



Date: January 29, 2025
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 January 21, 2025, and the following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. BYLAW F-400-10, AN AMENDMENT TO BYLAW F-400, TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW - FIRST READING

The Municipality enacted Bylaw F-400, a bylaw that exempts non-profit and charitable organizations from paying property tax. A review of properties receiving tax exemption under the bylaw is completed annually to ensure the organizations continue to meet eligibility criteria. Amendments to the bylaw are recommended based on the findings during the annual review.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council give first reading to By-law F-400-10, an amendment to By-law F-400, Tax Exemption By-law, and be amended to reflect the following changes:*

- *Add Property #01078852, Tots Academy Child Care Society to Schedule B;*
- *Remove Property #00088897, Anglican Church of Canada (Christ Church) from Schedule A;*
- *Remove Property #10560985, Corridor Community Options Society*
- *Update addresses:*
 - *Property #10560977, Corridor Community Options Society to 201 Park Rd*
 - *Property #07840764, Hants North Food Bank to 7070 Hwy 236*

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

2. PROCUREMENT POLICY UPDATE - LOW VALUE THRESHOLD

The Low Value Threshold in the Council Procurement Policy has been at \$5,000 since the first modern Procurement Policy was adopted by Council back in 2012. This is the threshold at which the requirement changes from “due diligence” to the requirement to request a minimum of three quotations. The nature of business and the value of transactions has changed considerably over the last several years. The \$5,000 threshold is out-of-touch with the current cost of Goods, Services, and Construction.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council amend their Procurement Policy as attached to the Executive Agenda January 21, 2025; as well as, change the Financial Guidelines for Volunteer Fire Departments to reflect the same changes.*

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

3. 2025/2026 DRAFT BUDGET - PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

The Director presented Preliminary Information on the 2025/2026 Draft Budget, with more to follow during the Budget Meetings commencing next week.

4. RURAL TRANSIT SOLUTIONS FUND - CAPITAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Federal Government's transit capital funding stream for rural communities, the Rural Transit Solutions Fund is now accepting applications until March 4, 2025. There is an opportunity for East Hants to apply to the Rural Transit Solutions Fund for up to 80% of the total estimated capital cost for implementing public transit in East Hants.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that East Hants apply to the Rural Transit Solutions Fund to support the \$2,405,000 capital costs associated with implementing Phase 1 of the Battery Electric Bus Strategy for public transit in East Hants.*

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

5. DOG TAG REGISTRATIONS

Council requested a staff report on the value to continue with the dog tag registration program. The report provided an overview of the program.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council continues to maintain a dog tag registration program and that Council consider implementing a lifetime dog registration fee option and instruct staff to bring back draft amendments to the Municipal Fee Policy.*

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

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