



Date: June 28, 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 June 20, 2023 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. COUNCILLOR BENEFITS

NSFM group benefits are now open to councillors. Cost share for coverage would be 50% paid by the councillor, 50% by the Municipality. The CAO gave councillors four options for coverage: life insurance, accidental death & dismemberment and dependent life insurance only; health and dental only; all benefits; or to not join the plan.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that council members be eligible for life insurance, accidental death & dismemberment, dependent life insurance, and health and dental coverage.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

2. COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION & TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

The proposed revision to the policy is an increase to the meal allowance to bring them in line with amounts allowable by Canada Revenue Agency. This meal allowance is strictly for when travelling for council business (conferences or training), it does not apply to Executive Committee and Council meetings. The amendment changes the meal allowance to \$18 for breakfast, \$21 for lunch and \$30 for dinner effective April 1, 2023.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve the amendments to the Council Remuneration & Travel Reimbursement Policy effective April 1, 2023 as attached the Executive Committee agenda dated June 20th, 2023.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

3. YEAR END MEMO

Part of the preparations for the audit is the analysis of the operating and capital funds. Several year-end entries are required to prepare the financial statements - these are unpredictable and/or the exact amounts are unknown at budget time. On the capital side, funding source amounts do not require adjustment for any projects. All adjustments being recommended are either unavoidable or prudent to make and can be considered by Council to be unsubstantive in nature.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that approve the year end adjustments to the operating funds included in the 2022/2023 Year End Adjustments report presented to Executive Committee on June 20, 2023.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

4. SPECIAL RESERVES POLICY UPDATE

The municipality established reserve funds to finance future expenditures, which minimizes tax rate fluctuations. The appendix to the Special Reserves Policy lists the purpose of each fund and, where applicable, how it will be funded. Based on council motions and the approved budget, changes to the appendix are being recommended.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council amend the Special Reserves Policy as attached to the June 20th, 2023 Executive Committee agenda.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

5. AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

An indigenous land acknowledgment is read at committee and council meetings and all major public events. Council is considering a second acknowledgment regarding African Nova Scotian history. Staff investigated what other organizations do and the findings were presented to the committee.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve the following wording for the land acknowledgment as required under the Council Procedural Policy:*

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi’kma’ki and the District of Sipekne’katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty people.”

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

6. ALLEN SHAW BOULEVARD, LANTZ - TURN DEED BACK TO THE PROVINCE

A portion of Allan Shaw Boulevard was conveyed to East Hants but should have remained in Provincial ownership. It is recommended that this parcel be conveyed to the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council deem parcel AS-1B surplus and authorize the CAO to execute a deed conveying parcel AS-1B, Allen Shaw Boulevard, to the Province.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

7. GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS POLICY

The General Government Grant policy outlines four grants intended to support the development of a strong community. The proposed updates to the policy are an added reference to groups, programs or services that align with the Municipality’s strategic plan to provide greater clarity on which groups are eligible to receive funding and a simplification of section 4.1 which states applications will be on a first come, first served basis.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve the General Government Grants policy amendments as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated June 20th, 2023.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

8. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND POLICY

The Community Partnership Fund policy outlines how the Municipality selects and provides funding to community organizations. These organizations are primarily groups that provide substantial programming

beyond what the Municipality offers. The proposed updates to this policy are clarifications around the strategic plan and the timing of deliverables; and a cosmetic change to reflect an updated municipal template and standard.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council ***that Council approve the Community Partnership Fund policy amendments as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated June 20th, 2023.***

As Chair of the Committee, I so move...

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