

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
February 25, 2020

Present:

Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh, Chair
Councillor Barry Corbin
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Jane Bustin
Councillor Mike Trinacty
Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer
Karen Peckford, Director of Finance
Tim Harding, Public Works
Debbie Elliott, Recreation & Community Development
Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

Absent with Regrets:

Mayor Don Clarke
Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton
Laurie Saunders, BDVFD

In Attendance:

Pat Jodrie
George Floris
Shane Spicer

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the Agenda as circulated, with the following additions:

Public Participation Update – Community Land Trust

Berwick Gala Days – Tent purchase

Tax Exemption and Reductions – Berwick & District Nursery School

Returning Officer Appointment

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The January, 2020 COTW Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Departmental Reports

a.RCMP

Sgt. Ryan Kelly's reports were reviewed by the committee. Mr. Payne highlighted the importance of crosswalk safety – not only for drivers but for pedestrians.

b. Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Saunders was unavailable for the meeting. Deputy Mayor Walsh noted that there are 4 new volunteer members at the BDVFD and staff should send out congratulatory cards to the new members.

c. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by the committee.

Mr. Harding highlighted some potholes are beginning to appear but is really no earlier than other years. Using cold pack to fill same.

d. Community Development and Recreation

Ms. Elliott's report was reviewed by Council and noted that the Lifelong Learning session was full to capacity and very successful. We look forward to hosting more in the future on various topics.

Discussion ensued with regard to the Recreation Needs Assessment. Council has asked that Ms. Elliott include further information on this issue including the mandate of the new Needs Assessment Committee.

e. Finance

Ms. Peckford reviewed her reports and noted that the following proposed budget timeline:

Tuesday, March 17 – 1st Draft Review

April 8 – 2nd Draft Review

April 28 COTW – Final Review and Recommendation to Council

May 12 – Final approval of Budget

Council asked if Ms. Peckford could send out the debt summary report. She will do this.

f. CAO:

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council indicating a very busy month. Discussion ensued with regard to doctor recruitment.

g. Bylaw Officer Report

Ella Redden noted she has dealt with 13 issues since her last report and has met with other bylaw officers on enforcement, etc.

5. New Business

a. Amendments to Remuneration and Expenses of Council, Committees, Boards, and Agencies Policy

The committee reviewed the amendments to the policy, which were merely updates to the current information. The final draft will go to March Council for approval.

b. BEC Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Finance recommends that Council approve the TBR 20/21-1 in the amount of \$250,000 for the Berwick Electric Commission power transformer. This will go to March Council.

c. Municipal Finance Corporation Spring 2020 Debenture

Finance Department recommends to Council the pre-approval of a debenture in the amount of \$788,000, not exceeding a term of 15 years, and subject to a maximum interest rate that does not exceed 5.5%. This will go before March Council.

d. Tax Write Off for Property – C. Chapman AAN713287

Finance recommends that Council write off the outstanding balance of \$488.46 for tax account AAN713287 in the name of Charles Chapman.

This motion will go before March Council.

e. Community Land Trust Public Participation Public Consultation Update

Council recommends that the Committee have a debrief with regard to the Public Participation meeting and decide next steps.

f. Tent Purchase from Berwick Gala Days

Berwick Gala Days Committee has an opportunity to buy a festival tent for \$7500 – the cost of a new one is approximately \$22k. The tent is 8 years old.

The committee is requesting that the Town purchase the tent for Berwick Gala Days and the BGC will reimburse the Town no later than September 30, 2020.

Council has asked staff to confirm: insurance/liability on a tent owned by the BGC for a public event on town property, Public Works role, if any, in installation of the tent, and is the Town allowed to loan money to the committee?

g. Tax Exemption and Reductions – Berwick and District Nursery School

Deputy Mayor Walsh noted that the BDNS is not receiving a total tax exemption from the Town and feels it should be.

Council has asked staff to review the Bylaw with a Fall timeline on any proposed amendments.

h. Returning Officer Appointment

Mr. Payne asked Council to appoint him as the Returning Officer for the 2020 Municipal Election for the Town of Berwick.

Janet Small and Chantal Pineo will act as assistants to the Returning Officer.

This motion will go before March Council.

6. Councillor's Round Table

Councillor Bustin:

- Update on Community Development Committee – Community members are: Heather Wilson, Carol White and Heather Morse
- Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board Update – Users are up 19.62% in Berwick

Councillor Reeves:

Continues to work with Jennifer Holleman and the Berwick School to organize a presentation on Human Trafficking.

Councillor Trinacty:

- Hall of Fame Deadline for nominees is the end of February
- Women's Russia hockey team may practice out of the KMCC during tournament
- May 21st – Volunteer Day
- Trail Planning

- KMCC meeting for the roof over the riding ring

Councillor Corbin:

- Annapolis Valley Trails Meeting
- Valley Waste Board Meeting – new budget has been drafted, called “2020 Vision”

Councillor Walsh:

- Listed numerous meetings and events he has attended this past month
- Noted Kings Transit ridership is up 16.5% with a 13% revenue increase
- Reminded Council that NSFAM is coming up the first of May

Ms. Elliott reminded the committee that the Women of Excellence Awards are coming up in June and asked for direction from Council if the Town could purchase tickets in support of the event. Council agreed that 4 tickets can be purchased.

7. In Camera (Property, Personnel and Legal)

The Regular COTW entered into an In Camera Session at 9:03pm and re-entered into Regular COTW at 10:10pm.

8. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 10:11pm.