

Minutes of the regular **Committee of the Whole** meeting held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 9:10 a.m., via ZOOM Video-Conference.

Roll Call

District 1 – Bruce Prout, present
District 2 - John A MacDonald, present
District 3 - Wayne Fowler, present
District 4 - Burt McNeil, present
District 5 - Gregory Heming, present
District 6 - Alex Morrison, present
District 7 – Warden Timothy Habinski, Chair, present
District 8 - Michael J Gunn, present
District 9 - Wendy Sheridan, present
District 10 – Deputy Warden Martha Roberts, present
District 11 - Diane LeBlanc, present

Also Present: CAO John Ferguson, Municipal Clerk Carolyn Young, other staff (A. Dunphy, S. McInnis, D. Campbell, H. Orde, W. Atwell, J. Young, D. Ryan)

Approval of the Agenda (Order of the Day)

Upon motion of Councillors LeBlanc and Heming, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Councillor Fowler moved, seconded by Councillor MacDonald, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Committee of the Whole held March 10, 2020, as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

In-Camera

Councillor MacDonald moved, seconded by Councillor Sheridan, to meet *in-camera* via telephone conferencing from 9:10 a.m. until 10:22 a.m. in accordance with Section 22(2)(e) contract negotiations of the *Municipal Government Act*. Motion carried unanimously.

Recess

The Warden declared a brief recess from 10:22 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

New Business

Re: RFD Renew Animal Control Contract Town of Middleton

It was moved by Deputy Warden Roberts, second by Councillor MacDonald, to recommend that Municipal Council authorize the Warden and Municipal Clerk to sign a three-year contract for animal control with the Town of Middleton ending March 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: RFD Margaretsville VFD Request to Withdraw \$30,000 from Fire Capital Reserve

Councillor MacDonald moved, seconded by Councillor Gunn, to recommend that Municipal Council authorize the withdrawal of \$30,000 from the Fire Services Capital Reserve to the Margaretsville & District Volunteer Fire Department in the 2020-2021 fiscal year to complete the refurbishment of the rescue unit and new mobile radios. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: 2020-21 Draft Operating Budget – The Director of Finance reviewed the proposed, balanced, draft budget page by page, answering any questions as they arose.

LUNCH

A brief break was held for lunch from 12:03 p.m. -12:30 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Heming, to recommend that municipal council approve the proposed balanced budget as presented. Motion carried, 9 in favour, 2 against.

• *The Levying and Collection of the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year 2020-21*

Councillor Heming moved, seconded by Councillor Morrison, to recommend that Municipal Council authorize the levy and collection of the 2020/21 taxes based upon rates of \$1.015 residential and \$1.80 commercial per \$100 of assessment; with a due date of June 30, 2020, after which interest will be charged at the rate of 12% per annum. Motion carried unanimously.

• *Collection of Area Rates*

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Sheridan, to recommend to Municipal Council that the area rates for streetlights, fire hydrants, paving, sidewalks and other specified rates be approved as presented for the 2020/21 fiscal year; in accordance with section 75 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the area rate shall apply to the residential, commercial, resource, and business occupancy assessment in the area. Motion carried unanimously.

• *Quarterly Review of Budget For Consideration*

Councillor Sheridan moved, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc, to recommend that municipal council review the budget quarterly, compare with the previous year, to determine the possibility of transferring funds to a reserve, and/or to look at items council was unable to fund in the budget, in order to make a one-time decision. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Capital Funding Request

• *Oil Tank Replacements*

It was moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Councillor Heming, to recommend that municipal council authorize an expenditure of \$15,000 for the replacement of furnace oil tanks at the Municipal Administration Building Annapolis Royal, the Bridgetown Municipal Building, the Granville Ferry Operations Yard, and the Bridgetown Operations Yard, with \$6,500 to come from the Bridgetown Letter of intent Reserve and \$7,500 from the County Operational Reserve. Motion carried unanimously.

• *J-Class Road Repaving*

Councillor Morrison moved, seconded by Councillor Gunn, to recommend that municipal council fund the County share of the Provincial J-Class road repaving of \$340,000, representing 50% of the estimated capital cost for the repaving of the identified roads in Clementsport and Granville Ferry, to come from the Gas Tax Reserve.

The warden left the zoom room from 3:57 – 4:01 p.m. and Deputy Warden Roberts sat as Chair.

The question was called on the motion. Motion carried 8 in favour, 3 against.

Adjournment

The Deputy Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m. as the Warden had lost connection.

Warden

Municipal

draft
Clerk

**Direction of the Minister
under a Declared State of Emergency**
(Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*, the *Municipal Government Act*, and *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*)

During the Provincial State of Emergency declared on March 22, 2020, and under the authority provided to me in Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*, in addition to any other directives I have issued, and as Minister of all municipalities, I direct all municipalities and villages in the Province, including the Halifax Regional Municipality, to:

1. **Effective at 2 pm on March 22, 2020**, discontinue holding their meetings in person, instead only virtual meetings may be held by video or telephone. Those virtual meetings must be recorded, and the minutes posted on a public website within 24 hours of the meeting.

Despite this direction, municipalities and villages are still authorized to continue making other operational decisions especially those required for service delivery.

Please note that these directions are in addition to any requirements established in a Medical Officer's order under the *Health Protection Act*.

A failure to comply with this direction could result in a summary conviction with fines between \$500 to \$10,000 for individuals and up to \$100,000 for a corporation per incident.

This direction will remain in place for the duration of the Provincial State of Emergency unless it is terminated in writing by me earlier.

Dated March 22, 2020.



Hon. Chuck Porter
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing