
The regular meeting of the Town of Mahone Bay's Asset Management Committee was held on Wednesday, March 18th 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via videoconference.

Present:

Mayor D. Devenne, Chair
Councillor R. Nowe
CAO D. Heide
Manager of Finance L. Wentzell, Secretary
Lead Operator – Water & Wastewater M. Rafferty
B. Lewis
M. Blair
D. Waterfield
L. Hennigar

Absent:

Deputy Mayor F. Kangata

Gallery:

Approval of Agenda

A motion by Councillor R. Nowe, seconded by B. Lewis **“THAT the agenda be approved as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

A motion by B. Lewis, seconded by M. Blair, **“THAT the minutes of the February 18th, 2021 Asset Management Committee be approved as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

2021-22 Committee Work Plan

CAO D. Heide discussed with the Committee the general scope of the committee's roles and responsibilities and specific expectations for 2021-22. This term, the Committee – supported by staff – will build on the work of the inaugural term of the committee in 2020, using existing information from the various asset classes compiled over the past several years to develop complete asset management plans for each class of asset, which will then be integrated into the Town's 10-year Capital Budget for Council's consideration.

It was noted by members that available information showed considerable infrastructure investments would be needed over the coming 10 years. Members discussed how the work of the Asset Management Committee will be used to plan for this inevitable replacement through planning and inclusion in the Town 10-year Capital Budget.

Members discussed reserve contributions which would be used to replace the respective infrastructure. CAO D. Heide explained how we currently only contribute to reserves for the Water and Electric Utilities to the extent that we are mandated by Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB). Funds in the depreciation reserves for the Utilities are restricted and can only be used to fund replacement of existing infrastructure. Any extension of services must be financed through funding from other sources. It was also noted that the Town does not currently contribute to Depreciation Reserves for Town Assets other than those of the water and electric utilities, though a general capital reserve is maintained.

Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Discussion

The committee reviewed Water & Wastewater materials developed in the prior committee term and available on the Town's website. Members reviewed and supported the Asset Management Goals as outlined in the documents for both Water and Wastewater Assets.

Committee members discussed public engagement and financing for water and wastewater projects, providing input for future development of management plans for Water and Wastewater Assets. There was general agreement that the Town has a role to play in financing strategic expansion of water and wastewater services and that this would not be financed by the utility, nor should all costs be borne by property owners (especially those with existing systems who might stand to benefit less).

CAO D. Heide concluded with a review of anticipated targeted diagnostics of the Town's Water and Wastewater Assets which would provide important data to inform the development of asset management plans.

Training Opportunities

A new version of the NSFM Training will be available to interested Committee members shortly at no expense. Also, additional paid training opportunities may be available pending the outcome of budget deliberations.

Committee Meeting Dates & Times

April 15th, 2021 at 12:00 PM

The meeting adjourned upon motion at 2:01 PM

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Mayor David Devenne

Committee Secretary, Luke Wentzell

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