



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee Of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, June 17th, 2020

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, June 17th, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Mosher (via teleconference)	Councillor Kaiser-Kirk (via teleconference)
Councillor Baker (via teleconference)	Councillor Findlay (via teleconference)
Councillor Smith (via teleconference)	Councillor Malloy (via teleconference)

Also Attending:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO (via teleconference)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (via teleconference)
Marissa Jordan, Municipal Clerk (via teleconference)

Absent with Regrets:

Deputy Warden Dort

3. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Findlay, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020 with the following amendments:

- Councillor Findlay asked to remove "should" from the last sentence of the third bullet on page 4.

Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

Eastern Mainland Housing Authority Board Representative

- Councillor Findlay asked if the representative was able to be a resident of the Maple Manor Seniors Complex. The CAO stated that he was unsure as they would be a client of the housing authority, but he could look into it.
- Councillor Findlay said it would be nice for someone who lives there to better explain what the problems are to the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority. The CAO said that is not the role of the appointed representative from the Municipality. The role of the representative is to review the request of housing and requests of the housing authority and was not to deal with operational issues.

6. Correspondence

a. St. Mary's Shooter's Association

- The Association sent a letter thanking Council for considering their application for 2020 grant funding and stated they will reapply at the appropriate time.

7. Other Matters of Business:

a. Council Meeting Dates:

- The CAO asked for Council to discuss if they would like to continue with virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams, or if they would like to start meeting in person in the Council Chambers due to the changes in the social distancing requirements. He also asked if Council would like to set dates for the July and August meetings.
- Council discussed the dates and the option to return to in person meetings in the Council Chambers. Councillor Smith requested that Council consider continuing to hold the meetings in the evenings. Councillor Baker agreed as this would lessen the number of people in the office at one time since there would be no staff in the office.
- Councillor Malloy asked if this would be hard for staff. The CAO stated that it would not be a concern for staff. Councillor Malloy said this may make meetings more available to the public to attend, but the CAO relayed that in order to adhere to public health requirements due to COVID-19, there would only be room for Council and required staff to attend safely. This would mean that recordings of the meetings would still proceed and be posted online.
- Council set July COTW dates for July 2nd, 2020 and July 15th, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers.
- Council set the July Regular Meeting of Council to be July 13th, 2020 at 7:00pm.
- Dates for August meetings will be determined later by Council.

b. Dangerous & Unsightly Properties:

- CAO MacDonald updated Council that he has had the Building Inspector do an inspection on a number of properties that are considered to be dangerous and/or unsightly.
- CAO MacDonald stated that complaints were received about one property on Old Road Hill due to safety as well as unsightly issues. Some of the clean up on this property was done last year, but not completed. The CAO said that he has asked the Building Inspector to proceed with a registered letter to the owners to take action within 30 days.
- CAO MacDonald also spoke of a property with a burned building on New Chester Road which has legal issues between the owners and insurance company. There have been complaints that the owners have not taken any action to close the building or clean up the debris that is blowing off the building into neighboring yards and has been ongoing for the last year and a half. The CAO suggested that he have the building inspector's report sent to the municipal solicitor and get advice on how to proceed. Council agreed that it would be a good plan of action.
- The CAO also relayed to Council that there are other properties that will be inspected by the Building Inspector in the future.
- Councillor Findlay asked if the Building Inspector had inspected the property on Main Street. The CAO said that the Building Inspector had visited that site and there are a few issues of concern with a brick chimney and siding, which the owner will be notified to fix.

c. Solid Waste Charge:

- The Director of Finance said that she had received written requests to have solid waste charge removed from two property tax bills. One of these properties has a cottage on an island and they claim they do not generate any garbage. The other property is a new development that is asking not to be charged a solid waste charge. The Director of Finance asked Council if they would like to consider removing the solid waste fee for these properties.
- Council agreed that because the Municipality's policy currently states that any property that is assessed as a residential property with a dwelling is subject to the solid waste fee, that the fees should remain on these properties.

d. Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)- Reopening Plan:

- The CAO relayed to Council that ECRL has been in contact with him regarding their phased approach to reopen the Sherbrooke Library. One phase will be continuing with the online book orders and curbside pickup. They will also be opening the doors by appointment and they will be making changes to the layout to facilitate the opening. This will be communicated to the public by ECRL when these changes happen.

e. In Camera Session- Contract Negotiations:

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council moved into an in-camera session for contract negotiations at 7:28pm.

On motion of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council reconvened to regular session at 7:47pm.

f. Municipal Elections- Polling Stations:

- The Municipal Returning Officer asked that Council discuss their options for the 2020 Municipal Elections including their option to implement alternative methods of voting. Further to that, if Council chooses to implement alternative methods would they be using traditional methods (paper ballots) as well. The Municipal Returning Officer also ask that Council consider a date for the first advanced poll.
- Councillor Smith suggested that Council implement alternative methods of voting (electronic & telephone) along with a central polling station for those that would still like the choice of paper ballots to cast their votes.
- Councillor Baker agreed with Councillor Smith as long as there was only one physical polling station.
- Councillor Malloy agreed as well and suggested that the central polling station could be at the Municipal Office.
- Councillor Findlay pointed out that in the previous election some residents from District 3/5 had to drive to Greenfield to cast a ballot and now they would need to drive another 15 minutes to Sherbrooke. She asked if having the physical polling station at the Municipal Office would be central enough for residents in District 3/5, or if there was a more central location.
- Warden Mosher mentioned that by having the alternative methods of voting, that may eliminate that issue. Councillor Smith agreed with Warden Mosher and said that with these new methods of voting there may be an increased number of people voting if they do not need to drive an hour to vote at a physical polling station.

On motion of Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council recommended to implement alternative methods of voting with Intelivote eVoting Solution Inc. for the amount of \$2.45 per elector plus administration fees and HST for the 2020 Municipal Elections upon the approval of the Alternative Voting By-Law.

Recommendation adopted.

- Council discussed the possible dates for the first advanced poll either Thursday, October 8th, 2020 or Saturday October 10th, 2020.
- Council agreed that Saturday, October 10th, 2020 would be the best option giving those who work during the week an option to vote on the weekend.

On motion of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council recommended that Saturday October 10th, 2020 be the date for the first advance poll for the 2020 Municipal Elections.

Recommendation adopted.

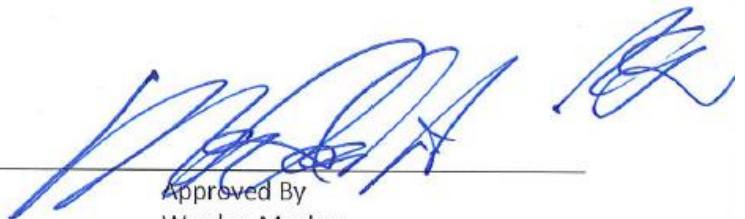
- Councillor Malloy asked if the advanced polls were alternative voting only. The Municipal Returning Officer relayed that it can be both alternative voting and paper ballot at a physical polling station if Council so chooses.

8. Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 7:58pm.



Recorded By
Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator



Approved By
Warden Mosher