

The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay, was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor J. Feeney  
Deputy Mayor D. Devenne  
Councillor K. Wilson  
Councillor J. Bain  
Councillor K. Nauss  
Councillor L. Hennigar  
Councillor P. Carver  
CAO J. Wentzell  
Deputy Clerk M. Hughes

**Gallery:** One

### **Minutes**

A Motion by Councillor Bain, seconded by Councillor Nauss, **“THAT the Minutes of the December 8, 2015 regular meeting be approved as presented.” Motion carried**

### **Draw for Sledge Hockey Tickets**

As sponsors of the 2016 World Sledge Hockey Challenge, the Town of Mahone Bay was given 10 tournament passes, for which a draw was to be held. Town residents were invited to submit a ballot for two tournament passes each.

Having received only five entries, Mayor Feeney read the names of the winners: David Houston; Kenny Gilfoy; Caroline Knock; Sandra Conrad; and Virginia Verge.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from:

1. Greg Muzzati, regarding the replacement of the Kinburn Street bridge.

A motion by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Deputy Mayor Devenne, **“THAT the correspondence from Mr. Muzzati be received and filed.” Motion carried.**

### **Committee & Other Reports**

#### **REMO**

Council received the minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting of the Regional Emergency Management Organization.

### AREA

Council received a report from the CAO on AREA and the Municipal Electric Utilities Cooperative of Nova Scotia (MEUNS), which is a non-profit society of the municipal electric utilities in Nova Scotia. Of the member of MEUNS, three of are partners in AREA and a fourth, Riverport Electric, Light Commission, is a customer of AREA.

Highlighted in the CAO's report were the upcoming meeting of members of MEUNS with Minister of Energy Michel Samson on January 21, 2016 and the ongoing analysis of costs as all four turbines are now generating electricity at the Ellershouse Windfarm. AREA continues to look into developing the three remaining approved turbine sites, having requested the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs for financing the three additional turbines.

Included in the report was information on electric utility rates for 2016. There will be no increase in rates for 2016.

### Lunenburg County Seniors Safety Program

The monthly report for December 2015 was received from the Lunenburg County Seniors Safety Program.

### Region 6 Solid Waste Management

Council received the proposed budget for Region 6 Solid Waste Management as well as information regarding a change in municipal billing. Effective April 1, 2016, Region 6 will invoice municipalities quarterly for the calculated municipal contributions to Region 6 operations, and billing will be based on population figures from the 2011 Census.

A motion by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council approve the 2016/17 Region 6 Budget in the amount of \$201,145 as circulated.”** Motion carried.

### Municipal Finance Corporation

Council received the December 2015 Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipal Finance Corporation.

### Municipal Governance Review Steering Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Municipal Governance Review Steering Committee, as well as the Terms of Reference, and Work Plan. Councillor Bain advised Council that staff were asked to create the work plan and that staff will now be working on a draft budget for the work detailed out in that plan.

A motion by Councillor Bain, seconded by Deputy Mayor Devenne, **“THAT the Town of Mahone Bay approve the Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the Municipal Governance Review Steering Committee as circulated.”** Motion carried.

### Mahone Bay and Area Chamber of Commerce

Councillor Carver provided a verbal update to Council on a meeting of the Mahone Bay and Area Chamber of Commerce (MBACC) at which the future of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was discussed. The consensus was that without provincial funding the VIC cannot operate the way that it has been operating. Various alternatives were discussed and the Chair of the MBACC will look into options before setting a meeting to discuss the 2016 VIC operations with Council.

### Age Friendly Committee

Councillor Carver provided a verbal update on the continued search for another family physician in Mahone Bay. Councillor Carver has stayed in contact with Marlene Wheatley-Downe, with South Shore Health, and has been informed that while physicians have been interviewed, the search committee has yet to find an applicant looking to settle in Mahone Bay permanently. In the meantime, some of the new physicians in Chester have started to establish their practices, and some residents of Mahone Bay have been contacted regarding space on case loads.

### Unfinished Business

#### Revised Lease for Land, Bell Mobility

The CAO presented Council with the revised lease from Bell Mobility Inc for PID 60375128, a parcel of land owned by the Town of Mahone Bay off Zwicker Lane. Mr. Wentzell advised Council that Bell Mobility had made the changes requested by the Town and that Bell Mobility had agreed to co-location for the Fire Department antenna.

A motion by Councillor Hennigar, seconded by Deputy Mayor Devenne, **“THAT Council approve the lease of property off Zwicker Lane (PID 60375128) to Bell Mobility as per the document circulated subject to a change in #2 defining the height of the tower at 27.4m and referring to the date at which Council approve that height by motion, and that the mayor and the CAO be authorized to sign the lease on behalf of the Town.” Motion carried.**

#### Additional Marked Handicapped Parking Space on Main Street

Council received a recommendation from the Director of Operations, following the request of Council that both he and the Traffic Authority assess the feasibility of the creation of an additional marked handicapped parking space on Main Street.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Council concur with the recommendation of the Traffic Authority and Director of Operations that a handicapped parking space be established to the immediate west side of the driveway entrance to 578 Main Street.” Motion carried.**

### Policing Review

Council received presentation slides and notes from the RCMP presentation of their analysis of policing services in Lunenburg County. On December 13, 2015, the RCMP presented their findings to the Mayors/Wardens and CAOs of the Towns of Mahone Bay and Lunenburg, as well as the Municipalities of Lunenburg and Chester.

In follow up discussion with the Department of Justice, the CAO has been advised that their Department is prepared to consider the review complete with the RCMP report, or to further the review if that is the wish of the municipalities which requested the review. Council agreed that as the initial request was to review the funding for RCMP services in Lunenburg County, an issue not covered in the December 13, 2015 report of the RCMP analysis, Council will request a meeting with the Department of Justice regarding the direction of the requested review.

### 2016 Town of Mahone Bay Representative Volunteer

Council was advised that the information has now been circulated regarding the nomination process for the 2016 Town of Mahone Bay Representative Volunteer. Nominations forms are available on the Town website and at Town Hall and all submissions must be received by February 1, 2016.

### Development Agreement Applications

The CAO advised Council that a special meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee, which had been set for January 18, 2016 to report on two applications for Development Agreements, has been cancelled. More time is required to prepare the material for the review of the Planning Advisory Committee and it is hoped that the applications can be addressed at the February 2, 2106 meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee.

### Fire Services

Council received correspondence from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg regarding the December 8, 2015 meeting with members of the Blockhouse Fire Department, the Town of Mahone Bay, the Mahone Bay and Area Fire Department as well as representatives from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Following the meeting, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg received a response from the Blockhouse Fire Department indicating that they are interested in further discussion of possible amalgamation/shared services but will be proceeding with the construction of their new fire station.

Mayor Feeney reported to Council that he has been contacted by the newly formed Blockhouse Ratepayers Association and that they would like to meet with the Town to discuss shared services. Mayor Feeney will advise the Blockhouse ratepayers that they are welcome to submit something in writing for the consideration of Council, but that Council cannot say anything more than that the Town is willing to cooperate pending further discussions.

### MGA Review

Council received an update from the UNSM regarding the MGA Review process. Draft recommendations, policy papers and presentations will be sent to municipalities over the winter and spring of 2016. Written positions on draft recommendations will be received until June 30, 2016 and it is hoped that the new legislation will be considered at the 2017 Spring sitting of the Legislature.

### New Business

#### UNSM Spring Workshop and Fall Conference Topics

Council received a request from the UNSM for input from membership for topics for Spring Workshop and Fall Conference session topics.

#### UNSM – Active Transportation Policy Framework

Council received information from the UNSM regarding a recent letter to the Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Health and Wellness expressing their support of draft Active Transportation Policy Framework. Information was also included for anyone who is interested in drafting a letter of support from the Active Transportation Framework.

#### Meeting with Bernadette Jordan, MP South Shore – St. Margaret’s

Council will be meeting with Bernadette Jordan, MP for South Shore – St. Margaret’s, on January 13, 2016 at 10:00am in Council Chambers. That same evening Ms. Jordan will be holding a public meeting, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Days Inn, to gather input from her constituency for the upcoming federal budget process.

#### Uniform Assessments for 2016/17

Council received notification from the Department of Municipal Affairs that the 2016/17 Uniform Assessment for the Town of Mahone Bay has been set. The 2016/17 Uniform Assessment has been set at 128,384,053, a 2.18% increase from 2015/16.

### Accounts

A motion by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT the accounts in the amount of \$449,123.16 be paid as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

**Council adjourned upon motion at 8:25 p.m.**

**TOWN OF MAHONE BAY**

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CAO, J. Wentzell

Mayor, C.J. Feeney