



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Place: Conducted through Teleconferencing per the authority provided by direction by the Minister of Municipal Affairs while under a State of Emergency on March 22, 2020.

Date: Monday, April 6, 2020

Presiding Officer: Mayor Patricia Stewart

Councillors Present: Councillors Brenton Colborne, Dave Clark, Dawn Thompson, Rick Draper and Wade Adshade.

Regrets: Wendy Sweet-Kontuk

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff present: CAO - Rachel Jones and Deputy Clerk - Linda Cloney (recording secretary)

1. Call to Order

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for April 6, 2020 be approved.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Committee of the Whole – 2 March 2020

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the previous Committee of the Whole Meeting dated March 2, 2020 be approved.

Motion Carried

4. New Business

4.1 Building Assessment Report

Council had a general discussion regarding the Building Assessment Report submitted by Peter Smith RPA PMP with Eagle Project Management Inc.

- Three properties were reviewed: Town Hall, Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club and the Knights of Pythias Hall.
- The maintenance issues that were identified at the Town Hall will be considered for Capital Improvement with Council. The roof and the HVAC have been identified as the most concerning issues for the Town Hall.
- In a future zoom platform meeting Council would like to discuss the Debt Affordability Model and the Building Assessment Report. CAO Jones will invite Paul Wills, CEO/Treasurer for Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation and Peter Smith, RPA PMP with Eagle Project Management Inc.
- Concerns were expressed by Council that the Dog Groomer business is still open.
- CAO Jones will share the Building Assessment Report with the Knights of Pythias.

4.2 RFD #006-2020 Alternative Voting Bylaw

It was moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to give first reading of Bylaw #01-2020, Alternative Voting Bylaw.

Motion Carried

4.3 COVID-19 Response Planning and Discussion: Update on NSFM Zoom Meeting: billings, payments, waived and/or deferred payments

Mayor Stewart and CAO Jones did participate virtually in a COVID-19 response planning and discussion to talk about an overall response by the Province to assist municipalities and their residents with respect to upcoming property tax billings.

Broader issues discussed from all municipalities were on tax billings, payments, waived and/or deferred payments.

A definition of waived payments is that the rate payer will not be charged. The Town refrains from applying or enforcing fees.

A definition of deferred payment is that the rate payer does not have to pay now. The rate payer will have to pay it later and interest charges may still apply.

Currently, municipalities do not have the authority to defer taxation payments but do have the authority to change their due dates as expressed in municipal policies.

Council have directed staff to proceed with the tax billings as set out in the Tax & Water Collection Policy.

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. In Camera – Personnel

At 6:27 pm, it was moved and seconded to go in-camera to discuss personnel.

Motion Carried

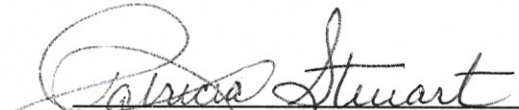
At 6:55 pm, it was moved and seconded to come out of in-camera and resume the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion Carried

7. Adjournment

At 6:55 pm, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried


Patricia Stewart, Mayor


Linda Cloney, Recording Secretary