

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Via WebEx virtual meetings**

**November 23, 2021**

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke

Deputy Mayor Mike Trinacty

Councillor Derrick Jamieson

Councillor Rod Reeves

Councillor Chris Goddard

Councillor Ty Walsh

Councillor Adam Lutz

Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer

Karen Peckford, Director of Finance

Tim Harding, Director of Public Works

Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the Agenda as circulated.

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The previous COTW Minutes were approved as circulated.

**4. Presentation: Michael Getchell, Manager Kings Transit**

Mr. Getchell was present to introduce himself as the new Manager of Kings Transit. Mr. Getchell explained how excited he was about his new position and that both transit and renewable energy are both very important to him. He will be providing all Councils with a presentation in the coming weeks.

**5. Departmental Reports**

*a.RCMP*

The RCMP report was reviewed by the committee. Deputy Mayor Trinacty noted that Constable Wilson will be taking some Wildcat players around to the schools with him to meet some young, excited hockey fans. A positive gesture on Constable Wilson's part.

*b.Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department*

Chief Luke Redden submitted his report. No questions of same.

*c.Active Living*

The committee reviewed the report. No questions.

*d. Recreation Programing*

Kudos to Taylor Fancy for all of her tremendous work with the successful Berwick Sports Hall of Fame last weekend!

*e. Economic Development*

Ms. Verrette is working hard assisting with the upcoming bonspiels at the Berwick Curling Club. 150 fans are now permitted to watch.

*f. Public Works*

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by Council. No questions.

*g. Finance*

Ms. Peckford asked if there were any questions of her report. There were none.

Mr. Payne thanked Ms. Peckford for all of her committed work on the financials and policy/bylaw work she has completed.

*i. CAO Report*

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. Mr. Payne highlighted that work continues on the downtown outdoor audio speaker system and the Wi-Fi connections in the gymnasium. Unfortunately, he does not feel either one will be completed before the new year.

**6. New Business:**

**a. Property Tax Exemption Policy**

This policy is proposed resulting from a review of a property that suffered significant damage in July, 2021.

Ms. Peckford reviewed the draft policy. Councillor Jamieson noted that the policy may need the word "flood" replaced with the word "otherwise" as per the MGA. Karen will look into this as well as the tax reduction amounts and Capped Assessment Program information. This motion for approval will go to December Council.

**b. Day Care Centre's Property Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw**

Ms. Peckford reviewed the report in detail, noting that the Finance Department would like to repeal the current Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw and replace it with the noted 'Property Tax Exemption Policy' and introduce a "Day Care Centre's Property Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw".

The current Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw needs to be repealed because it lists organizations that no longer exist and is not written to accurately reflect the inclusion of all organizations that may be considered. The existing Bylaw considers Day Care Centre's as well as charitable organizations. The latter should properly be considered under the new *Property Tax Exemption Policy*.

Ms. Peckford will look into the Business Occupancy Tax and whether it still exists. Deputy Mayor Trinacty also noted that a home-based business tax model needs to be reviewed.

The recommendation that Council approve first reading of the *Tax Exemption Policy* and the *Day Care Centre's Property Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw* will go before December Council.

**c. Financial Review**

Ms. Peckford explained that the Town's financials are looking strong and very positive. No great over-budget items.

To have these monies for our surplus and reserves is great news for the Town.

Fitness Centre financials will be provided in more detail in coming reports.

## **7. Mayor/Councillors Reports**

a. *Councillor Trinacty* – reviewed his submitted written report highlighting meetings of the Housing Committee and Community Development Committee and a successful Berwick Hall of Fame evening.

b. *Councillor Goddard* – verbally reported that Dave Brown is back as Kings Point to Point Manager. Ridership is up approximately 90%.

c. *Mayor Clarke*

Mayor Clarke reported that he and Councillor Jamieson met with a party potentially interested in partnering with AREA and noted it was a very informative meeting.

Recruitment for new members for the Valley REN is currently ongoing.

There is a regional Interim IMSA meeting regarding Kings Transit and Valley Waste on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Town's Christmas Open House is cancelled for this year.

d. *Accessibility Committee Resignation*

Mr. Payne announced there has been a resignation within the Accessibility Committee and is recommending employee Chris Cooke fill this position. A motion will go before December Council.

e. *Town of Annapolis Royal Correspondence*

Mayor Clarke noted he has received correspondence from Annapolis Royal to seek support for a pilot project for a small-scale community tidal power project proposed by the Town of Annapolis Royal in partnership with Soluna Energy Inc.

Mayor Clarke explained that the Town would need much more information and defers the decision to the AREA group and Don Regan of Berwick Electric.

## **7. Adjournment**

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.