



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

All participants attended virtually using Microsoft Teams

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
Marissa Jordan, Municipal Clerk & Special Projects Coordinator

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- 7.b.- Correspondence- St. Mary's River Association
- 7.c.- Correspondence- ECRL Letter

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Harpell Council approved the agenda with additions.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held Wednesday, December 16th, 2020.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- No business arising.

7. Correspondence:

a. Gravel Road Program- Waternish Road:

- Council received correspondence from a resident expressing concern about the condition of Waternish Road and asking that it be put on the list for the provincial gravel road program.
- Council asked if there was a specific deadline for the gravel road program. The CAO stated that no there is no deadline, but construction season is fast approaching, so council should submit the list as soon as possible. Council agreed to add this item to the next COTW meeting to give councillors time to consider which roads should be suggestions to add to the Gravel Road Program for 2021/2022.

b. St. Mary's River Association:

- Council received a letter from Mr. Scott Beaver on behalf of the St. Mary's River Association expressing their disappointment in Council's decision to potentially accept a donation from Atlantic Gold for the St. Mary's Canada Day Fireworks.
- Mr. Beaver also asked for a new letter of support in designating the Sherbrooke River as a Heritage River.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agree to write a letter supporting the designation of Sherbrooke River as a Heritage River.

Recommendation adopted.

c. Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) Letter:

- Council received a letter from Shirley McNamara with ECRL in response to Council's letter regarding the changes in library funding and the lack of the required 12 months' notice. The letter stated that:
"the decision of the ECRL Board of Directors to change the service model, is not a decision of the Government of Nova Scotia, nor would a service model decision trigger this clause. In our view, the notice requirements of the MGA do not apply to this situation."
- Council discussed and agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Communities, Cultures, and Heritage and the Minister of Municipal Affairs to ask for clarification on the matter.

On motion of Councillor Mailman and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Communities, Cultures, and Heritage and the Minister of Municipal Affairs to ask for clarification on the ECRL portion of the 12 Months Letter.

Recommendation adopted.

8. Other Matters of Business:

a. Council Meeting-Dates/Times:

- Council discussed dates and times for upcoming meetings of council and agreed to move meeting times to 4:00pm for the next four months and the reassess as COVID restrictions change.

On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council agreed hold all council meetings at 4:00pm for the next four months on a trial basis.

Recommendation adopted.

b. NSFM Conference:

- Staff made Council aware of the upcoming Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) fall conference on November 3rd- November 5th, 2021 which will more likely be virtual. Council will discuss attendance closer to the date of the conference.

c. RCMP Services:

- Staff received correspondence from the NS Department of Justice informing the Municipality that they established the budget for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RMCP) services provided to the Municipality. Based on the level of service to St. Mary's, the costs allocated to the municipality will be \$513,390 for 2021/2022.
- This cost represents a 4.92% increase over the 2020/2021 cost for the same complement of officers. It is approximately \$19,000 more than what was budgeted for this fiscal. The Director of

Finance said that staff will keep an eye on other areas of the budget to ensure that the budget stays on track.

d. Non-Profit Organization Property Tax Exemption:

- A new application was received from the Women's Institute for Port Hilford and Indian Harbour Lake for the Non-Profit Organization Property Tax Exemption. The organization met all requirements under the policy.

On recommendation of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agreed to add the Port Hilford/Indian Harbour Lake Women's Institute to the Non-Profit Organization Property Tax Exemption schedule.

Recommendation adopted.

e. Department of Municipal Affairs-12-month letter:

- Staff provided council with the annual 12-month letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs for Council's information. The Director of Finance highlighted some main points.

On recommendation of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agreed to send a letter to the ECRL to inform them about the clarification letter to the Ministers and request an in-person meeting when COVID restrictions have been lifted.

Recommendation adopted.

f. ECRL- New Meeting Date:

- Due to the changes in the provincial COVID gathering restrictions over the last month, Council postponed the in-person meeting with ECRL's chief librarian, Ms. Laura Emery. Council expressed that a meeting in person would still be the best option when COVID restrictions allow.
- Council discussed alternative options for this meeting and decided to wait until clarification was received from both ministers on the matter of the 12 Month Letter.

On recommendation of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council agreed to send a letter to the ECRL to inform them about the clarification letter being sent to the Ministers and to request an in-person meeting when COVID restrictions have been lifted.

Recommendation adopted.

g. J-Class Roads:

- Council received a letter from Minister Lloyd Hines with the Department of Transportation and Active Transit regarding the Cost Hared Program for Paving J Class Streets. They received the Municipality's submission under the Cost Shared Program. Repaving of Main Street from Court Street to Trunk 7 (0.2km) was approved at a Cost Share Estimate of \$57,500.
- The CAO inquired if Council's request of Cameron Road could be done instead of Main Street, but it was indicated that the cost to repave Cameron Road exceeded the available funding for this year. It may be possible if other municipal units turn down their repaving options.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council agreed to proceed with the repaving of Main Street from Court Street to Trunk 7 (0.2km).

Recommendation adopted.

h. Heritage Property:

- Staff received a Heritage Property registration request from Mr. Ed Weir on behalf of the Sherbrooke Riverside Cemetery Association.
- The effect of registration in the Municipal Registry of Heritage Property is that no demolition or substantial alteration in the exterior appearance may be undertaken from the date of registration unless an application, in writing using Form HPBL-4, for permission is submitted to council and the application is granted with or without conditions.
- Council discussed and would like Staff to contact Mr. Weir to request more information regarding the reasoning for Sherbrooke Riverside Cemetery be registered as a Municipal Heritage Property.
- Council also discussed the de-registration of the Kirk United Church. The church has previously inquired about deregistration due to limitations for building renovations and the increased cost for insurance. Staff will contact the Kirk United Church and have them fill out a form to de-register the property.

i. In Camera Session- Tax Sale:

On motion of Councillor Malloy and seconded by Councillor Harpell, Council moved into an in-camera session for tax sale at 8:09pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Harpell and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council reconvened to regular session at 8:45pm.

Motion approved.

9. Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller there being no further matters of business, council adjourned at 8:46pm.

Motion approved.



Recorded By
Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator



Approved By
Warden Wier