

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

May 24, 2022

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Adam Lutz
Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer
Lisa Buchan, Director of Finance
Tim Harding, Director of Public Works (left early)
Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

Present:

Pam Lutz
Pat Jodrie
George Floris
Jen Boyd

Absent with regrets:

Councillor Jamieson
Deputy Mayor Trinacty

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:

- Valley Waste TBR Approval
- Rainforth Park Playground Improvements
- NSFM Survey
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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 confirmed that the Royal Bank robbery suspects have been arrested and charged.

b.Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

No questions of report. Councillor Walsh noted his appreciation for both Laurie Saunders and Dianne Ashton's many years of service with the department.

c. Active Living

The committee reviewed the report.

Discussion ensued regarding the garden areas in front of various businesses on Commercial Street. It was noted that these areas are private property of the business owner. Ms. Verrette will follow up with these businesses to encourage ongoing maintenance of these areas and perhaps suggest a party who can help with this.

d. Recreation Programing

There were no questions of the Recreation Department report.

e. Economic Development

No questions of same.

f. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by Council. Mr. Harding highlighted it is a busy time for the Public Works department.

g. CAO Report

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. No questions of same. Mr. Payne's last working day will be June 23rd.

5. Correspondence

a. Municipal Affairs and Housing Office of the Minister
Mayor Clarke reviewed this correspondence with Council.

6. New Business:

a. Review Number of Councillors

The MGA requires the Town to conduct a review of the number of Councillors every eight years. This review must be completed in 2022. Staff are suggesting the following:

- Staff will offer an online survey to be broadcast across all social media channels and the Town's website
- Staff will hold a Public Information Meeting and advertise broadly

The acceptance of the above will go before June Council.

b. Police Services Advisory Committee Recommendation Report

The Police Services Advisory Committee passed a motion recommending that the Town Council consider a review of policing services.

Mayor Clarke reviewed Mr. Payne's report and stats. Councillor Walsh asked where the FCM is at with their review of the retroactive portion of costs as of 2017 related to the RCMP's latest Collective Agreement. Mayor Clarke has not been informed of an update on this.

Mayor Clarke noted that Municipal Police Force costs have gone up significantly as well.

Some gallery members explained their preference for municipal policing.

A motion will go to June Council.

c. Patching and Paving Tender

Mr. Harding reviewed the tender results and recommends Council accept the tender from Howard Little Excavating.

This will go to June Council.

d. Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority - TBR

The Authority has determined to borrow \$2,105,100 for capital projects. The Town's Guarantee Share Amount is \$72,205. Council will approve at its June meeting.

e. Rainforth Park Playground Improvements

Councillor Walsh spoke to the improvement project for Rainforth Park and noted that many community members feel the playground needs to be modernized, have improved equipment, better location (closer to the Splash Pad and away from the street, better programming and visibility for parents if playground and splash pad were all in one area).

A committee will be struck for fundraising endeavors to assist the Town with costs.

The committee will look to Council for support and will engage community for feedback.

f. NSFM Membership Survey to Support the Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review Committee

Council will respond to this survey in the near future. Time was limited at this meeting.

7. Ongoing Business

a.F2023 Budgets and Financials

Much discussion ensued with regard to the Operating Budget which will go for approval at the June Council Meeting.

Mayor Clarke asked Council to think about the following:

- a. Increase/No increase to the After-School Program*
- b. Transfer funds from reserves*
- c. Are there other areas Council could propose to increase revenues?*
- d. 5 cent or 2.5 cent tax increase per \$100 of residential assessment*

Mayor Clarke highlighted that the Town does have increased reserves as a result of some one-time funding initiatives last year that include doubling of the Gas Tax and Community Capacity Building funds and the pandemic related Safe Restart funds. The AREA dividend was more than we anticipated as well.

Council is satisfied with the proposed Capital Budget.

Councillor Walsh noted he very much liked Ms. Buchan's budget report format.

8.Mayor Report

Future dates:

- Valley REN May 26th
- Saunders and Ashton Appreciation event May 30th

9.In Camera Session (Contractual/Personnel)

The regular Committee of the Whole meeting entered into an In-Camera Session at 8:10pm and returned to regular Committee of the Whole at 8:45pm

10. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.