



The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and broadcast via YouTube live.

Present:

Mayor D. DeVenne
Deputy Mayor F. Kangata (virtual)
Councillor P. Carver
Councillor R. Nowe
Councillor K. Wilson
Councillor J. Feeney
Councillor S. Lohnes-Croft
Deputy CAO, E. Levy
Town Clerk, K. Munroe

Absent: CAO, D. Heide (with regrets)

Gallery: Online & 2 in-person gallery

Land Acknowledgement

Let us begin by acknowledging that we are gathered today in Mi'kma'ki. The ancestral, present and future territory of the Mi'kmaw people. Today, we gather with the intent followed by the living Peace and Friendship Treaties - with respect, cooperation and coexistence.

1. Agenda

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Feeney, "THAT the agenda be approved as amended to move items 4.1 and 6.6 ahead of the Public Input session."
Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT the minutes of the January 9, 2024 regular meeting of Council be approved as presented."
Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT the minutes of the January 12, 2024 special meeting of Council be approved as presented."
Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT the minutes of the January 17, 2024 special meeting of Council be approved as presented.”

Motion carried.

3. Public Input Session

Lee Cassidy of 102 Pine Grove Street spoke to the correspondence she submitted to the agenda.

Paulette Charron of 91 Pine Grove Street spoke to stormwater issues on Pine Grove Street.

4. Presentations

4.1 Adam Ekins, Fire Chief

Adam Ekins provided Council with the quarterly report of the Mahone Bay and District Fire Department.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, Councillor Wilson, “THAT the Mahone Bay and District Fire Department’s quarterly report be accepted for information.” Motion carried.

6.6 Staff Report – Appointment of Fire Chief

Mahone Bay and District Fire Department’s election occurred on January 9, 2024. At that time, Adam Ekins was elected as Chief of the Department and nominated to Council for formal appointment.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council appoint Adam Ekins as Fire Chief for 2024.” Motion carried.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Ellen Johnson, Regional Accessibility Coordinator

Council received correspondence from Ellen Johnson with a recommendation for appointments to the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC).

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Mahone Bay Town Council appoint Gregory Novak and Louise Hopper to the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee, each for a term of three years.” Motion carried.

5.2 Lee Cassidy, Resident

Council received correspondence from Town resident Lee Cassidy with a complaint about water on her property.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council direct staff to provide a report on the concerns outlined in Ms. Cassidy’s letter.” Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Staff Report to Council

Council received the January 25, 2024 Report to Council.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Nowe, "THAT this report be accepted for information." Motion carried.

6.2 REMO Operating Budget

Council received a request from the Regional Emergency Management Organization Advisory Committee for Council to approve the Regional Emergency Measures Organization's 2024-2025 budget.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Mahone Bay Town Council approve the Regional Emergency Measures Organization's 2024-25 budget in the amount of \$410,418, with the Town of Mahone Bay's contribution being \$10,764.45." Motion carried.

6.3 Staff Report - Pension and Benefits Information

Council received a staff report to provide information on the current Town of Mahone Bay pension and health benefits benchmarked against other NS municipalities as part of a broader Human Resources policy and practice review.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Nowe, "THAT Council receive this report for information and refer the discussion to the Policy and Strategy Committee." Motion carried.

6.4 Staff Report - Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Council received a report with a recommendation to renew the Community Solar Garden Temporary Borrowing Resolution.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver:

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Town of Mahone Bay, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Mahone Bay has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for a capital purpose as identified in their capital budget;

WHEREAS pursuant to a resolution passed by Council on the 18 day of January, 2021, the Council postponed the issue of debentures and with the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated the 20 day of February, 2021, did borrow from a chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia a sum not exceeding

Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,700,000) for the purposes set out above and for a period not exceeding twelve months; and

WHEREAS Council has deemed it expedient that the period of borrowing be further extended;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the authorized period of borrowing in the amount not exceeding Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,700,000) be extended for a further period not exceeding Twelve (12) months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Motion carried.

6.5 Memo – Town of Mahone Bay’s Line of Credit

Council received a memo with a request to access the Town’s line of credit to support the interim invoice for a new fire truck currently in production and expected to be delivered at the end of 2024.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council approve the drawdown on the Town’s Bank of Montreal line of credit to finance the interim invoice for the new fire truck in the amount of \$619,158.19.”

Motion carried.

7 Council Items

7.1 Mayor Devenne – Audit and Finance Committee Application

Council received an application from Scott Veinot to join the Town’s Audit and Finance Committee.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council appoint Scott Veinot the Town’s Audit and Finance Committee for the remainder of the 2023-24 term.”

Motion carried.

7.2 Councillor Carver – Waiving of Development Fees

Councillor Carver requested that Council consider waiving a range of development fees for non-profit and charitable organizations seeking to build in the Town.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council of the Town of Mahone Bay direct staff to provide a report to Council on the feasibility of waiving development fees for non-profit and charitable organizations.”

Motion carried.

7.3 Councillor Carver – Notice of Motion

Councillor Carver provided Council with a Notice of Motion concerning Communities in Bloom. This motion and more information will appear on the February 13, 2024 Council agenda.

7.4 Councillor Lohnes-Croft – Proposal for International Women’s Day Event

Council received a proposal from Councillors Carver and Lohnes-Croft to host an event titled “She Should Run” at Town hall on Friday, March 8, 2024.

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council approve the use of Town Hall and a budget of \$500 for the She Should Run event to be held on Friday, March 8, 2024.” Motion carried.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Policy and Strategy Committee

Council received the November 27, 2023 draft meeting minutes of the Policy and Strategy Committee.

8.2 South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA)

Council received the December 2023 monthly report of SSODA.

8.3 Policy and Strategy Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the December 15, 2024 meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee.

Councillor Carver provided a Notice of Motion concerning limited time parking and enforcement in Mahone Bay. This item will appear on the February 13, 2024 Council agenda.

8.4 Heritage Advisory Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council approve the grant request in the amount of \$1,000 from the Mahone Bay Centre Society.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council follow the advice of Jost + Architects with the exception of recommendation number 1. The committee recommend retaining the triple unit design windows on both sides of the first floor, thereby maintaining the appearance and symmetry of the street facing façade.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to obtain change order pricing for the Main Street façade repair of Town Hall, as recommended by the Heritage Advisory Committee.” Motion carried.

8.3 Asset Management Committee

Council received the draft minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting of the Asset Management Committee.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT the draft amended Asset Management Policy be referred back to the Asset Management Committee for further review.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council arrange a meeting of relevant committees – Asset Management, Climate & environment and Planning Advisory Committee, open to the public – to discuss citizen expectations with respect to standards for municipal services and infrastructure, particularly in consideration of increasing climate change impacts.” Motion withdrawn.

Council requested that this item be sent back to the Asset Management Committee, and ask that the committee resubmit their request with more details concerning how the meeting will be run and the level of public involvement.

Council adjourned at 8:32 p.m. on conclusion of business.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

Mayor, David Devenne

Town Clerk, Kelly Munroe

