



Date: January 24, 2024
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Councillor Perry, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson
RE: Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report

The Committee held its regular meeting on January 16, 2024, in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. SUSTAINABLE SERVICES GROWTH FUND (SSGF) - REVISION TO USE OF FUNDING

The Municipality of East Hants received a letter from the NS Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated March 31, 2023, indicating the Province of Nova Scotia approved a grant of \$1,123,778 to support infrastructure investment under the new Sustainable Services Growth Fund. Council approved a list of projects to apply these funds to at the July 26, 2023, Council meeting. This list included \$821,910 for the Industrial Park Lift Station. Due to expected delays at the Industrial Park Lift Station, staff are recommending the allocation of these funds be changed to the Medical Centre Lift Station.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends that Council approve a change in allocation of \$821,910 SSGF funding from the Industrial Park Lift Station to the Medical Centre Lift Station.

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

2. 2024/2025 DRAFT BUDGET - PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

The Director of Finance presented the report titled “*Preliminary Information - 2024/2025 Budget*”. The Municipality of East Hants’ assessments report an overall increase in capped taxable assessments (net of exemption) of 11.66% and reviewed the increasing costs of education, policing, insurance, and other assumptions. The Budget review will continue at future meetings.

3. BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report titled “*Business Technical Assistance Program*” dated January 3, 2024.

The 2023-2024 Operating Budget includes \$10,000 to pilot a new service focused on providing entrepreneurs in East Hants access to professional consulting services to help with business planning, operations, and growth. Staff provided an overview of the new service before staff start implementation.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approves the Business Technical Assistance Program pilot service.*

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

4. 2024/2025 DRAFT BUDGET - EHAA/SPORTSPLEX

The Manager of the East Hants Sportsplex, Scott Forward, presented the report titled “2024/2025 Budget Presentation” dated January 9, 2024. The report reviewed the budget for the Sportsplex, the current budget is tracking within \$5000.00 year-to-date.

5. DEED TRANSFER TAX REPORT

The Director of Finance and the Chief Administrative Officer presented the report titled “Deed Transfer Tax Report” dated January 11, 2024. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all committee members.

Staff prepared the report in response to Council Motion C23(38) - “Moved that Council direct staff, at a time staff have an opportunity (before next budget), to bring a report to begin discussions how the Deed Transfer should be allocated.”

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council direct staff to prepare a draft policy on Deed Transfer Taxes, and a Draft Policy on Annual Grant to the Urban Tax Rate. These draft policies are to be based upon the recommendations of the staff report dated January 11, 2024.*

And, that once the draft 2024-2025 budget is tabled with Executive Committee, staff bring a report on Deed Transfer Tax options to alter the budget based on information in this report.

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

6. (IN CAMERA) LAND ISSUES - CHARLES DRIVE

The following public motion came from the in-camera land issues discussion:

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council authorizes the CAO to enter into discussions with the Uniacke and District Volunteer Fire Department with the intent to subdivide and declare surplus a portion of municipal property on Charles Drive, Mount Uniacke (PIDs 45150018, 45194644, 45194669, and 45344165), for a price not to exceed \$1.00.*

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

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