

The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

**Present:**

Mayor D. Devenne  
Deputy Mayor K. Nauss  
Councillor J. Bain  
Councillor P. Carver  
Councillor S. Chia-Kangata  
Councillor J. Feeney  
Councillor R. Nowe  
CAO, J. Wentzell  
Deputy Clerk, M. Hughes

**Regrets:**

**Gallery:** Seven

**Presentation of UNSM Long Service Award – 25 Years of Service – C. Joseph Feeney**

Mayor Devenne presented a Long Service Award from the UNSM to former mayor, C. Joseph Feeney, recognizing his 25 years of service on Council.

**Minutes**

A motion by Councillor Bain, seconded by Councillor Feeney, **“THAT Council accept the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting of Council as presented.”** **Motion carried**

**Delegations and Individuals**

Brooke Nodding, Executive Director of the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, spoke to Council about the work of the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation. Ms. Nodding discussed the structure and goals of Coastal Action and provided an overview of the work being done at present. Originally begun in Mahone Bay and Lunenburg in 1993, Coastal Action has since expanded to include several projects across the South Shore, projects with international organizations and a consultation arm of their organization. Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation is not an advocacy group, but a science-based research and data collection agency committed to developing local environmental capacity.

Ms. Nodding informed Council that she was meeting with Councils to update and re-engage municipalities and to ask for support in building networks and sharing communication. Council agreed that they are committed to continue to connect with Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation in the future.

## **Correspondence – Information Items**

1. Canadian Heritage, with information about Community Anniversaries Program grant opportunities.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nauss, **“THAT the above correspondence be received and filed.”** **Motion carried.**

## **Committee and Other Reports**

### Towns Caucus

Council received the minutes of the November 30, 2016 meeting of Towns Caucus. Deputy Mayor Nauss advised Council that the meeting, held during the UNSM Fall Conference, was well attended and that topics of discussion included the new process for putting forward resolutions for UNSM consideration. Council was informed that Mayor Mood, from Yarmouth, has returned as Chair of the Towns Caucus for a second year.

### Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program – Monthly Report – December 2016

Council received the December 2016 monthly report from the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program. Councillor Carver reminded Council that the impermanence of funding and the disparity between programs across the province; Councillor Carver advised Council that when the UNSM Resolution process has been completed, the group will try to forward a resolution to the province.

### Public Procurement Act Obligations Report

Council received a December 2016 report assessing the Town of Mahone Bay’s compliance with Public Procurement Act Obligations.

CAO advised Council that all municipalities, government agencies and government body are required to follow strict rules regarding tendering and purchasing and that this is the first time that municipalities have been sent an official report assessing the compliance with the requirements. Mahone Bay was found to be in compliance with all requirements assessed by the report.

### South Shore Tourism Team

Council received the December 2016 report from the South Shore Tourism Team. Discussion involved ways that the Town of Mahone Bay could increase the visibility of the Town on the provincial Tourism website. It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the Mahone Bay and Area Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee.

### Municipal Finance Corporation – Quarterly Newsletter – December 2016

Council received the December 2016 Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipal Finance Corporation.

### Age Friendly Community Committee

Councillor Carver informed Council that the Age Friendly Committee will be working with a student from Dalhousie University on a research project to understand the needs of a cross-section of ages of the population. The project will run until the end of the university year and the student leading the project has received an offer of assistance from local facilitator, Tim Merry. Councillor Carver received notification that the project has received approval from the Dalhousie ethics department and more information will be available at the next Council meeting.

### Unfinished Business

#### Municipal Joint Services Board Review

Council received information outlining the proposal for the Review of the Municipal Joint Services Board (MJSB) Agreement which was drafted by the CAOs, and the feedback on the proposal that came from the December meeting of the Joint Services Board. The original proposal involved using a facilitator to assist throughout the progression of the review, but the Board of the MJSB felt that a facilitator was not required, at least at the beginning of the process, and that individual Councils could decide on their input without the assistance of a facilitator.

Mr. Wentzell advised Council that the decision on how the review is carried out is the decision of the three partner Councils. The review of the MJSB agreement could result in changes in how the JSB operates, but that is yet to be seen, that the review is the first step. The recommendation of the CAO is for each Council to review the MJSB agreement internally to identify any areas that they would like to see addressed, if there are any, and that the three partner units can then compare feedback. A facilitator may be useful when the feedback from all three Councils is discussed, but Mr. Wentzell recommended Council begin the process internally.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT the Town of Mahone Bay advise the partners of the Municipal Joint Services Board that Mahone Bay Council prefers to begin the review of the Municipal Joint Services Board Agreement with a review by individual Councils, with input from their respective CAOs, and that the findings of those discussions be shared among the partner units.”** **Motion carried**

The next step for the review process for the Town of Mahone Bay would be to schedule a time to review the MJSB agreement as a group. Council requested background information on the MJSB agreement in relation to the Town of Mahone Bay for consideration in advance of a Council review session.

#### Nominations for Representative Volunteer

Council received a copy of the notice sent to residents of Mahone Bay via Canada Post, advising that nominations for the Town of Mahone Bay 2017 Representative Volunteer are now open. The deadline for

submission is February 1, 2017. Notice of nomination was also shared in the December 2016 newsletter and on the Town of Mahone Bay website.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Committee Volunteers

Council received a copy of the notice sent to residents of Mahone Bay via Canada Post requesting applications from citizen volunteers to serve in remaining vacancies on committees and ad-hoc committees of Council. Applications are being received until January 13, 2017 and appointments will be made at the January 26, 2017 meeting of Council.

Notice that applications are being accepted was also posted on the Town of Mahone Bay website.

### Crosswalk Flags

Council received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk outlining the plan for implementation of crosswalk flag kits in Mahone Bay, as approved in the 2016/17 Budget. The report highlighted the need to identify trustees for each crosswalk flag kit to ensure that flags are distributed between the buckets and that missing flags are replaced. Based on feedback from Council, the report suggested a review of the use of crosswalk flags in October of 2017 using anecdotal observations from community stakeholders. Staff recommendation was to consider crosswalk flags only for Route #3 and Highway #325, and Council direction was sought for which specific crosswalks should have flags installed.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Council request staff to proceed with the placement of crosswalk flag kits at the crosswalk crossing Main Street at Clearway Street; the crosswalk crossing Main Street at Pleasant Street; and the crosswalk crossing Pleasant Street at Main Street.”** **Motion carried.**

Staff advised Council that the crosswalk flags will be installed at the stated locations once trustees are identified for each location.

### New Business

#### Request for Amendment to Development Agreement – Saltbox Brewery

Council received a request from the Saltbox Brewing Company, asking for an amendment to their development agreement to permit an extension of their hours.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT the request from the Saltbox Brewery to amend their development agreement to extend the operation hours of the taproom to 10pm on Monday to Saturday and to allow the taproom to operate on Sundays throughout the year from 12 noon to 10pm be referred to the Planners and the Planning Advisory Committee for study and recommendation back to Council.”** **Motion carried.**

AREA – Revised Power Purchase Agreement

The CAO advised Council that the Ellershouse Windfarm Phase II is now fully functional and that the final turbines came online in December 2016. With Phase II complete, starting in January, the Mahone Bay Electric Utility will be receiving a greater portion of our power from wind energy than from Nova Scotia Power. AREA had budgeted conservatively for the windfarm and now due to the increased efficiency of operating seven turbines, AREA feels that power purchase rates can be improved to keep the individual utilities competitive.

AREA is undertaking an environmental study and development agreement amendment to enable future expansion of the windfarm.

Mr. Wentzell advised Council that AREA will be meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 to consider power purchase rates offer the utilities but that approval is needed from the individual utilities.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Council approve a new Power Purchase Agreement between the Town of Mahone Bay and the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) effective January 1, 2017 as per the memo from the CAO dated January 9, 2017 and subject to the agreement of the Board of AREA and the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the new PPA Agreement on behalf of the Town.”** **Motion carried**

REMO all Council meeting – January 12, 2017, 5:30 pm – Mahone Bay Centre

Council was reminded of the REMO all-council meeting which will be held on January 12, 2017 at 5:30pm at the Mahone Bay Centre.

Uniform Assessment 2017/18

Council received information on the Town of Mahone Bay Uniform Assessment for 2017/18. The preliminary 2017/18 Uniform Assessment for the Town of Mahone Bay shows an increase of 0.59% for the coming year because assessments have been relatively flat. The Cap for 2017/18 is 0.3%, meaning that residential capped assessments will not increase more than 0.3%. Mr. Wentzell advised Council that the Uniform Assessment is taken into consideration during budget preparation.

Assessment notices will go out in the mail from the Property Valuation Services Corporation during the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>, and property owners have 21 days to appeal an assessment if they are interested in doing so.

Canada 150 Events – Discussion

Mayor Devenne advised Council that he plans to invite community organizations to a discussion to see if there are ideas for a plan to celebrate Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup>. If there is an interest in the development of an event to celebrate Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup>, a core group of individuals will emerge from that meeting who are prepared to plan and run that event.

The Town of Mahone Bay has already received funding from the Canada150 program for several projects and it is the understanding of staff that the program is no longer accepting applications for funding under that program.

Hi Neighbour Potluck – January 15, 2017

Council received notice of the Hi Neighbour Potluck sponsored by the Mahone Bay Centre, which will be held at the Mahone Bay Centre on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 4:00pm.

Accounts

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT the accounts in the amount of \$393,112.88 be paid as presented.”** **Motion carried**

Questions

Councillor Feeney asked Mr. Wentzell for follow-up information regarding the request for Town assistance from the Mahone Bay Pool Society. Mr. Wentzell advised Council that a meeting has been set for January 13, 2017 and that more information will be available after that meeting.

**Council Adjourned upon motion at 8:55 p.m.**

**TOWN OF MAHONE BAY**

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CAO, James A. Wentzell

Mayor David Devenne