
The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via video conference and broadcast via YouTube live.

Present:

Mayor D. Devenne
Deputy Mayor K. Nauss
Councillor J. Bain
Councillor P. Carver
Councillor R. Nowe
Councillor J. Feeney
Councillor C. O'Neill
CAO, D. Heide
Town Clerk, M. Hughes

Gallery: online

1. Agenda

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, **"THAT the agenda be approved as approved."** Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **"THAT the minutes of the July 14, 2020 regular council meeting be approved as amended."** Motion carried.

3. Delegations and Individuals

3.1 Adam Ekins, Deputy Fire Chief

Deputy Chief Adam Ekins of the Mahone Bay and District Fire Department presented the RCMP quarterly report for March – June 2020.

4 Correspondence – Action Items

4.1 Lamar Eason, Principal, Bayview Community School – Funding Request

Council reviewed the request and noted that \$250 had already been allocated in the 2020-21 budget, which could be increased to the requested amount.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, **"THAT** Council provide a \$300 grant in support of the Bayboo event in October." Motion carried.

5. Correspondence – Information Items

- 5.1 Leah Maloney – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.2 Deb Gass – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.3 Courtney Loughran – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.4 Gwen Smith – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.5 Charles Maginley – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.6 Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner – News Release
- 5.7 NSFM – Monday Memo – July 13, 2020
- 5.8 NSFM – Monday Memo – July 20, 2020
- 5.9 NSFM – News Update – Accessibility Check-In
- 5.10 Jodi Donald – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.11 Daryl Haley – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.12 Susan Keddy – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery
- 5.13 Anke Holm – Letter concerning Seaside Creamery

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councilor Carver, **“THAT Council receive and file the above correspondence, numbered 5.1 to 5.13.”** Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

Council Report

Council received the Staff Report for July 30, 2020.

Cenotaph Garden

Council received a staff report in response to a recent suggestion to install a garden at the cenotaph.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council direct staff to compose a response to letters concerning the proposed cenotaph garden, thanking them for their continued efforts to beautify Mahone Bay but declining due to safety concerns.”** Motion carried.

Financial Condition Indicators

Council received a staff report to present the Municipal Profile and Financial Condition Indicators (FCIs) Report for fiscal year 2018-19 from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMHA).

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Bain, "THAT Council accept this **report for information.**" Motion carried.

Violence in the Workplace Policy

Council received a staff report to accompany a draft Violence in the Workplace Policy.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, "**THAT section 3.4 and 3.5 remain in the draft policy as presented.**" Motion defeated.

Alternative Voting By-law

Council received the Report of the Clerk on the July 30, 2020 Public Hearing for the public to submit comments on the proposed Alternative Voting By-law.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Bain, "**THAT Council approve second and final reading of the Alternative Voting By-law.**" Motion carried.

Election Update

Council received a staff report with an update on the 2020 Municipal Election.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nauss, "**THAT Council resolve that the 2020 Municipal Election will be held without using paper ballots to allow for increased safety and improved voter access in consideration of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**" Motion carried

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss seconded by Councillor Bain, "**THAT Council set October 10, 2020 and October 13, 2020 as the Advance Polling Days for the 2020 Municipal Election.**" Motion carried

A motion by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Nowe, "**THAT Council set the two weeks prior to the 2020 Municipal Election, October 3 -17, 2020, as the Advance Polling period at which electors can vote using electronic methods.**" Motion carried.

Public Engagement Policy

Council received a staff report to accompany a revised draft Public Engagement Policy.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council adopt the Public Engagement Policy as presented.”** Motion carried.

Fire Department Administration

Council received a staff report with an update on the administrative structure of the Town’s fire services.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council direct staff to confirm the incorporation of the MBDVFD as a Society and, on so doing, to arrange a meeting between members of Council and members of the MBDVFD executive to discuss the Society’s potential contributions to future capital projects including the new Fire Station project and the anticipated purchase of a new fire vehicle in 2021-22.”** Motion carried.

Sports Field Management Agreement

Council received a report to provide Council with an update regarding the possibility of entering into an agreement with the Mahone Bay Centre Society for the management of the adjacent Town-owned sports field.

A motion by Councillor Bain, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nauss, **“THAT Council direct staff to schedule a Special Council Meeting for closed session discussion of the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property.”** Motion carried.

Q1 2020-21 Receivables

Council received a report with an update and associated recommendation concerning Q1 2020-21 receivables.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor O’Neill, **“THAT Council direct staff to resume tax and utility interest charges, utility disconnections, and tax sales, effective August 31, 2020 and that Council extend the deadline for the COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Program to September 30, 2020.”** Motion carried.

7 Council Items

7.1 COVID-19

Council discussed the mandatory mask order that will come into effect July 31, 2020, and how recent Provincial directives could affect plans for future Council meetings.

7.2 Election 2020 Signage

Councillor O'Neill discussed the idea of restricting, with an intent to eliminate, the use of disposable election signs.

Councillor O'Neill provided a notice of motion that she will make a motion, or cause for a motion for to be made, that staff investigate and report to Council on the necessary by-law revisions to phase out the display of election campaign signage.

8 Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

Asset Management Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting of the Asset Management Committee.

Audit and Finance Management Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee.

Council adjourned upon motion at 8:58 p.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Mayor, David Devenne

Clerk, Maureen Hughes