



NOTICE

MEETING: St Mary's Municipal Council
Committee of the Whole

DATE: Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019

TIME: 1:00pm

PLACE: St. Mary's Municipality
Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, NS

Please advise if unable to attend

Dated: December 20, 2018

Marvin MacDonald, CAO

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda and Any Additions
4. Approval of Minutes from Committee Meeting held December 5th, 2018
5. Business Arising from Minutes
6. Correspondence
 - a. Letter – Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs, Office of the Deputy Minister
7. Other Matters of Business
 - a. Economic Impact Study
 - b. Library Basement Improvements
 - c. Federal Infrastructure Funding Application
 - d. St Mary's Scouts
 - e. Postdated Cheques Policy
 - f. Meetings of Council – Electronic Devices Policy
 - g. General Government Grants Policy
 - h. In-Camera (Tax Sale)

Adjournment

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019**

Meeting, Date & Time

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019 at 1:12 pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

Attending

Warden Mosher
Councillor Kaiser-Kirk
Councillor Baker
Councillor Smith
Councillor Findlay
Councillor Malloy

Also Attending

Marvin MacDonald, CAO
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance
Denise Sawlor, Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator

Absent With Regrets

Deputy Warden Dort

Approval of Agenda

On motion of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Malloy that Council approve the agenda with the following additions.

6. Correspondence
 - b. Letter – John T. Rafferty Q.C.
7. Other Matters of Business
 - i. Government Response to the Independent Review of Forest Practices in N.S.
 - j. Guysborough County Tourism Strategy Workshop
 - k. Provincial Electoral Boundaries

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve the minutes of the Committee Of The Whole held December 5th, 2018

Motion carried.

Business Arising From Minutes

- Atlantic Gold
 - There has been a response emailed to Warden Mosher from James Millard.
 - The Warden will forward the email to the rest of Council.
 - The email did not address the questions asked by Council during Atlantic Gold's presentation.
- Main Street Cross-Cuts
 - An overview of the current deficiencies was compiled.

- Marvin has discussed the process with the Engineers. It is best to wait till spring to start the repairs.
- Ambulance Service
 - Marvin will contact the operations people to determine if any immediate plans are in place for a move.
- Deed Transfer Tax
 - A registered letter was sent to the Smokehouse property owners.
 - The letter was delivered but a reply has yet to be received.

Other Matters of Business

- Letter from Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs, Office of the Deputy Minister
 - See attached letter.
 - Council requested a letter be sent to Fred Jeffers and copied to Department of Natural Resources and our local fire departments. The letter will outline the concerns regarding changes to fire dispatch services and express a desire to have the service remain as it is.
- Letter from John T. Rafferty Q.C.
 - Council reviewed the letter in response to solicitor services.
- Economic Impact Study

On recommendation of Councillor Findlay and seconded by Councillor Smith that the municipality draft a request for proposals for an economic impact study that includes the positive and negative effects of the proposed gold mine at Cochrane Hill.

Recommendation adopted.
- Library Basement Improvements
 - The Municipality's application for funding to help cover costs associated with the library basement improvements did not win.
 - The total cost for the work is approximately \$6,000
 - Staff will find out if the improvements can be completed during the winter months and whether there is room in the 2018-19 budget.
- Federal Infrastructure Funding Application
 - Deadline for applications is Jan 18, 2019
 - Municipalities can apply under the Green Environmental Quality stream of the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program.

On recommendation of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Malloy that Council approve a submission to the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program for the purpose of providing ultraviolet light treatment at the Sherbrooke Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Recommendation adopted.
- St. Mary's Scouts
 - See attached letter.
 - The financial request will be considered by each Councillor under their district grants.
 - Mr. Ashe will be informed of the General Government Grants – Grants to Organizations process as well.
- Postdated Cheques Policy
 - The policy has been updated, see attached.

On recommendation of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Kaiser-Kirk that Council accept the amendments to the Postdated Cheques policy.

Recommendation adopted.

- Meetings of Council – Electronic Devices Policy
 - See attached policy.
 - It was suggested that a sign be placed on the door to Council Chambers outlining the two points in the policy that pertain to the public.

On recommendation of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker that Council accept the Meetings of Council – Electronic Devices policy.

Recommendation adopted.

Break 2:15pm – 2:29pm

- General Government Grants Policy
 - Marian presented possible changes to the General Government Grants Policy based on previous feedback from Council.
 - Council decided to postpone any changes and will discuss options at a later date.
 - Marian presented a new standard application form/process for district grants. See attached.
 - Council has decided to adopt the new District Grants – Funding Application form.
- In-Camera session moved to end of meeting
- Government Response to the Independent Review of Forest Practices in N.S.
 - Report was provided to Council for information purposes.
 - See attached.
- Guysborough County Tourism Strategy Workshop
 - The second workshop in the series will be on January 8th from 10am-3pm in Sherbrooke Village.
 - Councillor Smith will forward the invitation to Council. RSVP is required.
 - Councillor Kaiser-Kirk will ensure the Port Bickerton Planning Association is aware of the workshop.
- Provincial Electoral Boundaries
 - There is a notice advising of 10 meetings (public consultations) in various locations around N.S. to discuss possible changes to the provincial electoral boundaries.
 - There is a meeting scheduled for January 4th, 2019 from 7-9pm at the Claymore Inn in Antigonish.
 - Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must register with the organizers.
- In-Camera (tax Sale)

On recommendation of Councillor Malloy and seconded Councillor Smith that council moved into an in-camera session to discuss the upcoming tax sale.

On recommendation of Councillor Malloy council reconvened to regular session at 4:16pm.

Adjournment

On Motion of Councillor Smith there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 4:17pm.

Recorded By
Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Mosher

DEC 05 2018

Karen Mattatall
Mayor
Town of Shelburne
PO Box 670
168 Water Street
Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0

Dear Mayor Mattatall:

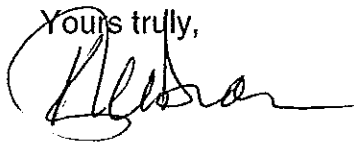
Thank you for your letter of November 8th, 2018, regarding central dispatch for Fire Departments (excluding HRM).

We recognize the importance of a reliable and professional dispatch system for Nova Scotia's Fire Services and are aware that the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia is considering options to improve dispatch services for Fire Departments.

Municipal Affairs staff from the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and the Emergency Management Office (EMO), are participating in fire services discussions and are open to discussing various models in the context of the Fire Services Review.

Thank you for sharing the position of your Council on fire service dispatch. If you would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact Fred Jeffers, Fire Marshal at 902-424-5508.

Yours truly,



Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister

- c All Municipal Units in NS (excluding HRM)
Jim Roper, President, Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia
Shannon Bennett, A/Executive Director, Grants, Programs & Operations, DMA
Paul Mason, Executive Director, Emergency Management Office, DMA
Fred Jeffers, Fire Marshal, Office of the Fire Marshal

1st St. Mary's Group
P.O. Box 163
Sherbrooke NS
B0J3C0
(902)522-2588 or (902) 318-0066

December 17, 2018

Dear members of St. Mary's Council

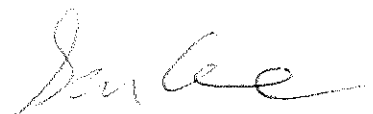
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your attention and hopefully, your support. It has been quite a few years since scouting was an active part of this community. We, in conjunction with Scouts Canada would like to once again make it so.

The district of St. Mary's has a healthy and vibrant history of volunteerism and, going forward, it is vital to nurture such spirit in our youth. We, in conjunction with Scouts Canada, would like to ask for a one time monetary donation of seven hundred dollars, or seventy five to one hundred dollars from each member to help get this program off the ground and running. Please understand that the money we ask for will go towards training, uniforms for our leaders, resource material, offsetting registration fees for youth that wish to participate in the program and administration fees that usually accompany the initial start-up costs with getting programs like this off the ground. Going forward, once we have a structured program in place we will hopefully be able to undertake these costs ourselves.

Already there is great interest in getting this going; leadership training has begun in the online form. Leaders have been recruited, committees have been formed. There is a great deal of talk in the communities about this. Anyone that is familiar with the program will agree that it is an ideal structured activity set designed to empower our youth, and, going forward provide them with life skills they need to not only get by, but to thrive. We will be holding our first meeting on January 9, 2019.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope that you consider this request carefully as the youth of the municipality depend on your generosity.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Ashe', written in a cursive style.

Sean Ashe

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Postdated Cheques Policy



Preamble:

It shall be a policy for staff to accept postdated cheques for taxes receivable and utility services.

Terms:

Staff shall accept postdated cheques for taxes receivable and utilities.

The postdated cheque shall be filed by staff and shall be processed on the date that appears on the cheque. There shall not be any arrangements made by staff to hold the cheque from processing after the date on the cheque.

If the postdated cheque is returned by the bank as NSF (Non-Sufficient Funds) the Municipality shall charge an administration fee of \$25.00 per cheque to the account for which the cheque was to be applied.

Municipal Clerk

Date

Date Adopted: January 13th 2003
Date Amended:

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Meetings of Council - Electronic Devices Policy



Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to elected officials, municipal staff and the public with respect to the appropriate use of electronic devices during meetings of council.

Scope:

This policy applies to meetings of St. Mary's municipal council and committees of council.

Conduct of meeting attendees:

Elected officials and municipal staff shall:

- Turn off all cellular phones and electronic devices, except those in use to facilitate the meeting, or otherwise set them so as not to emit any audible sound during the meeting.
- Not respond to phone calls, emails or text messages while the meeting is in session.
- Not in any way record or photograph proceedings.
- Disable all internet connections for all electronic devices during in-camera meetings except those in use to facilitate the in-camera meeting.

Members of the public shall:

- Not bring into council chambers cellular phones or electronic devices which emit a sound unless such devices are turned off or otherwise set to non-audible.
- Not in any way record or photograph proceedings.

Municipal Clerk

Date

Date Adopted:

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Municipal of the District of St. Mary's
District Grants - Funding Application Form



Organization Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Which Councillor or District are you requesting a grant from? _____

Amount Requested: _____

Describe how the grant contribution will be used: _____

Name Title/Position

Signature Date

Completed evaluation forms can be submitted to the Councillor from whom you are requesting the grant or sent to Marian Fraser, Director of Finance

Mail or in person:
8296 Highway 7, PO Box 296
Sherbrooke, NS B0J 3C0

For Office Use Only

Approved by (Councillor Signature): _____

Amount Approved: _____

Government Response

to the Independent Review
of Forest Practices
in Nova Scotia

December 2018



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Government Response to the Independent Review
of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia

Department of Lands and Forestry

December 2018

ISBN: 978-1-55457-908-2

Government Response to the Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia

Government accepts Professor Lahey's Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia and agrees with the spirit and intent of his recommendations. Many of Professor Lahey's recommendations are interconnected, and their implementation will be phased in over time.

The key to Professor Lahey's report is the adoption of a new paradigm – ecological forestry. As Professor Lahey states, "ecological forestry is primarily concerned with the effects of forestry on ecological values such as water, soil, and habitat for species that inhabit and constitute those ecosystems. In place of a philosophy of mitigation, it seeks to align forestry with ecological protection and biodiversity conservation by integrating ecological knowledge, principles and concepts into how forestry is conducted." After careful consideration of all of the recommendations, we have identified priority actions that are foundational to achieving ecological forestry in Nova Scotia. This response outlines those priority actions.

Nova Scotia will protect and enhance ecosystems and biodiversity as the overarching policy priority, as they are the foundation for other values.

Nova Scotia's forest policies and operational decision making will be guided by the practice of ecological forestry through a triad model. This will represent a significant change in the way Nova Scotia's forest will be managed and will require modelling for habitat and wood supply. Using this approach, Crown land will be managed with a greater emphasis on ecological considerations which will result in changes on the ground, including less clearcutting. Lands and Forestry will begin work on a process to identify appropriate areas for high production forestry on Crown land. High production areas will be managed to maximize timber production but will still be subject to environmental protection for values like watercourses and species at risk. Once identified, government will allow the regulated use of herbicides in areas identified for high production forestry but will not use public funds. In future, Government will also conduct a review of its existing Crown and private silviculture programs.

The Department of Lands and Forestry will immediately initiate revisions to its Forest Management Guide to place more emphasis on ecological values. The Forest Management Guide dictates the types of forest practices that can be used on Crown land. As revisions are implemented, this will have the effect of further reductions in clearcutting on Crown land, particularly where multi-aged and mixed species forests in which late successional species would naturally occur. The revisions are expected to take approximately 12 months to complete and will involve external expert advisors and input from stakeholders.

Likewise, the department will initiate a peer review of its current approach to Natural Disturbance Regimes mapping and methodology, to ensure alignment with ecological forestry, as recommended by Professor Lahey. It is anticipated that the peer review can be completed in 2019. This work will also involve external scientific experts and input from stakeholders.

Government will increase its focus on wildlife and species at risk and will take actions including making revisions to pre-treatment assessments to encompass and address wildlife issues and by completing outstanding recovery plans and status reports in 2019.

To support the move to ecological forestry, the department has developed interim retention guidelines that will put greater focus on multi-aged management practices. Interim retention guidelines are required to begin the shift to more ecological forestry practices on the ground, and to provide direction and clarity to licensees while the longer-term work on the Forest Management Guides is underway. This will provide an opportunity to conduct operational trials to test the ecological and economic outcomes of different levels of retention. These interim retention guidelines will be communicated to all licensees and available for public viewing on the Lands and Forestry website. (https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/Forest_Review/)

In addition, Government will extend forestry licensing agreements by one year. This will allow time to begin the work required and, in the interim, provide continued access to Crown land for Crown licensees.

Government will introduce a Biodiversity Act in 2019 which will create a legislative framework that supports ecological forestry by recognizing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Nova Scotia. Government also commits to undertaking a review of the Crown Lands Act.

Lands and Forestry will develop and implement an outcomes-based approach to forestry management of Crown land. Government is reviewing options for the way forward on Outcomes Based Management and will involve stakeholders in its development. As outlined in Professor Lahey's report, this process will require the completion of several other pieces of work, so it will take some time to fully implement this recommendation.

Government accepts the recommendation to improve and demonstrate a culture of openness, transparency and accountability within the Department of Lands and Forestry. To further this commitment, Government will:

- Within the next year, establish options for an independent process for environmental reviews for proposed long term forest management licenses that includes the opportunity for public involvement;
- Report on progress and inform and involve stakeholders and the public as work moves forward. As part of this commitment, Professor Lahey has agreed to come back to lead an evaluation of Government's progress;
- Increase the use of academic partnerships, peer-review, and external scientific expertise in research and program development;
- Improve the department's State of the Forest Report, with input from the academic community;

The Department of Lands and Forestry will work with private land owner organizations to encourage adoption of Professor Lahey's recommendations, particularly with respect to implementing ecological forestry through a triad model. While the department will be examining Professor Lahey's recommendations in more detail, its immediate priority is to proceed with implementation of recommendations that pertain to Crown land. Policy changes pertaining to private forest land will be considered when implementation of recommendations on Crown land are more advanced.

Many of Professor Lahey's recommendations relate to work that is currently underway in the department. Where appropriate, existing work will be revised to respond to Professor Lahey's recommendations. For example, in practice, whole and full tree harvesting in clearcuts is already prohibited on Crown land. Government commits to formalizing this practice into policy.

Lands and Forestry has existing work on landscape level planning currently underway which involves internal and external scientific expertise. This work will continue and will be accelerated in response to Professor Lahey's report.

Likewise, Government has been exploring opportunities for small scale wood energy projects. The departments of Lands and Forestry, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and Energy and Mines are in discussions on this project.

Finally, Lands and Forestry has been involved in research, frequently with the cooperation and collaboration of external scientists and experts and has established a Forest Biodiversity Science Advisory Committee. Further research in the areas such as natural disturbance regimes, wildlife clumps, watercourse buffers, old forest, and forest harvesting adjacent to protected areas will be included in research planning. Much of this work will involve external scientists and experts.

Next Steps:

We acknowledge that this response does not address all of Professor Lahey's recommendations, however it highlights the initial steps that we will take. It is important to recognize that there is more work to be done and not all of the changes can happen at once. We will keep our stakeholders and the public informed and involved in our progress as we move ahead.