

The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Regrets: Councillor S. Chia-Kangata

Gallery: Three

Mayor David opened the meeting by showing Council the 2017 UNSM Climate Change Leader Award that was presented to the Towns of Mahone Bay, Berwick and Antigonish for their involvement in the AREA windfarm project.

Minutes

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT the Minutes of the October 26, 2017 regular meeting be approved as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Feeney, **“THAT the minutes of the October 28, 2017 Special Council meeting – Strategic Plan Review- be approved as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

Delegations and Individuals

Sadie Watson and Renee LeBlanc – Nova Scotia Health Authority

Council received a presentation from Sadie Watson and Renee LeBlanc from the Nova Scotia Health Authority regarding the upcoming legalization of cannabis. Ms. Watson and Ms. LeBlanc noted that prohibition of marijuana has not been a deterrent, and it is hoped that regulation will be a positive move for public health in respect to cannabis.

Council was advised that with the legalization of cannabis, a balance must be struck between public health and commercialization, taking into consideration the exposure and ease of access to cannabis; to that end the Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes legalization not commercialization, referring to the imposition of market regulations without providing easy access to product and without promotion to children and youth.

Correspondence – Information Items

1. Don Spicer, Department of Justice, Public Safety and Security Division, with details of the RCMP 2017/18 Services Budget.

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

Committee and Other Reports

Audit Committee

Council received the minutes of the October 30, 2017 meeting of the Audit Committee as well as draft audited financial statements for the Town of Mahone Bay, the Mahone Bay Electric Utility, and the Mahone Bay Water Utility.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Council concur with the recommendation of the Audit Committee and receive and accept the 2016/17 Audited Financial statements for the Town, the Water Utility, and the Electric Utility as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

Heritage Advisory Committee

Council received the minutes of the November 8, 2017 regular meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Lunenburg County Senior Safety Partnership

Council received the October 2017 monthly report of the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Partnership. Councillor Carver advised Council that a new funding process has been developed for Senior Safety programs which the LCSSP is now reviewing.

Municipal Finance Corporation

Council received the 2017 Annual Report of the Municipal Finance Corporation.

Unfinished Business

2017 Road Reconstruction Update

Council received a verbal report from the Deputy Clerk on the progress of the reconstruction project on Pleasant Street and Clairmont Street. Council was advised that, with the exception of a small section of sidewalk at the corner of Main and Clairmont Streets which must be completed by hand, the only work left to be completed is landscaping and line painting.

UNSM 2017 Annual Conference

Mayor Devenne provided a verbal update for Council on the UNSM 2017 Annual Conference. In addition to the Climate Change Award received by the Towns of Mahone Bay, Berwick and Antigonish, Deputy Mayor Karl Nauss received his 25-year long service award.

Council was advised that Resolutions were discussed in each of the caucuses (rural, town and regional) resulting in the following five resolutions were named as those which the UNSM would propose to the provincial government: Capped Assessment Program; Municipal Funding Formula; Roads (cost-sharing); Doctor Shortage and Recruitment; and High Speed Internet in Rural Areas. The UNSM has also defined a Statement of Interest which will inform the province of significant matters discussed at the community level, namely Changes to PVSC, Regional Planning, RENs (Regional Enterprise Networks), and Affordable Housing.

Other aspects of the Conference highlighted in Mayor Devenne's report to Council were the upcoming survey being completed by Engage Nova Scotia to quantify Quality of Life in Nova Scotia and information on the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association Professional Studies Program to train building officials. It was also noted that the name of the UNSM will be changing to the Federation of Nova Scotia Municipalities, though the process to change the name has not yet been completed.

New Business

Department of Municipal Affairs – 12 Months' Notice of Legislation

Council received correspondence from the Department of Municipal Affairs with 12 months' notice of legislation which may decrease revenue or increase required expenditures of municipalities. The province of Nova Scotia has passed Bill 7, an Act to Amend Chapter 10 of 1994-95, the Workers' Compensation Act regarding post-traumatic stress disorder for front-line or emergency-response workers. It is anticipated that Bill 7 may lead to an increase in claims that are accepted for post-traumatic stress disorder, which may increase costs to municipalities.

Solid Waste Collection – Town of Mahone Bay Proposed Collection Changes

Council received a staff report regarding solid waste collection in the Town of Mahone Bay. The report proposed that the Town of Mahone Bay permit the collection of one "bulky item" per landfill collection date, instead of scheduling spring and fall special collection dates for residual waste.

The staff report also noted that arrangements have been made for the Christmas Trees collected during the Christmas Tree Collection be delivered to Sweetwood Farms for their use with their goats, rather than delivered to the landfill site.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT the Town permit curbside collection of bulky items on a bi-weekly basis (green week) in lieu of special collection dates and that the change be reflected in the 2018 Solid Waste Collection Calendar and that staff be directed to draft the necessary changes to the Town of Mahone Bay Solid Waste Management Bylaw to reflect the change in Solid Waste Collection procedures.”** **Motion carried.**

2018 Meeting Schedule

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Bain, **“THAT Council approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule as circulated.”** **Motion carried**

2017 Christmas Party

Council and staff Christmas party will be held on December 15, 2017

Citizens for Public Transit - Update

CAO updated Council that Citizens for Public Transit has been asking for information about arranging a meeting for the Joint Transit Committee. Mr. Wentzell advised Council that at present there are no agenda items or projects for consideration; Town staff have requested that Citizens for Public Transit forward any specific proposals for consideration but have not yet received a response.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Council was reminded that the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at the Bandstand on Friday, November 24th at 6:15pm.

Accounts

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT the accounts be approved in the amount of \$1,513,454.40.”** **Motion carried.**

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, to go In Camera, at 8:40pm, to discuss contract negotiations as permitted by the MGA 22(2)(e). **Motion carried.**

A motion to return to Open Session at 9:12 pm

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned upon motion at 9:13 p.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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CAO, James A. Wentzell

Mayor, David Devenne