



The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and broadcast via YouTube live.

Present:

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

Absent:

Town Clerk, K. Munroe (with regrets)

Gallery:

Online & 5 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 Wilson, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, "THAT the agenda be approved as presented." Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, "THAT the minutes of the February 29, 2024 special meeting of Council be approved as presented." Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT the minutes of the February 29, 2024 regular meeting of Council be approved as presented.”

Motion carried.

3. Public Input Session

No public comments

4. Presentations

4.1 Hugh MacKay - Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

Mr. MacKay gave a presentation with the intention of raising awareness of the Rural Community Foundation and asking for consideration of their work during Council’s budget deliberations.

4.2 Ramsay Duff – MacLeod Group

Ramsay Duff, Chief Executive officer of the MacLeod Group presented to Council on timeline for the opening of the new Mahone Bay nursing home. Tina Hennigar, Settlement Coordinator for the MacLeod Group updated Council on the progress of hiring and settling newly arrived healthcare workers from Africa.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Honourable John Lohr and Honourable Timothy Halman

Council received correspondence from Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing and Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment & Climate Change. This correspondence concerned details of the announcement of *The Future of our Coastline: Nova Scotia’s plan to protect people, homes, and nature from climate change*.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT item 5.1 be received and filed.”

Motion carried.

5.2 Municipal Joint Services Board

Council received correspondence from the Municipal Joint Services Board requesting that Council approve their 2024-25 operating and capital budgets.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council approve the Municipal Joint Services Board’s 2024-2025 capital and operating budget in the amount of \$6,902,075, with the Town of Mahone Bay’s contribution being \$221,406.”

Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Staff Report to Council

Council received the March 12, 2024 Staff Report to Council.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT the March 12, 2024 Staff Report to Council be accepted for information.” Motion carried.

6.2 Staff Report – Housing Accelerator Fund Update

Council received a staff report updating them on the status of the Housing Accelerator Fund Application through CMHC and seeking directions on next steps.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to provide a report related to the potential of CMHC funding to conduct environmental assessments on the Town-owned properties on Hawthorne St. in cooperation with the Mahone Bay Housing Co-operative.” Motion carried.

6.3 Staff Report – Marina/Wharf Updates

Council received a staff report presenting them with updates and associated recommendations concerning the Town-owned wharf and Mahone Bay Civic Marina.

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council direct staff to complete a report to Council on the potential of constructing a floating fishing wharf.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to begin the process of obtaining a Submerged Crown Lands Lease for the mooring field and areas adjacent to the breakwater, as well to work with adjacent property and water lot owners to offer the opportunity to survey their lots at their cost.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council approve the Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Society to install laundry facilities at the Main Street comfort station, to be operated by the Society, at the sole expense of the Society.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to prepare an updated Marina License and Letter of Agreement for Council’s consideration in April.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council include the Partial Cribwork Replacement Project in the 2024-25 capital budget and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals with the intention to complete the work within the 2024-25 fiscal year noting that creative solutions will be encouraged.” Motion carried.

6.4 Staff Report – Hedge Row

Council received a staff report with a recommendation concerning Hedge Row.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council defer this item to the first regular Council meeting in September. Motion carried.

6.5 Staff Report – Accessibility Audit Results

Council received a staff report presenting them with the results of accessibility audits carried out on the Town’s recreational infrastructure.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council accept this report for information.” Motion carried.

6.6 Staff Report – Regional Police Advisory Committee

Council received a staff report supporting the request for Ministerial approval for a Joint Police Advisory Board for municipal units in Lunenburg County currently contracting the RCMP for policing services.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council refer this item to the Police Advisory Board for consideration.” Motion carried.

7 Council Items

7.1 Councillor Nowe – Volunteer Recognition

Councillor Nowe had provided a Notice of Motion at the last Council meeting concerning volunteer recognition.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report on hosting an annual volunteer recognition event.” Motion carried.

7.2 Councillor Feeney

Councillor Feeney requested support from Council to direct staff to write a staff report concerning the current Mahone Bay Swimming Pool and the potential for it to open for the 2024 season.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council direct Staff to provide a report on the potential maintenance cost associated with opening the Mahone Bay Swimming Pool for the 2024 season.” Motion carried.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Policy and Strategy Committee

Council received the February 26, 2024 draft minutes of the Policy and Strategy Committee.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council schedule the following Policy and Strategy Committee discussions:

March – Noise Bylaw and Time Enforced Parking and referred items from other committees
April – Special Meeting (April 8th) – Human Resources Policies
April (Regular) – Human Resources Policies
May – Subdivision Bylaw and Stormwater Management Bylaw
June – Stormwater Management Bylaw
July – Town Council Policy and Committees Policy.”

Motion carried.

8.2 South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA)

Council received February 2024 monthly report from SSODA, as well as shelter statistics.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council accept this report for information. Motion carried.

8.3 Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program (LCSSP)

Council received the February 2024 monthly report from LCSSP, as well as a poster with information about the upcoming Senior Safety Academy.

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to share the information on the Senior Safety Academy on Facebook, on the Town’s website and in the April edition of the Mayor’s Newsletter.” Motion carried.

10. Closed Session

A motion by Councillor Feeney, at 9:17p.m., seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council go into Closed Session to discuss contract negotiations as permitted by the Municipal Government Act section 22(2)(e). Motion carried.

Council came out of closed session at 9:43 p.m.

Business Arising from Closed Session

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, “THAT Council direct the Deputy Mayor to sign the Municipal Capital Growth Program funding Agreement with the Province.” Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 9:43 p.m. on conclusion of business.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Mayor, David Devenne

Town Clerk, Kelly Munroe