



Date: April 26, 2023
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Deputy Warden Perry, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson
RE: Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report

The Committee held its regular meeting on April 18, 2023 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. PENSION VALUATION REPORT

Preliminary results have been received for the December 31st, 2022 annual actuarial review of the pension plan. Per discussion at Committee, the full valuation report has been posted to What's New for Council's information.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that Council authorize:*

- 1) *The final December 31, 2022 actuarial valuation be filed based on the results as outlined in the report to Corporate & Residential Services Committee, dated April 8, 2023, Results: Tri-Annual Actuarial Review - December 31, 2022;*
- 2) *Pension payments as required by legislation are approved for payment into the Plan;*
- 3) *The definition of average earnings for service prior to January 1, 2023, be upgraded to December 31, 2022 earnings, with no pension being greater than the best five years income of the employee, for those employees who are retiring between May 1, 2023 and September 30, 2026 only, and that these special payments, as they arise, be funded through the pension reserve fund;*
- 4) *The employer contribution rate be 5.32% for contributions on earnings after January 1, 2023 and adjusted by future cost certificates/pension valuations as legislation requires;*
- 5) *The Actuary be asked to do the standard upgrade calculation as part of the December 2025 actuarial review. This calculation will upgrade the definition of average earnings (to redefine average earnings to December 31, 2025 earnings with no pension being greater than the best five years income of the employee); and,*
- 6) *That Plenus Consultants be appointed as the Actuary for the Municipality of East Hants pension plan.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

2. WELL AND SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

In October of 2022 and February of 2023, staff presented information on various options for a well and septic loan program. This month's report provided further options that may increase the affordability of loans, expand the eligibility for this program, and present alternate sources of funding for these loans.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that Council direct staff to move forward with the implementation of a one (1) year pilot program up to \$200,000 using 2022/2023 Deed Transfer Tax surplus funds; with the family household income eligibility threshold of \$90,000 regardless of how many people live in the home; using all other terms as outlined in the staff report titled "Well & Septic Loan Program" as attached to the April 18, 2023 Executive Committee agenda.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

3. FIRE SERVICE FUNDING POLICY (FIRE TRAINING)

At Council's March 2023 regular meeting a letter was received from the East Hants Fire Service Association (EHFSA) requesting to expand the use for the fire training funding. The fire training funding is identified in Councils Fire Service Funding Policy and is used for Basic Fire Fighter and Fire Officer training. EHFSA is requesting to expand the use of funding to allow for specialized training and guest speakers.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve the policy amendments to the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the April 18th Corporate and Residential Services Committee agenda.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

4. BARRIERS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS (DISCUSSION)

The CAO guided a discussion with Committee regarding the barriers in Council Chambers. She noted there would be costs associated with this and the barriers would be put in storage for future potential use.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council direct staff to remove all of the barriers in Council Chambers.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

As Chair of the Committee, I move the adoption of this report.