

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

April 26, 2022

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke

Deputy Mayor Mike Trinacty

Councillor Derrick Jamieson

Councillor Rod Reeves

Councillor Chris Goddard

Councillor Ty Walsh

Brittany Brydon, MPAL

Katie Verrette, Economic Development

Lisa Buchan, Director of Finance

Tim Harding, Director of Public Works (left early)

Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

Present:

Wayne F. St-Amour

Absent with regrets:

Councillor Adam Lutz

Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer

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:

- 2 In Camera Sessions (Personnel, Contractual)

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous COTW Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. In Camera (Contractual)

The regular Committee of the Whole meeting entered into an In-Camera Session at 6:34pm and returned to regular Committee of the Whole at 7:06pm

5. Departmental Reports

a.RCMP

The RCMP report was reviewed by the committee. There were no questions of the report.

b. Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

Councillor Jamieson asked what the capital project status is. Staff will follow up.

c. Active Living

The committee reviewed the report.

Councillor Walsh noted that he has received comments regarding the after-school program fee perhaps being increased by \$5 a day.

Ms. Verrette indicated that the increase would still put the fee much less than other full time after school programs. It was also noted that this increase is a budget item and has not yet been approved by Council. Council requested that staff collect data on various programs (government funded) and fee comparisons.

d. Recreation Programming

There were no questions of the Recreation Department report.

e. Economic Development

Ms. Verrette's report was reviewed. Ms. Verrette offered an update on the Box Cars indicating a request for information is going forward to the Province regarding the Town's interest to purchase the land where the Box Cars currently sit on Mill Street (adjacent trail lands).

Ms. Verrette will schedule a date this week for the Economic Development/Business Breakfast at the Lions Hall.

Staff are still awaiting a quote on the card lock system for the Fitness Centre.

f. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by Council. Mr. Harding highlighted that work is challenging right now with some staff out due to the pandemic.

It was noted that the sign at Spicer Park is crooked and was asked of PW to please fix this.

g. CAO Report

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. No questions of same. Mr. Payne is away on holidays and was unavailable for the meeting.

6. Planning Advisory Recommendations

Council reviewed the recommendations coming from April PAC. These will go to May Council for approval.

7. New Business:

a. Public Open Space Policy

Council reviewed the Public Open Space Policy. Mayor Clarke indicated that if there are not issues with same, Council will approve at May Council.

b. Facility & Rental Protocols & Fees

Council and Staff reviewed Facility Rental Fee Structure and Rental Agreement Plan.

It was suggested that the hourly rate for the Multi-Purpose Room be placed in the Plan (\$20 per hour).

Discussion ensued with regard to rental payments of the facilities and how they are processed/kept track of. While recreation staff explained that there is a very good system now between finance and the recreation department with regard to keeping track of the fees it was suggested by Ms. Buchan that you "pay as you play". All fees be paid up front before the rental takes place, therefore there is no "chasing" to have invoices paid which results in much less work for staff.

Ms. Brydon noted she will take both of these points back to Ms. Palmer for review and amendments to the Plan.

c. Regional Agricultural Technology Accelerator

Mr. St-Amour attended COTW and gave a presentation on the Regional Agricultural Technology Accelerator. It was explained that this would provide technology entrepreneurs to bring agricultural issues that can be resolved by existing or customized technology.

To have this located within the Town affords an opportunity to leverage Berwick's development goals. There is an opportunity to integrate with the solar project to use advanced techniques and technologies for the energy requirements for greenhouse tunnels. The initiative could leverage the Town's fiber network and energy management goals.

Council is very enthusiastic about this initiative with the hope and intentions of making a motion at May Council to support this proposal in principle.

d. Fire Services Contract

Council has reviewed the Fire Services contract. The draft has gone through several iterations and extensive consultation with the Commission and the BDVFD. The draft contract has their support.

Mayor Clarke asked that if Council has any questions or concerns to please contact Mr. Payne before May Council where there will be a motion to accept if there is no opposition.

8. Mayor Report

Mayor Clarke

- Presentation of the Star's Program (REN) at the KMCC on April 27 from 6:30-8:30pm
May 4-6 – NSFIM Conference

9. In Camera Session

The regular Committee of the Whole meeting entered into an In-Camera Session at 8:59pm and returned to regular Committee of the Whole at 9:09pm

10. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.