



**Committee of the Whole Minutes
Council Chambers
November 14, 2023**

- 1. IN ATTENDANCE:** Warden Linda Gregory, Deputy Warden Matthew Ross, Councillor David Tudor, Councillor George Manzer, and Councillor Angela Thurber

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative Officer, Tyler Pulley, Manager of Municipal Services, Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services, and Taylor Robinson, Executive Assistant who took the minutes of the meeting.

ALSO PRESENT: Gus Green, from Waste Check to provide a presentation to Council via Zoom and one member of the public.

REGRETS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Warden Gregory called the November 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 4:58pm.

PAUSE TO SEEK GUIDANCE: Warden Linda Gregory welcomed everyone and asked that we pause to seek guidance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ITEMS

2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

- Addition under 4. BUSINESS ITEMS 4.7 Fundy Rose

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-01

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for November 14, 2023 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2023

MOTION # COTW2023-11-14-02

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes of October 10, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2.3 Presentation/Delegation – Gus Green, Waste Check

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-03

It was regularly moved and seconded that Gus Green from Waste Check to come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Green introduced himself and provided a presentation regarding the implications for municipalities with EPR for PPP regulations. He went over the program players, deadline dates, readiness report, the regulation overview process, and contract negotiation options. Mr. Green noted that there is a January 1, 2024 deadline for municipalities decide to opt in or out of the program. Council asked Mr. Green questions and thanked him for the presentation.

2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of October 10, 2023: None

2.5 CAO Report

i. Meeting Dates/Reminders

Warden Gregory highlighted the meeting dates/reminders.

ii. CAO Report

Council reviewed the CAO Report.

iii. Department Reports

The following department reports were included with the CAO report.

- i) Manager of Corporate Services
- ii) Manager of Municipal Services
- iii) Trail Coordinator
- iv) Airport/Dispatch
- v) Building Inspection
- vi) Heritage Coordinator
- vii) Renewable Energy & Climate Change Coordinator

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-04

It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the department reports as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

3. DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES: None

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Zoning Change Request

Council quickly discussed and agreed to pass the request to the Planning Advisory Committee to handle.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-05

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council on to pass the zoning change request to the Planning Advisory Committee to handle.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Cell Letter – Clarification

CAO Sunderland requested clarification on the October 26, 2023 motion. Council decided to amend the motion.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-06

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and copy MLA Jill Balser requesting the organization to lobby for proper cellular services.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-07

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to write a letter to Kim Masland, the Minister responsible for the Build Nova Scotia Act and copy MLA Jill Balser requesting that the department continue to develop programs for proper cellular services.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-08

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to write a letter to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and copy MP Chris D'Entremont requesting that they provide supplementary funding for cellular service.

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Weymouth Water Fountain – For Discussion

CAO Sunderland explained that he has met with the Village Commission of Weymouth to discuss site improvements to the Weymouth Water Fountain and asked Council for direction to move forward.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-09

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to direct CAO Sunderland to continue to work on the Weymouth Water Fountain project with the stakeholders involved.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Barton School Request

Council reviewed the request from Compass NS to consider waiving the cost of the building permit fee for the Barton School Renovation Project. Council discussed that the

funding will be considered as a grant to organization request as it is a non-profit organization. It was agreed to accept the request.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-10

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to accept the funding request from Compass Nova Scotia Co-operative Homes Ltd (“Compass NS”) in the amount of \$3102.07 to use for the cost of the building permit fee.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Housing Needs Report

Council reviewed and briefly discussed the statistics on the report. CAO Sunderland noted that the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing will review and report back with additional information.

4.6 Joint Council Meeting - Deputy Warden Ross

Deputy Warden Ross requested that they schedule a joint council meeting with the Town of Digby due to the intensifying issues regarding housing, the Fundy Rose, etc.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-11

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to schedule a joint Council meeting with the Town of Digby.

MOTION CARRIED

4.7 Fundy Rose

Council discussed the rising concerns regarding the proposed relocation of the Digby MV Fundy Rose Ferry to the Magdalen Islands. Council decided to write a letter to Transport Canada in advocacy to avoid losing the ferry to Saint John, NB.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-12

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to write a letter to Transport Canada and copy Chris D’Entremont to lobby to keep the Digby MV Fundy Rose Ferry.

MOTION CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Reviewed and noted.

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-13

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council take a recess at 5:50pm.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-14

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council go back in-session at 6:27pm.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-15

It was regularly moved and seconded to move into in-camera at 6:27pm to discuss two contractual items and one personnel item.

MOTION CARRIED

6. IN CAMERA ITEMS:

6.1 Contractual (2)

6.2 Personnel

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-16

It was regularly moved and seconded to move out of in-camera at 6:52pm

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-17

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to send a request letter for the municipality to join the public service superannuation plan and to approve the transition costs.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-18

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to award the tender for phase 1 – office renovation to Garian Construction Limited in the amount of \$203,100.00 plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-19

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council that the Renewal Energy Coordinator continue to explore the cost of a trip with the Department of Environment for the decarbonization project.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #COTW2023-11-14-20

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 6:53pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Linda Gregory

Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative
Officer