



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting  
Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## 1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

## 2. Attending:

Warden Wier	Councillor Mailman
Deputy Warden Fuller	Councillor Malloy
Councillor Baker	Councillor Zinck
Councillor Harpell	

## Also Attending:

Marvin MacDonald, CAO  
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)  
Marissa Jordan, Municipal Clerk & Special Projects Coordinator

## 3. Additions to the Agenda:

- The DOF asked to add "2021 Tax Sale" to the agenda as item 9d.

## 4. Approval of the Agenda:

*On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller Council approved the agenda with the addition.*

***Motion approved.***

## 5. Approval of Minutes:

*On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

***Motion approved.***

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- No business arising.

## 7. Presentations:

### a. Port Bickerton & Area Planning Association:

- Mr. Donnie Dodge, and presented on behalf of the Port Bickerton & Area Planning Association regarding the Lighthouse Road and the condition of the road and how that affects travel to the Port Bickerton Lighthouse.
- The Association expressed concerned that if upgrades are not done to the road, the Port Bickerton Lighthouse Road will not be accessible to tourist or residents.
- The CAO stated that at one point the Association was looking at rerouting the road onto adjacent provincial land. The CAO said that the Province said that the land is designated park land and the CAO feels the process to reroute the road onto this land it would be a very onerous process.
- Mr. Dodge stated that the Association would like to generate a discussion to create a plan to upgrade and maintain this road so that the road continues to be accessible.

- Council asked if there are provincial funding options or opportunities that the Municipality and the Association could explore in order to assist in supporting this project financially.
- Three quotes from local contractors were obtained in 2018 and were approximately \$40-\$50,000 to become accessible and a smaller amount to maintain yearly.
- This year has been the best year yet for booking the cottage at the Port Bickerton Lighthouse which helps to offset their costs. The road right now is barely passable, and another strong storm may make this road impassible.
- Council will take this under consideration and look at the options to address the issue.

## **8. Correspondence:**

### a. Atlantic Gold:

- Council received correspondence from Dustin O’Leary with Atlantic Gold stating that they would be very interested in discussing ways to partner with the Municipality to provide donations to local groups in the St. Mary’s area. Mr. O’Leary suggested donating towards the Canada Day Fireworks.
- Council discussed the option of having Atlantic Gold sponsor the fireworks for Canada Day and pointed out that acceptance of a donation does not signify an endorsement of the company or the proposed mine.

*On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council agree to put in a proposal to Atlantic Gold to see if they will donate towards the Municipality’s Canada Day Fire Works display.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

### b. Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL):

- Council received correspondence from Laura Emery, CEO with ECRL announcing service reductions as part of the funding alignment process for the 2021/2022 budget year commencing April 2021.
- Council suggested that it may be a good option to invite Ms. Emery to a meeting of Council to have further discussion about the equity grant and local library hours and give council the opportunity to ask questions to help it their decision.

*On recommendation of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, that Council invite Ms. Emery, ECRL Chief Librarian, to a meeting of Council for further discussion of ECRL funding and local library hours.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

## **9. Other Matters of Business:**

### a. Public Participation Program Policy:

- A draft policy was presented by staff for Council’s consideration. The purpose of the policy is to establish an ample opportunity for public participation and notification for the adoption or amendment of planning documents as required by section 204 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA). This policy will empower the public through early involvement in the planning process and will ensure that Council is advised of public input.

*On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Zinck, that Council accept the Public Participation Program Policy as presented.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

b. Municipal Signing Authority:

- Staff recommended that an additional staff member be added as a signing authority for the Municipality. Council discussed and agreed.

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Councillor Harpell, that Council agree to add Municipal Clerk, Marissa Jordan, as an additional staff signing authority for the Municipality.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

c. Audit Committee- Community Representative:

- Council received an application from Debbie Findlay to serve as a member of the public on the Audit Committee.

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Baker, that Council send a thank you letter to Kevin Pye for his years of service as a public representative on the Municipal Audit Committee.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

*On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council accept the application of Debbie Findlay as the new public representative for the Municipal Audit Committee.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

d. 2021 Tax Sale:

- Director of Finance stated that the upcoming tax sale is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. After consulting the municipal solicitor, legal recommended the Municipality have a formal recommendation to hold it by sealed tender rather than a public auction like normal due to COVID-19 and restrictions to gathering limits. All bids would begin at the minimum amount owing for taxes and expense. There would be no reduced properties on this sale.

*On recommendation of Councillor Zinck and seconded by Councillor Harpell, that Council agree to hold the upcoming 2021 tax sale by sealed tender.*

**Recommendation adopted.**

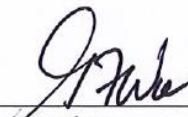
**10. Adjournment**

*On motion of Deputy Warden and seconded by Councillor Zinck there being no further matters of business, council adjourned at 7:52pm.*

**Motion approved.**



Recorded By  
Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator



Approved By  
Warden Wier