

The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay, was held on Thursday, January 28, 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  
Director of Operations, D. MacKenzie

**Gallery:** Five

**Minutes**

A Motion by Councillor Bain, seconded by Councillor Nauss, **“THAT the Minutes of the January 12, 2016 regular meeting be approved as presented.” Motion carried**

**Delegations and/or Invited Guests**

Fire Chief, Russell Acomb – Quarterly Report

Chief Russell Acomb presented his quarterly report from the Mahone Bay and Area Fire Department. In addition to the listing of calls, Chief Acomb’s report included a listing of Officers following the January 12, 2016 election of officers and committees.

Chief Acomb advised Council that the new station wear has arrived and that all fire fighters have been outfitted. The fire department has also received their new Jaws of Life; fire fighters have received training and the new Jaws of Life are now in service.

Chief of Police – Cst. Tim Lynch

Cst. Tim Lynch provided his quarterly Chief of Police Report. As an addition to the new County focused reporting, Cst. Lynch included a listing of calls for service from the Town of Mahone Bay for the reporting quarter.

In the presentation of his report, Cst. Lynch commented that, apart from the accident with the horse-drawn carriage, the Father Christmas Festival was a community initiative that went very well. Council was given an update on the Highway #3 detour around road construction in Martin’s Brook; signs in front of RPS direct traffic to the Northwest Road via Fauxburg Road as an alternate route between Mahone Bay and Lunenburg. It is expected that the detour will be in place until mid-February.

## **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from:

1. Carole and John Whitcombe, expressing concerns about the two-lane replacement for the bridge on Kinburn Street.
2. Darrell Tingley, Coast Community Activists, sharing information with Council regarding Open Pen Fish Feedlots.
3. Leo Glavine, Minister of Department of Health and Wellness, in response to the letter from Mayor Feeney regarding physician recruitment in Mahone Bay.
4. Patricia McGill, regarding shared fire services.

A motion by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT the above correspondence, numbered 1-4 be received and filed.”** **Motion carried.**

5. John Biebesheimer, Chairperson and Community Representative, School Advisory Committee, Bayview Community School, with information on the three public meetings for the school review process.

## **Committee & Other Reports**

### Director of Operations’ Report

Council received the January 2016 monthly report from Director of Operations, Derrick MacKenzie. In the review of his report, Mr. MacKenzie reviewed the snow and ice control activities thus far and advised Council that a spare winter equipment operator has been hired. This new hire will permit a full two teams of operators to cover a 24 hour period.

Mr. MacKenzie noted that the Town will soon be in a position to go to tender for the Kinburn Street bridge now that all of the files have been received.

### Website Redesign Working Group

Council received notes from the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Website Redesign Working Group. Deputy Mayor Devenne advised Council that the Working Group reviewed the format for the new website and that staff have had training on maintain the new site. Annette St. Onge, Chair of the Economic Development Committee and President of the Mahone Bay and Area Chamber of Commerce, attended the meeting and discussed ways that the Town site and the Chamber site could share reciprocal links as well as content that the Economic Development Committee will provide for the new website.

### AREA Update

Mayor Feeney provided a verbal update on the January 21, 2016 meeting of AREA. Mayor Feeney, Councillor Nauss and the CAO met with the other partners of AREA and the Minas Energy team to discuss plans for the remaining three approved turbine sites at Ellershouse Windfarm. Having decided to research constructing the turbines themselves, AREA is waiting for confirmation from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, confirming that he would approve AREA borrowing the money from the Municipal Finance Corporation.

AREA members expect an analysis of the windfarm production following the end of January. As the windfarm was just coming online in November and December, with not all turbines in operation, the January analysis will be the first to reflect the financial operation of the windfarm.

### MEUNS

Mayor Feeney reported on the meeting of the Municipal Electrical Utility Co-op of Nova Scotia (MEUNS) which he attended on January 21, 2016 with Councillor Nauss and the CAO. Members of MEUNS met with the Minister of Energy and MEUNS encouraged caution with policy decisions undertaken by the province, stressing that open competition can negatively impact municipal utilities.

### Harbour Development Committee

Council received the minutes of the January 26, 2016 regular meeting of the Harbour Development Committee. Councillor Wilson advised Council that the Final Report on the Shoreline Enhancement and Flood Mitigation project was received from CBCL. Members of Council received copies of the Final Report for review in preparation for the report to appear on the February 9, 2016 Council agenda, accompanied by a recommendation to accept the report and for Council to direct CBCL to complete the final engineering documents.

### Municipal Joint Services Board

Council received correspondence from Siew Secord, COO of the Municipal Joint Services Board (MJSB), advising of the amount of the projected shortfall in the MJSB pension fund. Ms. Secord also advised that changes in asset values and pending annuity purchase costs, as well as other considerations, may cause the shortfall to vary.

Based on the total projected shortfall, the estimated liability for the Town of Mahone Bay is \$39,738.56.

A motion by Councillor Hennigar, seconded by Councillor Wilson, **“THAT Council approve a payment of \$39,738.56 to the Municipal Joint Services Board as the Town of Mahone Bay portion of the payment to cover the estimated liability for the pension shortfall.”**

**Motion carried.**

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Fire Services – Discussion of Possible Shared Services**

Council received a letter from the directors of the Blockhouse Area Ratepayers Kinship Society, requesting to meet with Council to explore and consider forming a new fire service with the Town of Mahone Bay.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Hennigar, **“THAT Council approve the establishment of a committee consisting of Mayor Feeney, Deputy Mayor Devenne and Councillor Nauss, the Deputy Clerk and two representatives from the Mahone Bay and District Fire Department to meet with the Blockhouse ratepayers to discuss their request for a meeting.”** **Motion carried.**

## **New Business**

### **UNSM – Notification of Board Changes**

Council received notification from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) that UNSM President Councillor Claire Dethridge has stepped aside as Chair due to illness. In her absence, Mayor Cecil Clarke will serve as President until Councillor Dethridge can resume her duties.

### **Temporary Borrowing Resolution**

Council received correspondence from Mark Peck, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Advisory Services with the Department of Municipal Affairs, in response to the December 11, 2015 letter from AREA requesting approval to borrow up to \$15.5 million to construct three turbine sites.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Devenne, seconded by Councillor Hennigar, **“THAT the Town of Mahone Bay approve the following Guarantee Resolution for 12% of the proposed Borrowing by the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (A.R.E.A.) with the Town’s Guarantee being in the amount of \$1,860,000.”**

**WHEREAS the Alternative Resources Energy Authority was incorporated on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 pursuant to Section 60 of the Municipal Government Act;**

**AND WHEREAS the Authority has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of Fifteen Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$15,500,00) for the purpose of wind power and has applied to the Town of Mahone Bay for its guarantee for One Million Eight Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,860,000) of the principal and interest to which the borrowing relates;**

**AND WHEREAS the Corporation has requested the Town of Mahone Bay, a municipality that executed the instrument of incorporation of the Alternative Resources Energy Authority to guarantee said borrowing;**

**AND WHEREAS Section 88 of the Municipal Government Act, provides that no guarantee of a borrowing by a municipality shall have effect unless the Minister has approved of the proposed borrowing or debenture and of the proposed guarantee;**

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**

**THAT the Town of Mahone Bay does hereby approve the borrowing by the Authority of Fifteen Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$15,500,000) for the purpose set out above;**

**THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs of the borrowing by the Authority and the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs of the guarantee, the Town unconditionally guarantee repayment of One Million Eight Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,860,00) of the principal and interest of the borrowing of Fifteen Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$15,500,00) for the purpose set out above;**

**THAT upon the issue of the Temporary Borrowing Resolution, the Mayor and Clerk of the Town do sign the guarantee attached to the Temporary Borrowing Resolution of the Alternative Resources Energy Authority and affix hereto the corporate seal of the Town.**

**Motion carried.**

**Council adjourned upon motion at 8:15 p.m.**

**TOWN OF MAHONE BAY**

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CAO, J. Wentzell

Mayor, C.J. Feeney