



Date: December 18, 2024
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Councillor Garden-Cole, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson
RE: Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report

The Committee held its regular meeting on December 10, 2024, and the following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. TRANSIT PLAN UPDATE - PRESENTATION

Since 2012 a number of reports and studies have been completed for East Hants to help guide the feasibility and potential implementation of a fixed route public transit system in East Hants. The Draft East Hants Public Transit Business Plan Update 2024 was presented to Council to outline the potential transit route, options for operational models, and potential costing for implementing a fixed route transit system in East Hants. The plan was recently updated and next steps recommended.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that they move forward with next steps as outlined in this “East Hants Public Transit Business Plan Update 2024” staff report dated December 05, 2024.*

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

2. MOUNT UNIACKE BUSINESS PARK - INTERSECTION UPGRADES

A number of concerns have been raised by businesses in Uniacke Business Park regarding large trucks navigating street turns and intersections within the Park and at the access to the Highway 1. In response to these issues East Hants has completed an analysis and confirmed that intersection upgrades are required. There is an opportunity for East Hants to complete the construction design for these improvements in this fiscal year, to enable construction in 2025.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that the construction design for the intersections at Highway 1 and James Boyle Drive, and Highway 1 and Richard John Drive be completed in the current 2024-25 fiscal year and that \$30,000 be allocated from the Business Parks Land Sales Reserve to fund the project.*

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

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee also recommends to Council *that an analysis of Alicia Scott Avenue, Andrew Mitchel Drive, and Lady Mary Way intersections be completed in the current 2024-25 fiscal year and that any capital improvements be brought back to Council for discussion.*

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

3. ELMSDALE BUSINESS PARK - PHASE 7

Due to recent investments by Council in engineering staff resources and software, East Hants was able to complete an in-house conceptual design, and high-level probable construction cost estimate for Phase 7 of the Elmsdale Business Park. With the conceptual design complete, East Hants has an opportunity to start portions of the project, which will be required ahead of detail design, in this fiscal year. This will allow quicker tendering for detailed design next fiscal year, and help reduce the risk of construction timeline extensions.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council ***to approve the allocation of \$180,000 for Capital Project #24-009 - Elmsdale Business Park Phase 7, for expenditure in 2024-25.***

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

4. POST-ELECTION REPORT

The Municipality of East Hants conducted a fully electronic 2024 Municipal Election offering both telephone and online voting options, conducted by Intelivote Systems Inc. There were elections in 4 of 11 districts (Districts 3, 5, 10 and 11) resulting in 2 new members of the 11-member Council. The CAO, as Returning Officer, provided a detailed post-election report.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council ***that Council receive this report “Post-Municipal Election 2024 Report” as attached to the December 10th, Executive Committee agenda and place it on file for future planning consideration for the 2028 Municipal Election.***

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

5. STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

East Hants has had a Strategic Plan for many years. The organization uses the Strategic Plan as a guide to prioritize work, prepare the capital investment plan and set the business plan for each year. The Strategic Plan guides the administrative function of the Municipality.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council ***that Council proceed with an update of the organization Strategic Plan, to be drafted by the CAO, through preparing a survey to send to councillors to get input on the priorities they see for the community and then prepare a draft update to the Plan for Council consideration (Option 1).***

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

6. EXPENSES & HOSPITALITY POLICY REPORT

The Municipal Government Act states that by the January 31st immediately following a regular election held under the Municipal Elections Act, the council shall review the expense and hospitality policies and, following a motion by the council, either re-adopt the policies or amend one or both of the policies and adopt the policies as amended.

Staff have reviewed the Policy and see no need for changes at this time. The Hospitality Policy was adopted in 2022 and the Council Remuneration & Travel Reimbursement Policy was last amended in 2019, with the exception of policy approved increases to remuneration by CPI each year.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that per Section 23(7) of the Municipal Government Act, the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council re-adopt the Hospitality Policy and the Council Remuneration & Travel Reimbursement Policy, as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated December 10th, 2024.*

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

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