

The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Gallery:**       Nine

**Minutes**

A Motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT the Minutes of the January 10, 2017 regular meeting be approved as presented.”**                       **Motion carried.**

**Delegations and Individuals**

Derrick Dempster, Deloitte – 2015/16 Audited Financial Statements

Derrick Dempster, Deloitte, presented the Town’s Consolidated Financial Statements. Mr. Dempster advised Council that the Town audit involved more work this year, necessitating work beyond that contained in the original communication letter, due to the AREA investment treatment. Mr. Dempster stated that Deloitte is prepared to render a clean audit for 2015/16.

Mayor Devenne advised Council that as the auditors are prepared to issue a clean audit, assuring Council that the accounts are prepared in accordance with municipal standards, Council is in a position to approve the audit. Mayor Devenne commented to Council that it is the role of Council to be good stewards of public money and suggested a session for Council to become better acquainted with the Town financial statements.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, **“THAT Council accept the 2015/16 Financial Statements for the Town of Mahone Bay as received from Deloitte, the Town auditors.”**   **Motion carried.**

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, **“THAT Council hold a session to review the 2015/16 Financial Statements in detail and that that meeting be open to the public.”**   **Motion carried.**

With Council's approval of the Financial Statements as presented, Deloitte will finalize and date the statements.

Tina Hennigar and Lynn Hennigar – NOW Lunenburg County

Lynn Hennigar provided Council with an overview of the creation of NOW Lunenburg County by a group of business people who came together in response to the release of the Ivany Report. NOW Lunenburg County has decided to focus on population decline/growth as a way to address many of the concerns raised in the Ivany Report.

Tina Hennigar informed Council about the Create a Life You Love in Lunenburg County initiative, in which she will tour communities across Canada in the summer of 2017, talking to Canadians about building a life in Lunenburg County. It is the goal of the tour to return to Lunenburg County with 150 names of people interested in learning more about life in Lunenburg County. In addition to the actual tour across the county, a group of "Illuminators" has been created to provide answers and support for those who are considering moving to Lunenburg County and for those who do settle in the area.

Council was asked to provide a letter of support for the initiative as NOW Lunenburg County pursues financial grants. Council was also asked to provide funding for an individual from Mahone Bay to join the tour in a community chosen strategically with the NOW Lunenburg County team in which that citizen can speak to locals about Lunenburg County; the cost for sending an individual to join the tour is estimated to be between \$1,500 and \$2,500, to be reimbursed to the individual.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nauss, **"THAT Council provide a letter to NOW Lunenburg County supporting their initiative to promote Lunenburg County as an incredible place to live and raise a family."** **Motion carried.**

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **"THAT the request for financial assistance from NOW Lunenburg County be referred to the budget process."** **Motion carried.**

SSREN Visitor Information Centre Study – Annette St.Onge

Annette St.Onge, Chair of the South Shore Regional Enterprise Network (SSREN) shared with Council the findings of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) Study conducted by SSREN. Ms. St.Onge advised Council that the study included a desktop and literature review of global VIC operations and was conducted with the participation of 10 local VIC managers. The study was conducted in response to concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of VIC operation on the South Shore of Nova Scotia. The study contained several recommendations about practices which are used in other areas and which may prove to help sustain VICs on the South Shore.

Chief Russell Acomb - Mahone Bay and Area Fire Department Quarterly Report

Chief Russell Acomb presented the Mahone Bay and Area Fire Department Quarterly Report. and advised Council that he had been re-elected as Chief for the next year. Chief Acomb noted that the number of calls received were lower than in the last quarter of 2015 and that most of the calls received were in response to motor vehicle accidents on Highway 103.

Cpl. Darren Slaunwhite – RCMP Quarterly Report

Cpl. Darren Slaunwhite presented his report on the final quarter of 2016 to Council. In addition to highlighting trends in Lunenburg District in the quarter, Cpl. Slaunwhite provided Council with an account of all RCMP related matters within the Town of Mahone Bay during that time. Among the key points highlighted in the report was the information that the suspects in the robbery at Kinburn Pharmasave are now before the courts.

**Correspondence – Information Items**

1. Deputy Mayor Laurie Murley, President, UNSM with information regarding the partnership between UNSM and AMANS.

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

**Correspondence – Action Items**

1. Laura Smith, notifying Council of her resignation as the Town of Mahone Bay representative on the Western Regional Housing Authority.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nauss, **“THAT Council accept, with regret, the resignation of Laura Smith from the Western Regional Housing Authority and that a letter of appreciation be sent to Ms. Smith, thanking her for her service on behalf of the Town.”** **Motion carried.**

2. Andrew Tanner, Director, Sales and Marketing, Saltbox Brewing Company, with a request for permission to open for Super Bowl 2017.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Council grant the request from Saltbox Brewing Company for permission on a non-prejudiced basis to extend their hours of operation on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2017 from 6:00 pm until 11:00 pm.”** **Motion carried.**

## Committee and Other Reports

### Director of Operations – Departmental Report

Council received the January 2017 Departmental Report from Derrick MacKenzie, Director of Operations. In addition to the information contained in his report, Mr. MacKenzie advised Council that he is working with members of the Mahone Bay Pool Society to gather the information needed to prepare an RFP for the work that is needed. Mr. MacKenzie reported that traffic this summer will probably be down to one lane in areas due to the planned construction on Pleasant and Clairmont Streets. Council was advised that once the final engineering plans are ready, a communications plan will be created to provide more information for residents and businesses in Mahone Bay.

### Age Friendly Committee – Research Project

Council received a copy of the research project proposed by Dalhousie University Student, Alice Main. Councillor Carver informed Council that the Age Friendly Committee needs to support of Council to proceed with Ms. Main's project and requested funds to provide space and refreshments for the community component of the project.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Chia-Kangata, **“THAT Council accept the recommendation of the Age Friendly Committee and support the Participatory Action Research Project proposed by Dalhousie University College of Sustainability student, Alice Main as circulated and that Council provide funds to cover expenses for a workshop including rental, food and advertising, to a limit of \$600.”** Motion carried.

### South Shore Regional Library

Council received the minutes of the November 2016 meeting of the South Shore Regional Library Board.

### Report of Building Official Re: Proposed Amendments to Building Code

Council received a report on the proposed amendments to Building Code, from Earl Woodworth, Building Inspector. Mr. Wentzell advised Council that the Town Building Bylaw will be reviewed to ensure that it is aligned with changes to the Building Code.

### Property Valuation Services – 2017 Assessments

Council received information on the 2017 Assessments from Property Valuation Services, Mr. Wentzell noted that our overall assessment is up 0.59% and cap is set at 0.30%.

### Highway 103 Twinning

Council received information from Mayor Devenne containing information about upcoming public meetings to receive the findings of a feasibility study on the use of tolls to twin Highway 103 and to engage public discussion on the subject. Meetings will be held on February 7, 2017 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Bridgewater Best Western and on February 8, 2017 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at Atlantica Oak Island Resort and Conference Centre in Western Shore.

### Financial Management for Elected Officials Workshop

Council received a report from Mayor Devenne which provide an overview of the Financial Management for Elected Officials Workshop hosted by the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia. Mayor Devenne noted the importance of bylaws and policies and suggested that Council approve funding for the CAO to hire an individual for a six-month term position for a person to work on policies and bylaws, grant researching and to provide secretariat service to Council.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT the CAO be permitted temporary funding for a term position for a six month period to act as a grants officer to do research on the bylaws and policies.”

After discussion regarding job description, salary and recruitment, Council agreed to stay the motion and continue the discussion of personnel matters In Camera, as permitted under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA.

### Mahone Bay Electric Utility

Council received a report from the CAO explaining how much of the power purchased by the Mahone Bay Electric Utility is renewable energy. With a portion of power purchased from the AREA, which is all renewable, and the power purchased from NSPI being partially renewable energy, the portion of power purchased by the Town of Mahone Bay Electric Utility for 2016 was 40%. With Phase II of the Ellershouse Windfarm now complete, the projected renewables purchase for 2017 is 50% and by 2020, based on the projected completion of Phase 3 and 4 at the windfarm, the CAO predicts that the percentage of power purchased in Mahone Bay will be 75%.

### Third Quarter Financial Reports to end December 2016

The third quarter financial reports, to the end of December 2016, were circulated to Council in advance of the Council meeting. At the suggestion of Mayor Devenne, discussion of the financial reports was deferred until after Council have had a chance to take part in a workshop to learn about reading financial reports.

## Unfinished Business

### MJSB 4 Year Review

Council received a memo from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg advising of the motion of their Council regarding their preferred process for the MJSB 4-year review, including the use of a facilitator to the MODL individual Council session.

### Citizen Committee Appointments 2017/18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

A motion by Councillor Bain, seconded by Councillor Feeney, **“THAT Robert Morse be appointed to the Cemetery Commission for 2017/18.”** **Motion carried.**

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Dell Macomber be appointed to the Heritage Advisory Committee for 2017/18.”** **Motion carried.**

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Robert Morse and Roy Broadbent be appointed to the Police Advisory Board for 2017/18.”** **Motion carried.**

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT Gary Silliker be appointed to the Watershed Advisory Committee for 2017/18.”** **Motion carried.**

## New Business

### Animal Control Official

The CAO advised Council that staff have been looking for an animal control solution since the RCMP advised that they will no longer be providing dog control service. Council received information on details of a per-call proposal for Animal Control from Brian Truelove of Oceanmark Kennels. Mr. Truelove provides Animal Control service for MODC, MODL and has this month been engaged by the Town of Lunenburg for per-call Animal Control service. Staff proposed contacting Mr. Truelove for Animal Control services, renewable annually.

A motion by Councillor Chia-Kangata, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT Council appoint Brian Truelove of Oceanmark Kennels as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Mahone Bay and as a Special Constable for the Town of Mahone Bay in accordance with the terms of his email to the Town dated January 16, 2017.”** **Motion carried**

### RCMP Costs 2017/18

Council received a letter from the Department of Justice advising of projected changes to policing costs for the upcoming year. The letter received indicated that policing costs will increase overall by 3.8%.

**A motion at 9:30 pm by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Chia-Kangata, “THAT Council go In Camera as permitted under the Municipal Government Act, section 22(2)(e) to discuss contract negotiation and section 22(2)(c) to discuss personnel matters.”**

**Motion carried.**

**A motion at 9:57 pm by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Nowe to Rise and Report.**

**A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, “THAT Council advise the Municipal Joint Services Board that the Town of Mahone Bay does not wish to participate in the Human Resources Shared Service as of April 1, 2017.”** Motion carried.

No motion was required in respect to casual staffing. The CAO schedules casual staffing as required within the budget approved for 2016/17.

**The meeting adjourned upon motion at 10:00 pm.**

**TOWN OF MAHONE BAY**

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CAO, James A. Wentzell

Mayor David Devenne