

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Via WebEx virtual meetings
January 25, 2022

Present:

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

Absent with regrets: Karen Peckford, Director of Finance

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

- Kings Region Diversity IMSA
- Correspondence

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. No questions of the report.

b.Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Luke Redden submitted his report. No questions of same.

c.Active Living

The committee reviewed the report. No questions.

d. Recreation Programing

There were no questions of the Recreation Department report.

e. Economic Development

Ms. Verrette's report was reviewed. Councillor Trinacty asked if staff were going to send the RFP for the box cars to specific contractors. Mr. Payne will initiate this and will send to all of Council for them to distribute as they wish, as well.

The Expression of Interest should include the potential for a business. Meanwhile staff will contact the Province with regard to a specific ask for the possibility of rezoning the area where the box cars sit to incorporate commercial use.

f. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by Council. No questions.

g. Finance

Ms. Peckford's report was reviewed by Council. Discussion ensued with regard to the potential of a healthy surplus and Council's interest that it is placed in reserves.

h. CAO Report

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. Discussion ensued with regard to a potential project/planning document with Ducks Unlimited and the Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed Alliance. Council expressed support for the project and an interest in the development of a trail, that would require support of several private land owners. A trail could extend from the rear of B&DVFD east behind the PW/BEC property all the way down to the Community Solar garden off Willow Avenue. Work continues on this exciting potential project.

5. New Business:

a. Snow and Ice Control Draft Policy

Mr. Payne reviewed the revised Snow and Ice Control Draft Policy with Council. If Council has any revisions they would like to see made to the draft, to please forward them to staff. This motion for approval will go to February Council.

b. Kings Region Diversity IMSA Discussion

Mayor Clarke reviewed that there has been interest within the municipalities in Kings region to partner with the County and the Town's to strike a Kings Region Diversity IMSA.

There have previously been discussions with regard to this matter at the Town of Berwick Council table with little support for a variety of reasons.

The County is suggesting a model such as REMO, that the County would host the organization, with two full-time employees, etc. The formula would be that the four municipalities each contribute an equal share of \$8,550.00 then an additional amount based on Uniform Residential/Commercial Assessment. Berwick's contribution would be approximately \$15,000.00 annually for the life of the proposed five year agreement.

After considerable discussion, Council agreed that Town staff, together with Councillor Walsh, do great work with supporting diversity in our Town, that has been challenged by the limitations of the pandemic. We also have two highly interested citizens who are members of our Community Development Committee and who sit on the existing Kings Region Diversity Committee. All Council members expressed concerns with regard to the funding formula's 'equal share' component and feel that a small Town like Berwick should not have the same upfront costs as a unit the size of the County. 100% funding based on Uniform

Residential/Commercial Assessment would be a more equitable funding model for any regional partnership. At any rate Council will not support the Kings Region Diversity IMSA at this time. This motion will go to February Council.

c. Correspondence:

Mayor Clarke and Mr. Payne reviewed correspondence from the NS Department of Justice regarding the Town of Wolfville's request for a Policing Review for the Town of Wolfville. The Towns of Berwick and Wolfville, as well as the Municipality of the County of Kings, all partner in Kings District RCMP.

Mayor Clarke read, in part, a letter from Michelle Larsen of the Berwick Curling Club, thanking the Town of Berwick for their support in a very successful Scotties Tournament in December.

6. Mayor/Councillors Reports

a. Mayor Clarke

Mayor Clarke highlighted the following upcoming dates:

Community Development Meeting – January 27th

Valley REN Meeting – January 27th

Housing Meeting – February 1st

Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) - TBA

Councillor Trinacty also noted that the Pro Basketball League coming to the KMCC has postponed the upcoming season due to COVID-19, but are very excited about and planning for the Spring 2023 season.

7. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.