



Town of Stewiacke
Committee of the Whole Session
May 14th, 2020

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- Policing Review – Colchester County and Stewiacke have requested a policing review through the Department of Justice
- Truro Colchester Partnership Economic Prosperity (TCPEP) April Newsletter
- Prescribed Public Sector Body email – involved in capacity building for accessibility planning once COVID-19 pandemic is over
- Card of Thanks – received from a family from New Brunswick relating to the recent shootings in this region.
- 2019 Municipal Profile & Financial Conditions Indicator Report (Financial Highlights) – comparison of ratings over past three years. Highlights where the Town of Stewiacke is and where it is going. We are moving in a positive direction. Received for information purposed following a discussion.

9. Business

a) Administration

CAO; Dale Bogle provided an overview of his Administration Report with Council.

b) Physical Activity & Recreation

Josh Hilton provided an overview of this report.

c) Financial Report

Randi Buchi, Director of Finance, provided an overview of this report.

d) Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Sibley provided a public works report.

e) Planning

Grant Cooke provided a planning report. Mayor Robinson provided an update of an upcoming public meeting for June 3, 2020. Decision was last evening at the Planning Advisory Committee. It relates to a proposed apartment in the downtown commercial district.

f) Business and Tourism

Councillor Creelman provided a verbal update.

On Motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Rogers-Laing, it was moved to approve the reports as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

g) Budget – Capital Budget & Operational Budget

After discussion, there was consensus to advance the Capital and Operational Budget to the next Council meeting for possible decision. This will allow Council two weeks for further review of the budgets.

h) Town Days

Councillor Creelman provided an overview and rationale to cancel Town Days for this year.

On Motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Commo, it was moved to recommend to Council to cancel Town Days for 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion carried unanimously.

i). Canada Day celebration

CAO; Dale Bogle informed the Committee of the Whole that staff would not be involved in any Canada Day celebrations due to the ongoing COVID -19 pandemic. He also mentioned about fireworks restrictions.

j) Virtual Committee Meetings

CAO; Dale Bogle updated the Committee of the Whole and listening audience that current Council meetings as well as many Committee meetings such as Planning Advisory Committee, Business and Tourism and others will be using the current Zoom system, which can allow for up to 500 participants.

k) COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Policy and Frequently Asked Questions

CAO; Dale Bogle provided an overview of the proposed policy and the mechanics of the process. The Municipal Property Tax Financing Program is offering eligible home and business owners low-interest loans and short-term deferral plans to ensure that outstanding tax bills are paid. The province's property tax financing program that offers an interest rate of 1.1 per cent, plus an administrative charge of .25 per cent, to property owners who demonstrate COVID-related financial hardship. Those with approved applications will have their payments spread out over a 30-month period, which includes a break on the first six payments that can be made for just \$25 per month. The remainder of the tax bill will be divided equally over the following 24 months.

l) Business Continuity Planning – Stewiacke Post COVID-19 Re-Entry Process

Really good working committee for planning and informing residents on what was/is taking place during the pandemic. The Community Centre was sanitized and prepared to house the ill. Following through on the plan and making changes/improvements as we go. Deputy Mayor Chapman did a wonderful job with communicating through social media. The committee will change its focus into safely reopening our businesses and spaces. Councillor Commo is volunteering her time to join into the working committee.

10 By-laws and Policies

a) Town Days Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for Town Days is completed. Town Days 2020 is recommended to be cancelled.

b) Alternative Voting By-Law Repeal

Repeal of a By-Law is a series of meetings of reading it, voting to repeal, holding a public hearing and then advertisement. CAO Bogle noted that the Province has decided to have an Election. Council is not in support of the Electronic Voting. All Councillors are in favor of repealing the Alternate Voting By-Law. Councillor Rogers-Laing noted that with the COVID-19 pandemic, paper ballots may not be the safest voting option. Council all agreed to start the repeal process but are willing to stop the process should electronic voting be the safest process due to COVID-19. The process will take a few months allowing for decision of Council to change.

c) Stewiacke COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Policy

All Council members were in favor of the Policy. Staff member Randi Buchi noted an interest charge correction in the document that will be made by CAO Bogle before bringing to Council May 28th, 2020. All Councillors were in favor of changing the application deadline of June 30th, 2020 to July 15th, 2020 to allow residents time to apply and become aware of the program.

11. Citizen Comments



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- 1) Posted in the comment section: Tax bills have not been received by Scotia Bank.
- 2) Pam Osborne is very happy to hear councillors talk about cashflow. Pam is concerned about the tax bills as her bank (Scotia Bank) has not received any information. Ms. Osborne would also request staff to reply to her email regarding her tax account.
- 3) Nora Habkirk wants to commend staff and Council on the great work done during COVID-19.

12. Mayor Report

Sending prayers to the loved ones of the six crew members of the CH148 Cyclone Helicopter that went down off of Greece. Sending prayers to the family of Dylan Ehler of Truro, NS. Thank you to staff for all of the hard work done over the past few months. PAC met and we are moving in a new direction with the Egress on St. Andrews Street. BIPPC thank you for all you hard work and thank you CAO Bogle for all your efforts. Thank you to Fox Hollow Golf Course for offering a wonderful Mother’s Day Dinner and thank you to those residents who helped with delivery of the dinner. Thank you to Whistlers for waiting on their Mother’s Day Dinner promotion to allow for Fox Hollow to sell out. Council members all made a personal donation of \$425.00 to the Shumilacke Food bank and an appreciation note was sent. A resident wanted to mention a thank you, to whoever donated an Easter Dinner to their family.

13. Councillors Report

Deputy Mayor Chapman- Thank you to our staff for all their hard work over the past few months. Thank you to Fox Hollow Golf Course for hosting a wonderful dinner that sold out. BIPPC meets regularly and is now phasing into discussion on how to make sure everyone is safe and feels safe during the reopening of businesses and spaces.

Councillor Ramsey- There are lots of Sold signs throughout town, it is a wonderful thing to see.

Councillor Commo- Enjoyed the Fox Hollow Dinner. Attended the Business & Tourism and Library virtual Zoom meetings. Received a call from a resident about a property on St. Andrews Street regarding water damage.

Councillor Rogers-Laing- No report.

Councillor Creelman- Great to see the Sold signs throughout town. When out for a walk over the past few months, people are saying Hello more often than before. Spending lots of time doing committee work.

14. In Camera Session

Nil.

15. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

Nil.

16. Adjournment

Time: 8:46PM

Read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Mayor

CAO



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