

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Via WebEx virtual meetings**

**February 22, 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

Karen Peckford, Director of Finance

Tim Harding, Director of Public Works (left early)

Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

Kimberly Halliday, MPAL

In attendance: Joan Levack, Accessibility Committee

**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:

- Councillor Trinacty Update on Community Development and Housing
- Councillor Jamieson Update on Valley Waste

**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. The committee asked staff to inquire about the "suspicious person" issue in the report.

*b. Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department*

No questions of same.

*c. Active Living*

The committee reviewed the report. Ms. Halliday explained the Blue Trail concept.

*d. Recreation Programing*

There were no questions of the Recreation Department report. CAO confirmed that Ms. Boylan's maternity leave position has been filled by Natalie Palmer and she will begin on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

*e. Economic Development*

Ms. Verrette's report was reviewed. No questions by committee.

*f. Public Works*

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by Council. Mr. Harding highlighted that the street potholes are a huge issue and will most likely require an increase in his budget for patching and paving.

*g. CAO Report*

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. No questions of same.

**5. New Business:**

*a. Public Works and BEC Restructuring*

Mr. Payne reviewed this report which proposes BEC and the Town would cost share a new position called The Director of Municipal Works. The Director of Public Works position would not be reclassified until the retirement of the incumbent. The cost share would be 70% BEC and 30% PW until such retirement and thereafter cost shared at 50%/50%. This position will positively impact address the management needs of BEC and PW.

This motion will go before March Council.

*b. Draft Accessibility Plan*

Ms. Halliday and Ms. Levack introduced and explained the Town of Berwick 2022 Accessibility Plan.

Council noted their gratitude for the hard work on a document so well done.

This document will strengthen the Town's asks for grant opportunities across the board. The committee will continue to meet to strive for accessibility advocacy and regularly evaluate the Town's progress in achieving the benchmarks laid out in the plan.

The document will go to March Council for approval. It has been reviewed at the legislative level to confirm it meets provincial requirements. Council will be bound by the commitments in the document upon approval.

## **6. Ongoing Business**

### a. *(Revised) Snow and Ice Control Policy (Information only)*

Mr. Payne noted that the requested revisions have been made to the Snow and Ice Control Policy.

## **7. Mayor/Councillors Reports**

### a. Mayor Clarke

Mayor Clarke discussed BEC issues – generator set up, vehicle chargers and a productive meeting with Don Regan, Minister John Lohr and MLA Chris Palmer regarding potential changes to the Electricity Act..

### Councillor Jamieson

Updated Council regarding Valley Waste's inclination to keep the existing surplus in their own reserves for an equipment reserve/replacement, subject to municipal approval. Valley Waste will be forwarding this request to the partners in the near future.

Ms. Peckford highlighted that the town's share of the surplus should come back to the town for our own reserves as opposed to it sitting in the VW reserves.

### Councillor Trinacty

Community Development update – in the midst of an exercise of prioritizing 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and asked if Council or staff has any ideas to please forward them along to him.

Housing Committee Update – the property behind Town Hall has been found by our planning department to pose a number of significant challenges for a potential housing development. The committee will now concentrate on Land Use Bylaw amendments to promote the development of additional housing opportunities.

## **7. Adjournment**

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.