



Regular Meeting of Council (held via Virtual Video Conferencing)

October 14, 2020

PRESENT

Warden Jim D. Smith
Deputy Warden Michael Perry

Councillors: Cecil Dixon Elie Moussa
Wayne Greene Keith Rhyno
Eldon Hebb Eleanor Roulston
Stephen King Heather Smith
Pam MacInnis

REGRETS/ABSENT

STAFF

Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Kate Friars, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
Ms. Sue Surrette, Director of Finance
Ms. Jody MacArthur, Communications Officer
Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Systems
Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
Ms. Tutu Erikitola, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Smith respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in the Ancestral Unceded Territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION

A moment of silent contemplation was observed.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

C20(270) On the motion of Councillors Moussa and Dixon:
October ***Moved that the Agenda be approved as presented.***

APPROVAL & SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

C20(271) On the motion of Councillors King and Dixon:
October ***Moved that the minutes of the September 15th and September 23rd, 2020 Regular Meetings of Council be approved.***

MOTION CARRIED

THANK YOU TO COUNCILLORS

Three members of our East Hants Council have decided to not re-offer in the upcoming municipal election.

Councillor Cecil Dixon - elected 2012
Councillor Pam MacInnis - elected 2016
Councillor Heather Smith - elected 2016
Warden Smith - elected 2008 / Warden since 2012

The CAO thanked each of these Councillors for serving on Council and for their dedication to our community.

We wish them all the best!

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

[00:06:18]

A complete copy of “Correspondence for Information” is attached to and forms part of the minutes.

Item 35 -Email from Peter MacLean expressing positive comments and thanks about Burntcoat Head Park.

Warden Smith noted and thanked Mr. MacLean for his positive comments on the Burntcoat Head Park.

Item 30 - Email from Patricia Crowe regarding concerns with development of a 525 mobile home park on Old Truro Road

Councillor King noted he had raised similar concerns from District 2 residents, regarding the impact on Elmsdale Rd and Hwy 214, as its outside of the municipality.

Staff confirmed the municipality was consulted as a reviewing agency.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

Item 50 - Temporary Borrowing Resolution - November Fall 2020 Debenture

[00:09:03]

C20(272) On the motion of Councillor MacInnis and Deputy Warden Perry:
October ***Moved that Council give pre-approval to borrow \$525,000 for the Uniacke Business Park Expansion Phase 1 for a term not to exceed 15 years and at a rate not to exceed 6.5%.***

Surette

MOTION CARRIED

[Item 37 - Council Chambers COVID-19 Renovations Capital Project October 2020 - Live-streaming of council meetings](#) [00:10:41]

C20(273) On the motion of Councillors Greene and Smith: Surette
October *Moved that Council approve the addition of Capital Project 20-039 in the amount of \$100,000 to the 2020/2021-2024/2025 Capital Budget for the live-streaming of Council meetings from the Council Chambers with source of funding from external sources.* CAO

MOTION CARRIED

[Item 36 - Letter to Premier from the Municipality of Pictou County, seeking temporary relief to community skating rinks](#) [00:15:00]

The Municipality of Pictou recently passed a resolution calling on the Provincial Government to provide some temporary relief to community rinks to assist with operating expenses as they navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

C20(274) On the motion of Councillors King and Moussa: CAO
October *Moved that Council direct staff to send a letter of support for community rinks.*

Three (3) voting in favor. Eight (8) voting against. Warden Smith, Deputy Warden Perry and Councillors Greene, Hebb, MacInnis, Moussa, Roulston and Smith voting nay.

MOTION DEFEATED

C20(275) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Greene: [00:18:17]
October *Moved that Council direct staff to write a letter to the Province in support of the resolution from the Municipality of Pictou County seeking temporary funding relief to community rinks and further request that all local non-profit organizations be considered for COVID-19 funding support.* Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

[Item 12 - Donation request from Caring & Sharing Angel Tree Food Bank](#) [00:19:46]

The Caring & Sharing Food Bank is preparing for a busy Christmas season. The financial impact of the pandemic is just beginning to be felt by many. They anticipate an even larger number of families in need this Christmas and throughout the winter season.

C20(276) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Smith: [00:27:14]
October *Moved that Council approve that all established food banks in the East Hants area be awarded \$500 to help replenish stock.* CAO

MOTION CARRIED

[APPOINTMENT OF FIRE INSPECTOR](#) [00:27:47]

Under the Fire Safety Act, Council is required to appoint municipal fire inspectors and this authority cannot be delegated to the CAO. The current municipal fire inspector has indicated that he will be retiring in 2021.

Matthew Brownlow is currently undergoing training to become certified. In addition, staff see a need to provide back-up and additional support for this function. Therefore, staff are requesting that Matthew Brownlow be appointed as a fire inspector.

C20(277) On the motion of Councillors Greene and Smith: Woodford
October ***Moved that Council appoints Matthew Brownlow as Municipal Fire Inspector per Section 19(1)(b) of the Fire Safety Act.***

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EH SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE [00:29:27]

Warden Smith, as Chair, presented the Source Water Protection Advisory Committee report from the meeting held on September 30, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions are coming forward to Council as a result of that meeting.

GRAND LAKE AND SHUBENACADIE RIVER LEVELS

C20(278) On the motion of Warden Smith and Councillor MacInnis: Hulsman
October ***Moved that Council direct staff to write a staff report on the Engineered Spring as it relates to water capacity, both historic use and projected use, in laymen's terms so that it is easily interpreted to the general public.***

MOTION CARRIED

REGIONAL SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN [00:31:00]

C20(279) On the motion of Warden Smith and Councillor King: Hulsman
October ***Moved that Council direct staff to update the 2007 Regional Source Water Protection Plan.***

MOTION CARRIED

ADDITIONAL SWPAC MEETING

C20(280) On the motion of Warden Smith and Councillor Moussa: Hulsman
October ***Moved that Council agree for the Municipality of East Hants to hold an additional Source Water Protection Advisory meeting in 2020.***

MOTION CARRIED

C20(281) On the motion of Warden Smith and Councillor Dixon:
October ***Moved the adoption of the report.***

MOTION CARRIED

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deputy Warden Perry as Chair, presented the Accessibility Advisory Committee report from the meeting held on October 7, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motion is coming forward to Council as a result of that meeting.

EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS TERM

[00:34:00]

C20(282)
October

On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Roulston:
Moved that Council approve the extension of the current term of the public members until the end of May 2021 or sooner if the final draft of the Accessibility Plan is complete.

Woodford

MOTION CARRIED

C20(283)
October

On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Moussa:
Moved the adoption of the report.

MOTION CARRIED

CORPORATE & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

[00:35:00]

Councillor Roulston, as Chair, presented the Corporate & Residential Services Committee report from the meeting held on October 6, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motion is coming forward to Council as a result of that meeting.

C20(284)
October

On the motion of Councillors Roulston and Hebb:
Moved that Council approve the Council Remuneration & Travel Reimbursement Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated October 6, 2020 and to include a review of internet charges every two years.

Surette

MOTION CARRIED

C20(285)
October

On the motion of Councillors Roulston and Greene:
Moved the adoption of the report.

MOTION CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

[00:39:00]

Councillor Dixon, as Chair, presented the Infrastructure & Operations Committee report from the meeting held on October 6, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motion is coming forward to Council as a result of that meeting.

C20(286) On the motion of Councillors Dixon and Greene: Hulsman
October ***Moved that that Council approve an additional \$270,000 in capital, funded through Depreciation, for Project 19-011 "Highway 215 Watermain Upgrade".***

MOTION CARRIED

C20(287) On the motion of Councillors Dixon and MacInnis:
October ***Moved the adoption of the report.***

MOTION CARRIED

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

[00:41:00]

Councillor Rhyno, as Chair, presented the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee report from the meeting held on October 6, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions are coming forward to Council as a result of that meeting.

MOUNT UNIACKE SKATEBOARD PARK PARKING

C20(288) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Deputy Warden Perry: Clarkson
October ***Moved that Council receive the report titled Mount Uniacke Skateboard Park - Parking Update, as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated October 6, 2020.***

MOTION CARRIED

OPEN SPACE LANDS - BELNAN

C20(289) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and King: Clarkson
October ***Moved that Council proceed with securing title to PID's 45332715 and 45332731 and that they be added to the Municipal Open Space asset inventory, and that;***

Council approve a write-off of property taxes outstanding for AAN# 07918720 in the amount of \$5,155.26 and AAN# 07918704 in the amount of \$5,280.55 listed under Elmsdale District Recreation Association that disbanded prior to 2005 and any additional property taxes added to the accounts before deed transfer takes place to the Municipality.

MOTION CARRIED

C20(290) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Roulston: Clarkson
October ***Moved that Council be informed once ownership has been confirmed for the skating pond (in Belnan) for further discussion at that time.***

MOTION CARRIED

C20(291) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and King:
October ***Moved the adoption of the report.***

MOTION CARRIED

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[00:45:00]

Councillor Greene, as Chair, presented the report on the Planning Advisory Committee from the meeting held on October 6, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council.

WATERSHED PROTECTION (WP) OVERLAY ZONE REVIEW

C20(292)
October

On the motion of Councillors Greene and Hebb:
Moved that Council direct staff to begin a review of the existing regulations within the Watershed Protection (WP) Overlay Zone.

Woodford

MOTION CARRIED

PRIVATE ROADS

C20(293)
October

On the motion of Councillors Greene and Smith:
Moved that Council put the issue of Private Roads aside to be more fully considered through the next plan review or when brought forward by Council prior to the plan review.

Woodford

MOTION CARRIED

C20(294)
October

On the motion of Councillors Greene and Rhyno:
Moved the adoption of the report.

MOTION CARRIED

At the request of the Warden, Deputy Warden Perry assumed the Chair.

WARDENS REPORT

[00:48:00]

The Warden provided a verbal report on his time spent as a Councillor and Warden for East Hants.

The Warden thanked all staff, councillors and his family for their support.

The Warden resumed the Chair.

East Hants Council and staff would like to extend sincere thanks to Warden Jim Smith for his service. Warden Smith is retiring from municipal politics and not re-offering in the upcoming election.

Warden Smith was first elected as a Councillor in 2008 and has served as Warden since 2012. Most recently he has served as Chair of the Executive, Nominating, Audit and Source Water Protection Advisory Committees.

Warden Smith has been a strong voice as a member of the board of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, the collective voice for municipal governments across the province.

Thank you for your service, Warden Smith. You will be missed and East Hants is a better place because of you!

COUNCILLORS BUSINESS REPORT

Councillors provided verbal reports on their recent activities and had their questions answered by staff. Best wishes were extended.

4-WAY STOP, WEST GORE

[00:59:40]

Councillor Roulston brought forward requests by residents for a 4-Way stop sign at the West Gore intersection.

C20(295)
October

On the motion of Councillors Roulston and MacInnis:

Hulsman

Moved that Council direct staff send a letter to TIR to conduct a review for 4-way stop signs at Valley Rd, Hwy 202 and Bennery Road, West Gore.

MOTION CARRIED

INTERSECTION CROSSWALK, MILFORD

Councillor Hebb brought forward concerns by residents about the pedestrian safety and the lack of a crosswalk at the intersection of Bayberry Drive and Hwy 2, Milford.

[01:02:00]

C20(296)
October

On the motion of Councillors Hebb and MacInnis:

Hulsman

Moved that Council direct staff send a letter TIR to conduct a review of the intersection of Bayberry Drive and Hwy 2, in Milford, for the consideration of a crosswalk.

MOTION CARRIED

MUNICIPAL TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[01:05:00]

Councillor Rhyno brought forward for discussion the issue of spouses who may be struggling to pay their municipal taxes after their spouse has passed away.

[01:07:38]

The spouse may not have the funds for legal fees to transfer title and because they do not have property in their name are not eligible for the Municipal Tax Assistance Program.

C20(297)
October

On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and MacInnis:

Surette

Moved that Council direct staff prepare a report to amend the Municipal Tax Assistance Program to allow for the spouse to participate in this program while living in the home of the deceased owner and the property is in estate.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC WHARF, WALTON

[01:08:35]

Councillor Greene brought forward for discussion the possibility of developing a public wharf in the Walton area:

- Increasing the number of recreational boaters launching from private lands for the purposes of fishing or pleasure.
- Recognize the limitations of launching and returning with the tide.
- Looking at all opportunities to increase the number of visitors to the Walton area.

C20(298)
October

On the motion of Councillors Greene and King:
Moved that Council approve a staff report on the feasibility of developing a public wharf in the Walton area and that Council consider this for future capital planning in the 2021/2022 budget.

Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

SETTING DATE & TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

[01:13:00]

C20(299)
October

On the motion of Councillors Roulston and Dixon:
Moved that the Inaugural Meeting of Council & Swearing In Ceremony be held on October 28th and the next Regular Meeting of Council be held on November 10th (Policy) and November 18th, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION

[01:14:00]

C20(300)
October

On the motion of Councillors Greene and Deputy Warden Perry:
Moved that Council go In-Camera at 8:14 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Council returned to open Council at 8:30 p.m.

Warden Smith noted that Council met in-camera to discuss one contractual issue.

Direction was given to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

C20(301)
October

On the motion of Councillors Greene and Dixon:
Moved that Council adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kim Ramsay', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Approved By: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Date: October 15, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eleanor Roulston', written in a cursive style.

Approved By: Eleanor Roulston, Warden
Date: November 18, 2020

/te