

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lloy called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Attendance

PRESENT:

Mayor George Lloy

Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman

Councillors: Mary Commo
Susan Creelman
Suzanne Lutz

Chad Ramsey – late arrival for 7:01
Rebecca Rogers-Laing

Staff: Dale Bogle, CAO
Lisa Feist – Recording Secretary
Erin Richard
Randi Buchi
Josh Hilton
Grant Cooke

REGRETS / ABSENT:

Jeff Sibley

3. Approval of / Changes to Agenda

Councillor Commo noted that the Council package only included the Terms of Reference for Well Water & Inclusion/Diversity Committee, not the committee appointments.

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Chapman and Councillor Rogers-Laing.

Moved that the agenda for January 14th, 2021 be approved as presented with changes noted by Councillor Commo.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items

Nil.

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)

a) November 12th, 2020 – Committee of the Whole – Minutes

Correct on page 4d – change advisor to advisory; On page 8 change Sanders St to St. Andrews St.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Ramsey

Moved that the minutes for November 12th, 2020 – Committee of the Whole be approved with noted corrections as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE: Mayor Lloy having technical difficulties with sound/internet connection for Zoom.

6. Announcements / Proclamations

Nil.

7. Presentations

Fire Department – Deputy Chief Brandon Verboom presents. Reports last year 13 calls, decreased due to medical first response calls stopping in March. Two on-going fund raisers – Chase the Ace and NS Firefighters 50/50 draw. Two pieces of equipment purchased with fundraising and provincial grant funds – a blitz fire (unmanned hose stream) and a thermal imaging camera. Looking for funding for the purchase of a vehicle exhaust system for the fire truck exhausts inside the fire hall (extracts diesel and exhaust fumes and places them outside). Current quote for 4 trucks \$63,000; 5 trucks \$73,000.

Councillor Lutz queried does the county provides any funding; Deputy Chief will look into that and approach the county. Councillor Creelman asked how long the quote is good for; Deputy Chief indicated 3 months and will re-confirm the quote amount for more recent numbers; Mayor Lloy asked if any other quotes were requested and Deputy Chief indicated yes and the 2nd quote will be sent to Council for information.

8. Written Petitions and Correspondence

9. Business

a) Staff Reports-

- a. Administration – CAO informed council the report now has highlighted changes for ease of reference and will be looking at a new/different format in the future; CAO Bogle highlighted dealing with animal control with Colchester Co handling day time and SPCA dealing with evening or off-hours – contract is in process as call volume is determined; Deputy Mayor asked how many calls have been received in the past 5 months since going with the county; CAO answered 3 and they were handled in house with no charges laid.

The well-source study will be a big area in 2021, recommendations were to form an advisory committee and terms of reference are in the package for council review. On solar for community buildings, working with contract authority for installation; this will be the year to go operational; Randi, Erin and I will be working on this and will update as progress occurs.

Accessibility plan will be part of a regional plan. Bus & Tourism did receive a proposal from Revolve (branding & marketing company) they have a lot of experience with municipalities and companies. For example, Bridgwater & Kentville & HRM and many others. We will look at their proposal and prepare the information for council in the near future.

Other solar items, solar initiatives and grants aimed at retrofits and new builds, there are a lot of municipalities that offer incentives/financial assistance plans paid over ten years on taxes, there is

a lot of information to consider here. We will be looking into this process and see if a fit for Stewiacke.

The river bank trail is dealing with the flooding issue – will be discussed further later in the agenda. Tidal waters are a federal responsibility so we are trying to interact with the federal government on this.

Likely a recommendation from staff to council on a capital budget perspective is the installation of a splash pad at Denis Park – we have received two donations for a total of \$80,000 and we will be looking at additional funding. More details will follow as information is finalized.

Amalgamation committee will be planned for this area and TOR underway in the near future.

Covid19 pandemic monitored daily, very fortunate to have low numbers and nobody in hospital.

That could change any time; BIPPC poised for ready to go and have the Community Center as a rapid test facility. Some calls from the provincial level looking at the center for an inoculation or vaccine center in the next couple of months.

Dealing with rodent infestation issues since the holiday period, working with the bank and the law firms representing – an appraiser will be viewing the premises expected next week and will update council once details are available.

Development for an additional complex that will take up the rest of the lands for Kelry, new apartment building where the old laundromat and preliminary plans continue with Perry Lake regarding a senior complex there.

Lisa has put together some stats for future baselines to monitor growth or decline in certain areas. Mayor Lloy and CAO Bogle has been speaking with Municipal Affairs for standard training for newly elected officials and refresher training for the future. Details will be shared later from Mayor Lloy.

Councillor Commo asked about Revolve presentation – in the big picture what benefit new branding might bring and why would we want to rebrand. Audio garbled for a brief time. CAO Bogle confirmed question and says this type of vehicle can have an increased attraction to the area, more information and consideration will be gathered to determine whether we move forward.

Councillor Commo comments that she does not think we need an amalgamation committee; we promised a meeting and we should have a meeting for the residents present the pros & cons and what the facts are. A committee might bog things down and things could be resolved in one or two meetings.

- b. Public Works – Mr Sibley absent; CAO highlights the good weather so far and thus easy on the salt budget and extra time for plowing; expects lots of winter ahead. Councillor Creelman asks about the parking lot on Kitchener St that is the entrance to the Post Office; does Canada post maintain it, it is getting sloppy with potholes, can there be something done to clean that up? CAO Bogle will look into it with Canada Post Regional Manager.

- c. Recreation – Councillor Creelman inquired about the damage at Denis Park and the ballfields – is there any update or progress? Mrs. Richard replied there was a lot of feedback but no update. Councillor Creelman asked with regards to outdoor gym equipment at Denis Park with regards to budget – do we need both pieces of equipment there. Mrs. Richard advised we are considering selling that as this may be the best location for the future splash pad.

NOTE: some difficulty hearing on the Zoom platform

Councillor Creelman inquired of Mr. Hilton about the splash pad and the two generous donations, she had heard there might be others – funding and donations. Mr. Hilton was not aware of additional donations, in terms of funding there is regional funding grant that may cover 1/3 of the total cost that is in progress and application will be submitted.

- d. Planning – Mr. Cooke advised there was no meeting in December; informed that Camie Branch has updated the building design with an image; further discussions are under way for phasing and size of lot and further requirements; confirmed to Councillor Lutz question that it is it a coffee shop; a terms of reference for transportation study has been submitted for review and updates will be coming in the near future – the challenge has been difficulty getting resources to aid in developing the study TOR's.
Mr. Cooke confirms the café is more targeted to pedestrians; Councillor Lutz asked had she considered selling ice cream in the summer and will Council see the new drawings at some point? Not sure about ice cream but likely and, yes drawings will be distributed to Council.
- e. Financial – Mrs. Buchi highlighted budgeting dates in the report – Wednesday evenings via Zoom at this time – note: difficulty with audio; Mrs. Buchi repeated. Councillor Lutz asked if any sessions are open to the public; Mrs. Buchi deferred to council & CAO Bogle. Councillor Lutz asked about miscellaneous expenses is there a list of the detail somewhere and what is considered a miscellaneous expense. Mrs. Buchi said anything miscellaneous is anything we can't categorize and they are typically insignificant; I can demonstrate the details if you need.
CAO Bogle confirmed that meetings would be advertised meeting for the public to attend; Councillor Commo asked about capital projects noted with "project has been canceled/under review", when were these cancelled? Note: audio garbled - Mrs. Buchi repeated it is either the budget has been cancelled out right or under review. For the civic building, it is under review – in year 3 or 4 for future planning. The mold abatement has been cancelled as the \$20k was not enough to complete the work at this time.

Note: Mayor Lloy logged back in after getting kicked out of Zoom platform @ 7:53 pm

Councillor Creelman asked about the RFP or bid process on the property for tax sale – Mrs. Buchi updated that we are within the waiting period for 60-day notification. We believe someone has received the letter and notified to pay the bill within 60 days before it goes up for tax sale. We have 3 days left of the notification period and then the tax sale process will take place.

Councillor Lutz asked to confirm that when attending, can the public ask questions and provide input; CAO Bogle confirmed yes, they can.

Councillor Commo asked Mrs. Buchi to answer her previous question due to audio difficulty in Zoom – Mrs. Buchi repeated to clarify for the civic building it is under review and pushed out 3 – 4 years. Mold abatement is cancelled that there was no way to cover the repair cost with the \$20,000 allocated. Councillor Commo comments that with the mold abatement topic we will need to discuss at another time as we should not have an employee entering/working in the building with mold.

Note: Mayor Lloy has been experiencing connectivity issues with Zoom this evening with intermittent disconnect.

On the motion of Counsellor Creelman and Counsellor Commo

Moved to approve the Staff Reports as presented for January 14th, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b) Regional Accessibility Plan – CAO Bogle updates putting this forth to consider future plan and what the structure will be; future meetings and summaries of updates, projects costs and future plans will be shared when the representation is determined for council and citizen appointments. If you have any thoughts or input on this plan could look like, please let me know.
- c) Tidal Waters – Mr. Hilton updates council with images from the flooding on Main St W from Stewiacke River – expects this to be a long-standing issue with global warming and higher sea level changes – referenced the pictures to demonstrate the difference in tide levels on December 15th – 16th with 8.5 m tide, highest tides. The area is classified as tidal water, part of the Bay of Fundy so a federal responsibility. Contacting several agencies for input as to a resolution – DFO, MP's office, Department of Agriculture, TIR – but no tangible feedback at this time. The MP's office said there was no resolution at this time but said to apply for infrastructure funds through TIR – those funds are not available yet but we will monitor. We continue to seek expertise and provincial or government agency to aid.

Councillor Creelman comments that a few years ago Colchester & Truro had major flooding on Main St – wiping out lumber yards, bleachers etc. – there might be someone in those municipalities that might be able to give us some guidance. Mr. Bogle, Mrs. Richard and Mr. Hilton spoke with Dave Weslake, he shared some information and contacted Colchester County but didn't get a response – will try again. Mr. Hilton will contact Truro as well.

- d) Committees – Terms of Reference & Appointments – Mayor Lloy confirms all Councillors have received the terms of reference for Well Water Study and Inclusion & Diversity committees. Email was sent requesting councillors to advise for their intentions to serve on each committee; please

confirm your committees within the next 7 days. Any vacant positions will be advertised for the citizens on website and newspaper.

Councillor Creelman comments on the wording of the governance on Well Water TOR, both committees would be committees of council so would report to council and accept council's direction. I wasn't sure if that was clear enough on the Well Water – it could be my interpretation. I also thought in the officers, the chair should probably be a councillor or ideally the mayor. It doesn't clearly state that and perhaps it should.

Councillor Creelman notes with regards to the inclusion, it was quite a bit more elaborate on accountability and it might should be in both committees or if it is necessary at all. And with the term, that it would be a four-year term. If someone resigns, you would fill the spot but in our policy, it is for the mandate of the four-year term.

Councillor Lutz adds that she wants to comments that she agrees with Mary about the amalgamation committee.

10. By-laws and Policies

Nil.

11. Citizen Comments

Pam Osborne – A couple of things actually, regarding communications with the residents, I am wondering if town council or staff is going to look at putting out newsletters again. A couple of possible topics could be snow removal and the priority of the streets, and maybe even reviewing some by-laws such as garbage or noise by-law in particular regarding fireworks within the town. And also, would like to ask a question regarding the reports, and I think I've asked this before, if they could be attached to the agenda ahead of time like previous CAO's had done. I just noticed one thing tonight actually again under staff reports where the motion was made to approve instead of recommend that normally happens at the committee of the whole session. Other than that I just want to say thank you and a great big huge thank you to the town crew doing an amazing job on the last snowfall we had and hopefully we won't have any more.

No other comments from online audience.

12. Mayor Report

Mayor Lloy – On Dec 14th flags were lowered at half mast at Denis Park for previous councillor George Robinson; Dec 17th branding meeting with Paul Otto of Resolve; Dec 22/23 distributed approx. 35 Christmas cards to local businesses and was extremely well received and a good way to climatize myself with the businesses – a great idea on behalf of the staff. On Saltwire communication and it is on the website, reiterated the positive status of the town. On Jan 8th attended a meeting regarding subdivision Winchester on Jan 7th attended Business and Tourism. Jan 11th attended with DM and CAO with solid waste facility in Kempton. Further invite extended for council to go out and work on the assembly line, Truro has done it in the past and very eye-opening experience. On Jan 13th met with CAO and Curtis McKinnon (RCMP District Commander of Colchester County), in the afternoon went to Fish Shack grounds

to observe the breach of water and possible severity. In general, meeting with CAO once a week – Mondays are a briefing and then signing cheques every 2nd Monday - lots of contact and meetings and familiarizing myself with the role. Recently, in contact with Jason Haughn of Municipal Affairs – he will be presenting a series of training for the municipalities of NS on Feb 11th – 15 min presentation. First of two parts of the training will be rules & regulations for councillors & duties by Zoom at this time. Standard on going training offered by Municipal Affairs, refresher for seasoned councillors and new information for new councillors.

13. Councillors Reports

Deputy Mayor Chapman – visited Colchester Materials Recovery Facility – very impressive and encourage others to attend; attended branding meeting with Revolve in December, met with Executive Director with Colchester County East Hants Library on Tuesday morning, went to the fish shack yesterday, and thinks the Saltwire interview was very good, representing the town in a very positive light.

Councillor Creelman – attended the Revolve meeting, gathering at Fish Shack, and Happy New Year

Councillor Commo – attended Business & Tourism meeting, and Library meeting yesterday

Councillor Lutz – questions concerning fireworks by-law, has it changed to allow fireworks within the town limits? Related question was will there be any re-consideration to have the monthly newsletter started as that is a good way to get out information such as by-laws? Another concern I have is over plows, it was reported that it was over 12 hours before the road was plowed?

Councillor Ramsey – nothing to report

Councillor Rogers-Laing – nothing to report

14. In-Camera Session

Nil.

15. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

Nil.

16. Adjournment

Mayor Lloy adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Councillor Commo noted Zoom reception has been terrible; Bogle will contact them regarding the quality of the call tonight

Read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2021.

X _____
Mayor

X _____
CAO