

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Via WebEx virtual meetings
March 23, 2021

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke
Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh, Chair
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Mike Trinacty
Councillor Adam Lutz
Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer
Tim Harding, Public Works
Karen Peckford, Director of Finance
Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

In Attendance: Pam Lutz
Pat Jodrie
Johanna Kwakernaak
Ashley Thompson, Saltwire

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

- *Correspondence: Mary Walsh*

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous COTW Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Departmental Reports

a.RCMP

The RCMP report was reviewed by the committee. Mr. Payne highlighted there were 38 traffic violations in the Town of Berwick during February.

b.Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

The committee reviewed the BDVFD report. No questions of same.

c.Active Living

The committee reviewed the report. Discussion ensued with regard to the purchase of the new playground equipment and public consultation regarding same. Policy of Committee Structure will come to Council for approval.

d. Recreation Programing

Ms. Boylan's report was reviewed by the Committee. Mayor Clarke thanked Councillor Walsh and Taylor Boylan for their work with 'Holidays and Recognition Events guidelines. Some of the newly added holidays/events will be recognized through flag raising, proclamations and/or social media.

f. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed. Discussion ensued with regard to Leaf and Brush Fall/Spring pickups. Mr. Harding explained that the service takes up much staff time and resources and suggested to perhaps replace the pick-up service with a drop off bin at Public Works. A revised model would free up employees to spend more time and attention on other duties. Council supported limiting the pick-up service to two weeks only, each season, limiting the amount of material and offering a drop off site as well..

g. Fitness Centre

Ms. Peckford noted that the new methods of payment being offered starting April 1st should entice new memberships which will be positive for the center's revenue.

h. CAO Report

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. Mr. Payne thanked Ms. Peckford and Mr. Harding for all their hard work with the CUPE contract negotiations.

5. Ongoing Business

a. Budget 2021/22 Presentation

Ms. Peckford offered a presentation on the 2021/22 Operating and Capital Budgets.

- Police, Insurance and AREA numbers are not in yet
- Mayor Clarke asked if the Town should insist on the traditional BEC dividend, Karen explained that she does not feel that would be good for BEC.
- Going forward Council would like to consider appealing some commercial property assessments and also look at reviewing a tax structure for home operated businesses.

Council (and citizens who joined the meeting) thanked Ms. Peckford for all of her work with the challenging budget and felt her presentation of same was easy to understand.

6. Mayor/Councillors Updates

a. Councillor Goddard – the committee reviewed the submitted report.

b. Councillor Trinacty – added there is good work proceeding with affordable housing for youth and broader demographics though the Housing Committee. More information to come.

c. Mayor Clarke – Mayor Clarke highlighted the meetings and events he has partaken in the last two weeks and also noted the following upcoming dates:

BEC – March 25

Planning Advisory – March 29

Luncheon at 14 Wing Greenwood – March 31
Council Meeting = April 13

Mayor Clarke read a Thank You card from Mary Walsh sent to the Town in honor of a donation that was made in her husband, Mr. Fred Walsh's, memory.

8. In Camera Session (Contractual/Legal)

The Regular COTW entered into an In Camera Session at 8:07pm and re-entered into Regular COTW at 8:40pm.

9. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.