

The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Tuesday April 9, 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 J. Feeney
Councillor S. Lohnes-Croft (virtual)
Councillor K. Wilson
Councillor P. Carver
Councillor R. Nowe
CAO, D. Heide
Deputy CAO, E. Levy

Absent:

Town Clerk, K. Munroe (with regrets)

Gallery:

Online & 0 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 Feeney, seconded by Councillor Nowe, "THAT the agenda be approved as presented." Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT the minutes of the March 12, 2024 regular meeting of Council be approved as presented." Motion carried.

3. Public Input Session

No public comments.

4. Presentations

4.1 Debra Featherby – Lunenburg County Wheels

Debra Featherby is the fundraiser for Lunenburg County Wheels. Lunenburg County Wheels provides transportation for people with mobility issues, seniors, and people who may not have transportation for various reasons. They have just started servicing Mahone Bay and Lunenburg areas recently.

Ms. Featherby noted the increased cost of operations of Lunenburg County Wheels and some of the funding opportunities they have. She noted that Lunenburg County Wheels had requested that the Mahone Bay Council provide some funds to assist with operations.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Honourable John Lohr, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

5.2 Honourable John Lohr, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Wilson, “THAT Council receive and file the correspondence.” Motion carried.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Staff Report to Council

Council received the April 9, 2024 Staff Report to Council.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT the April 9, 2024 Staff Report to Council be accepted for information.” Motion carried.

6.2 Staff Report – List of Electors

Council received a staff report requesting that they direct the Returning Officer to use the list of electors used in the most recent federal or provincial election for development of the elector list for the 2024 General Municipal Election.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct the Returning Officer to request access to and use the list of electors used in the most recent federal or provincial election as a basis for the development of the Town of Mahone Bay elector list for the 2024 election.” Motion carried.

6.3 Staff Report – Fishing Dock

Council received a staff report presenting them with additional information on the potential of constructing a floating fishing dock.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Council refer the proposed allocation of \$40,000 for the construction of a floating fishing dock at the Town-owned wharf to the 2024-25 budget process for consideration."

Motion carried.

6.4 Staff Report – Expense Policy Update

Council received a staff report with a proposal to increase per diem meal rates and a request for clarification around lunch hours.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, "THAT Council direct staff to update the Schedule to the Expense Policy to reflect the updated Per Diem Meal Rates and Lunch Hours Classification."

Motion carried.

6.5 Staff Report – Legion Banners

Council received a staff report with a budget recommendation related to supporting the Veteran Banner Initiative.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Nowe, "THAT Council refer the proposed allocation of \$1,000 for the Legion Banners Initiative to the 2024-25 budget process for consideration."

Motion carried.

6.6 Staff Report – 2024 Pool Season

Council received a staff report presenting them with information concerning the potential maintenance cost associated with opening the Mahone Bay Swimming Pool for the 2024 season.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Council include an allocation of \$160,000 for maintenance of the current Mahone Bay Pool in the 2024-25 budget and direct staff to proceed with the work as soon as possible, with the intention to complete the work in time for the 2024 pool season."

Motion carried.

6.7 Staff Report – Public Works Garage Renovation

Council received a staff report presenting them with information to support the 2024-25 budget process, along with an associated recommendation.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Mayor Devenne, "THAT Council refer the proposed allocation of \$320,000, for the renovation of the old Fire Hall for continued use of the building by the Town, to the 2024-25 budget process for consideration."

Motion carried.

6.8 Staff Report – Clearway Street Shoulder

Council received a staff report presenting them with information concerning the potential upgrading of the road shoulder on Clearway Street.

A motion by Councillor Lohnes-Croft, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Council refer the proposed allocation of \$80,000 for the proposed widening of the road shoulder on Clearway Street to the 2024-25 budget process for consideration." Motion carried.

6.9 Staff Report – Proposed Mahone Bay Community Land Co-operative Memorandum

Council received a staff report related to the potential for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funding to support the cost of conducting environmental assessments on the Town-owned properties on Hawthorn Road in cooperation with the Mahone Bay Community Land Co-operative (MBCLC), as directed.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, "THAT Council approve signing the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Mahone Bay Community land Co-operative." Motion carried.

6.10 Staff Report – Home Program Review

Council received a report presenting them with the report on the HOME Program review.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Mayor Devenne, "THAT Council approve joint application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Community Efficiency Financing Program – with Berwick and Antigonish – and include \$12,500 for improvement of the HOME Program in the draft 2024-25 budget." Motion carried.

6.11 Staff Report – Privacy and Data Security Shared Service

Council received a staff report presenting them with an update concerning the proposal for Privacy and Data Security as a shared service through the Municipal Joint Services Board (MJSB).

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, "THAT Council direct staff to write to the MJSB, informing them that the Town of Mahone Bay declines to proceed with Privacy and Data Security as a shared service at this time but looks forward to the opportunity to do so in the future, with all MJSB partners participating." Motion carried.

7 Council Items

No council items.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Climate & Environment Advisory Committee

Council received the March 13, 2024 draft minutes of the Climate & Environment Advisory Committee.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council approve the MBARC engagement plan, schedule and budget as attached to the March 13, 2024 minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.” Motion carried.

8.2 Heritage Advisory Committee

Council received March 13, 2024 minutes of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council support the Heritage Advisory Committee hosting an educational event in May with a speaker from the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, to take place in the Community Room at the Fire Station, with associated costs to be drawn from the committees budget.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to offer an opportunity to the owners of 624 Main Street and 38 School Street to complete the Heritage Property Registration process. If the property owners decline, staff to be directed to remove the heritage property plaques from the buildings.”

Motion carried.

8.3 Watershed Advisory Committee

Council received the March 25, 2024 minutes of the Watershed Advisory Committee.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council agree to the easement requested by Andrew Parks and direct staff to forward the letter included with the minutes (with attachments) to the Department of Natural Resources.”

Motion carried.

8.4 Policy & Strategy Committee

Council received the minutes of the March 25, 2024 meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council adopt the amended Community GHG Reduction Action Plan (2024) as presented.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council approve the extension of the Climate & Energy Program Manager term position for an additional two years.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Feeney, “THAT Council defer the recommendation to host a facilitated inter-committee workshop until 2025.”

Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council direct staff to develop a draft Parking Bylaw based on the ‘maximum time free parking’ signage option, for consideration by the Committee.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council direct staff to include estimated start-up costs and annual revenues/expenses associated with the introduction of time limited parking in the draft 2024-25 budget.” Motion carried.

8.5 Asset Management Committee

Council received the minutes of the March 28, 2024 Asset Management Committee.

A motion by Mayor Devenne, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council adopt the amended Asset Management Policy as attached.” Motion carried.

A motion by Mayor Devenne, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council appoint Helga Baxter as a member of the Town’s Asset Management Committee.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council appoint Helga Baxter as a member of the Town’s Planning Advisory Committee.” Motion carried.

9. New Business

No new business.

10. Closed Session

A motion by Councillor Carver, at 8 : 52p.m., seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council go into Closed Session to discuss Contract Negotiations; Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property; and Litigation as permitted by the Municipal Government Act section 22(2)(e); 22(2)(a); and 22(2)(f) respectively. Motion carried.

Council came out of closed session at 10:14 p.m.

Business Arising from Closed Session

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Nowe, “THAT Council direct the Mayor to sign the Cost-sharing Agreement with the Mahone Bay Community Land Cooperative.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT Council award CBCL Ltd. the design contract for the Edgewater Street Project at the quoted price of \$488,973+HST." Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 10:15 p.m. on conclusion of business.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Deputy Mayor Francis Kangata

Town Clerk, Kelly Munroe