersection of TCH and Route 252. A meeting has been held with individuals from the community in order to get feedback on potential designs.

Private Roads: All roads that are privately owned will continue to not be maintained by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Crosswalks: There is a provincial standard for crosswalks. The Municipal staff are to review the standards and advance requests for additional crosswalks.

Pt. du Havre Road erosion: This is a shoreline issue, and a costly repair. There are a few instances similar to this in the province.

Old Cabot Trail erosion: This issue is also on the radar of TIR staff.

Councillors expressed concerns regarding grading of gravel roads. TIR staff stated that it can be difficult to grade in November, as the roads are saturated with water which leads to muddy conditions. Beavers were removed from the North East Mabou bridge area to reduce the flooding conditions. The Mabou Coal Mines Road is receiving upgrades. Sand inventories for the winter are in stock in Strathlorne and Margaree. Drainage issues in Cheticamp are being looked at by TIR staff.

Mountainview Road and Justin Road will continue to be maintained by the province. The Hillsborough bridge and Brook Village bridges should be addressed next year.

TIR requested a list of priorities for projects from the Municipality.

TIR thanked the Municipality for providing permits to work on provincial roads.

Recommendation to move to “in camera” – 1:30 pm

Recommendation to move back to Committee of the Whole – 3:03 pm

Recommendations from “in camera”

- Recommendation to Council that the Municipality award the Solid Waste Collection services RFP to Green for Life by April 1st, 2020 and award a three year contract with two one year options to renew.
- Recommendation to Council that the Municipality approve an expense of an additional \$55,000 for the water meter project, with funds coming from the gas tax.
- Recommendation to Council that the Municipality hire an employee as a water meter technician.

Consensus to adjourn – 3:12 pm