

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
January 28, 2020

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke
Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh
Councillor Barry Corbin
Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton
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
Laurie Saunders, BDVFD (left after report)
Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

Absent with Regrets:

In Attendance:

Heather Killen, Saltwire
Pat Jodrie
George Floris
Pam Lutz

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Correspondence

Early Polling Date for Municipal Election

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The November, 2019 COTW Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Departmental Reports

a.RCMP

Sgt. Ryan Kelly's reports were reviewed by the committee. Mr. Payne noted that some of the break and enter stats were outside of the town limits, the ones that were in town were shed entries and the theft of things like gas.

b. Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Saunders reviewed his report and noted this past month has been very busy with alarms. As well, there is an increase of membership interest and they will be conducting interviews this month to hopefully get some new members on board.

c. Public Works

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

Mr. Harding highlighted the department as been busy with snow clearing, salting and sanding.

d. Community Development and Recreation

Ms. Elliott's report was reviewed by Council and noted that the website construction is now ramping up and hope to have something to show Council soon.

e. Finance

Ms. Peckford reviewed her reports and noted that Anna Schofield will take over payroll processing from Andrew Kerper upon approval of the new service provider.

f. CAO:

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council indicating a very busy month. Mr. Payne highlighted that he will be working with Management and Council to develop draft operational and capital budgets for 2020-21.

g. Bylaw Officer Report

Ella Redden noted she has been very busy in the bylaw department and highlighted she has had 94 complaints from mid-July to December, 2019.

5. Ongoing Business

a. Update from Community Land Trust Committee

There will be a Public Consultation Meeting on February 18th at 7:30pm to receive input from the public on interest concerning a Community Land Trust Housing initiative.

b. South Street Property – Tax Write Off

Ms. Peckford recommends to the committee that Council write-off the outstanding balance of \$21,950.82 for tax account AAN02387867 in the name of Alta G. Taylor. This will go before February Council.

6. New Business

a. Group Benefits

Ms. Peckford recommends to the committee that Council approve an update to the Group Benefits Policy section on 'Payments of Premiums for Employee Benefits' to state:

The Town will pay 100% of the premium for the life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment. The premium is a taxable benefit to the employee and will be taxed as such.

The employee will pay 100% of the premium for long term disability insurance.

The Town and employee will cost share the extended health and dental benefit premiums, with 57% of the premiums paid by the Town and 43% of the premiums paid by the employee.

After some discussion, Councillor Trinacty asked that Ms. Peckford prepare a cost comparison for February Council.

b. Payroll Providers

Ms. Peckford recommends to the Committee that Council approves the hiring of Deluxe Payroll as their payroll provider. This will result in an initial savings of approximately \$8300.00. This recommendation will go before February Council.

c. Temporary Borrowing Resolution 2019-20-4

It was recommended to Committee of the Whole that Council approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution 2019/20-04 in the amount of \$156,000 for the lift station electrical panel, the sewer pond and the sidewalks.

This recommendation will go before February Council.

d. Early Polling Date

It was suggested by the Municipality of the County of Kings Municipal Elections Advisory Committee that an attempt be made to coordinate the date of the 'other' advance polling day with the Towns of Berwick, Kentville and Wolfville to provide consistency and clarity to voters.

Primarily due to the fact that October 10th falls on Thanksgiving Weekend, and many citizens may be away, the Town of Kentville, Town of Wolfville and the County of Kings will be recommending October 8th, the ninth day before ordinary polling day.

COTW recommends to Council that the second advanced polling date for the Town of Berwick is October 8, 2020. This will go before February Council.

7. Mayors Report:

Mayor Clarke highlighted various events he has attended over the last two weeks.

Future events:

- Doctor Recruitment Event – January 31st
- REN Liason Meeting – February 4th
- Council Meeting – February 11th

8. Council Round Table

Councillor Corbin:

- Update on Valley Waste
- Trails meeting on the 30th at 1pm
- Welcomed Flower Shop to the Town of Berwick
- Suggested an accolade to Stewart and Turner as the office is closing in the near future.

Councillor Trinacty:

- Update on Sports Hall of Fame (June 13)
- KMCC Quarterly Meeting
- Trails Clean Up/Fix Up Day May 21st

Councillor Reeves:

- In discussion with Jennifer Holleman to have her present on Human Trafficking

Councillor Ashford-Morton:

- Gala Days update

Deputy Mayor Walsh:

- Attended Kings Transit Funding Announcement and gave KT update
- Equilibrium signing
- Took part in the Christmas Lights Judging

Councillor Bustin:

- Community Development Committee Update – need to pick citizen members

9. In Camera (Property, Personnel and Legal)

The Regular COTW entered into an In Camera Session at 7:48pm and re-entered into Regular COTW at 9:26pm.

10. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.