



Naturally Yours

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**REGULAR SESSION OF THE 52nd COUNCIL
OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF SHELBURNE
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
6:00 pm**

The Regular Session of the 52nd Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, commencing at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Administration Building, Council Chambers.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Warden Penny Smith
Deputy Warden Dale Richardson
Councillor Ron Coole
Councillor Heidi Wagner
Councillor Sherry Thorburn Irvine
Councillor Anthony Gosbee
Councillor Doris Townsend
Trudy Payne, CAO

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Chana Ross, Executive Assistant
Andrew Goreham, Manager of Inspection Services
Val Kean, Community Development Coordinator
Members of the Public
Members of the Media

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Warden Smith.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. May 11, 2022

MOTION: APPROVAL OF AGENDA – May 11, 2022

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Agenda for May 11, 2022, be approved as circulated.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. April 27, 2022

MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 27, 2022

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Minutes of April 27, 2022, be approved as circulated.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

There was no business arising.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Community Well – Louise Lindsay, Senior Environmental Specialist, & Louise Delisle, Community Advocate, Environmental Solutions
- b. Health Care for Shelburne County Update – Jodi Ybarra, Health Service Manager, Roseway Hospital & Fraser Mooney, Public Engagement & Communications, NS Health Authority

5(a) Louise Lindsay, Senior Environmental Specialist and Louise Delisle, Community Advocate, Environmental Solutions, presented Council with the Community Well Project.

The presenters noted that Rural residents of southwestern Nova Scotia have been burdened with recurring drought conditions affecting well water supplies since 2016. Climate change modelling for the region has predicted that conditions will worsen, supported by exponential change evident over the past several years. Prevalent use of shallow dug wells in the region contributes to their tendency to go dry in Summer and Fall and makes them susceptible to contamination.

It was advised that Municipal units in eastern Shelburne County and Shelburne County East EMO have lobbied the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to support sustainable and long-term assistance for residents with well water shortages in the area.

It was further presented that in 2018 NSCC Applied Research realized the existence of an abandoned drilled water well on the NSCC Shelburne Campus that was once used to support Aquaculture programming. The Shelburne Campus well water has the potential to serve as a community water supply. The water can be sent offsite to a dispensing station to eliminate public traffic flow on Campus. It could be operated on a cost-recovery basis as a registered water supply with Nova Scotia Environment with operation and maintenance assumed, for

example, by the Shelburne County East EMO or another entity. Examples of such dispensing stations are in the Town of Liverpool, Yarmouth, a privately-run operation in Ardoise.

The proposed Shelburne Campus Community Well project is an innovation intended to help alleviate water security stress in the surrounding geographic area. It could also showcase the portable water treatment technology for implementation in other rural and remote communities in southwestern Nova Scotia and elsewhere, including First Nations communities and as an emergency measures response mechanism generally. A suitable partnership in this initiative could include the NSCC, SEED, and regional municipal units.

Council directed staff to compile a staff report and bring this matter to a future Council meeting.

Council thanked Ms. Lindsey and Ms. Delisle for their presentation.

5(b)_Jodi Ybarra, Health Service Manager, Roseway Hospital and Fraser Mooney, Public Engagement & Communications, NS Health Authority, presented Council with the Health Care for Shelburne County Update.

Ms. Ybarra and Mr. Mooney provided updates to Council regarding Health Services in Shelburne County on the following matters:

Roseway Site Update

- Programs / services / activities / initiatives
- Foundation/Auxiliary support
- DI/Xray Campaign

Emergency Department Update

- Numbers/trends
- Reasons for closures/impact of COVID-19 on staffing
- Initiatives to reduce closures

Primary Health Care Update

- Shelburne Family Practice/providers
- Care Clinic #s
- Need a Family Practice #s
- Virtual Care NS

Recruitment

- Recent recruitment activity
- Practice Readiness Assessment program update

COVID-19 Response

- Visitor restrictions are still in effect
- Impact on staffing/services

- Rapid test availability
- Testing site - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Council thanked Ms. Ybarra and Mr. Mooney for their presentation.

6. BUILDING INSPECTION:

- a. Construction Projects and Permits Update – Andrew Goreham
- b. Renaming of Department of Public Works Road – Andrew Goreham

6(a) Andrew Goreham, Manager of Inspection Services, presented Council with the Construction Projects and Permits Update staff report.

A request from Council was to report on the construction projects and demographics of permits in the Municipality of Shelburne.

During the previous fiscal year, the Municipality has seen the value of permits double over the year before. This year they have increased by another 11%, with new dwellings increasing by 50%. (This includes Seasonal Dwellings)

The commercial projects cover approximately 55% of the year's total permit value of \$15,000,000.00, including the new Municipal Office. Other commercial/industrial is down from the previous year. This is partially due to the previous projects continuing due to the difficulty of obtaining materials. There are still several of last year's residential permits not completed for the same reason. Some non-locals who have moved to the area have since obtained permits and built new or renovated existing homes.

A discussion was held regarding building permits and civic addressing. Due to Covid-19, Mr. Goreham noted that the Municipality has been more accommodating than is customary. Council noted that the continued growth of the community is encouraging.

6(b) Andrew Goreham, Manager of Inspection Services, presented Council with the Renaming of Department of Public Works Road staff report.

A request was received from a resident to correct the misspelling of a local road name from McGillis Island Road. Staff at the Nova Scotia Geomatics Center reviewed the information available to them. Upon contacting the Department of Public Works, they attempted to find out more information regarding the history of the road name. As determined by the Department of Public Works, in 2012 it was spelled as MCGILLIS; however, there is a history of the road being known as McGillis Island Road.

As a result of discussions with Councilor Gosbee and the resident and staff at the Nova Scotia Geomatics Center, it was decided to pursue the official clarification and road name change. As the Department of Public Works owns this road, a request must come from Council.

MOTION: RENAMING OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ROAD

THAT the Municipality of the District of Shelburne request that the Department of Public Works rename the road to McGill's Island Road as it should be.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

7. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- a. COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant – Program and Guideline Review – Val Kean
- b. 2022/2023 Grants to Organizations Recommendations – Val Kean

7(a) Val Kean, Community Development Coordinator, presented Council with the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant – Program and Guideline Review staff report.

The 2022/2023 Operating Budget includes \$15,000 for the continued administration of the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant Program. It is recommended that the Council consider revising the name of this opportunity to, Fundraising Support for Community Organizations.

The emergency fund was initially established in 2020, assisting community groups in addressing financial challenges due to COVID-19. As the COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to ease and fundraising efforts can once again be hosted, it is proposed that the Municipality support Community Groups revitalizing their fundraising efforts with funding that will match money raised, up to \$500. This would be a one-year funding opportunity, and continued availability will be discussed by Council annually.

During the 2021/2022 fiscal year, guidelines for the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund allowed two applications for funding, up to \$1,000 each, based on the organization's financial loss and financial need. Council approved a total of \$22,189 in funding for this program.

Given the current COVID-19 situation and society moving into a phase of "living with COVID," under the direction of public health, gathering restrictions have been removed, allowing most pre-COVID activities to resume. Staff recommends that the Council consider the approval of the revised guidelines to support our community organizations' fundraising efforts.

During the discussion, it was suggested that if provincial health care guidelines or restrictions change, Council might consider eligibility under the previous guidelines.

MOTION: COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT – PROGRAM AND GUIDELINE REVIEW

THAT the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approve the revised COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant program, to be renamed the Fundraising Support for

Community Groups Grant program, and associated program guidelines to determine eligibility for the 2022-2023 distribution of allocated funds.

7(b) Val Kean, Community Development Coordinator, presented Council with the 2022/2023 Grants to Organizations Recommendations staff report.

\$72,250 was approved in the Municipality's 2022/2023 Operating Budget for Grants to Organizations. A total of 34 applications have been received, requesting \$66,510.75. The spreadsheet included in the council meeting package shows 33 of the organization applying for the grant, the amount requested from each organization and the amount staff are recommending for approval. One application is still in the review stage, pending the receipt of required documentation.

Ms. Kean recommended to Council that an application received on behalf of the Chronic Illness Committee requesting support of \$2,500 be considered under the allotted Healthcare amount in the 2022/2023 budget. The Chronic Illness Committee, servicing residents of Shelburne County, provides financial assistance to patients with chronic illness to offset the costs of travel for medical appointments, medications, and medical equipment rentals.

A discussion was held regarding Graham's Park. Ms. Kean stated that the review committee considered several factors when determining what amounts to approve for grants, including previous years' grant applications. It was noted that the Grants to Organizations program does not provide funding for staff positions. Additionally, the Municipality and Town will work together to operate the Visitors Information Centre this year. There were also two new applications this year from new societies.

MOTION: 2022/2023 GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approve the recommended grant amounts attached, totalling \$61,760.75, to come from the 2022/2023 Grants to Organization, GL# 00-21950-791 and;

THAT the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approve the support for Shelburne County Chronic Illness Committee in the amount of \$2,500, to come from the Healthcare GL# 00-24970-000.

8. CORPORATE SERVICES:

- a. Waste Diversion Officer Report – Information Purposes Only

Council reviewed the Waste Diversion Officer Report.

9. ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Roseway Manor Update – Trudy Payne

9(a) Trudy Payne, CAO, presented to Council the Roseway Manor Update staff report.

On Friday, April 29, 2022, the CAOs for the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality of Shelburne and the Town Clerk for the Town of Lockeport met with representatives from the province to discuss the tendering process for Roseway Manor. It was agreed that the province would undertake this task as they are experts in procurement and long-term care, not the municipal administrators. As such, the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care (SLTC) is developing an Expression of Interest, seeking a qualified service provider, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, interested in operating the existing Roseway Manor and/or replacing or renovating Roseway Manor.

Until the transfer happens, ownership and operations of the Manor are the responsibility of the municipal corporation. The province has assured us that standards of care for for-profit and not-for-profit are the same, with both models existing in the province at various locations.

As stated by the province and the councils for the three municipalities, the primary interest of all involved is to ensure the best possible infrastructure and high-quality services are provided to those in need of long-term care in our community.

10. OTHER:

- a. Correspondence from Municipality of Barrington – Re: Regional Emergency Management Organization – Trudy Payne
- b. Correspondence from Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities – Re: Municipal Affairs and Housing Notice – Trudy Payne
- c. Correspondence from the Office of MP Perkins – Re: Redistribution – Trudy Payne
- d. Correspondence from the Office of Minister LeBlanc – Re: Gas Tax Fund – Trudy Payne

10(a) Trudy Payne, CAO, informed Council of correspondence received from the Municipality of Barrington regarding a possible Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) for Shelburne County and a commitment for further discussions towards this matter.

Discussion was held regarding shared services in the county and the continuing growth of regional cooperation.

MOTION: REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (REMO)

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Municipality of the District of Shelburne commits to participating in discussions for a Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) with the four other Shelburne County Municipal Units.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

10(b) Trudy Payne CAO informed the Council of correspondence received from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities regarding the 12-months notice (Municipal Affairs and Housing Notice).

Highlights of the notice include:

- Renegotiating the Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipalities
- Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (MFCG)
- Changes to Definition of Income for Housing Programs & Services
- Code of Conduct
- Coastal Protection Act
- Department Of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA): Procurement
- Biological Casework Analysis Agreement
- RCMP Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Amendments to the Part XX of the Municipal Government Act
- Expansion of Firefighter's Cancer Presumption under the Workers' Compensation Act (Firefighters' Compensation Regulations).

A discussion was held regarding fire services and the downloading of services to municipalities and how this could affect how municipalities provide services in the future. This issue needs to be brought to the attention of the province. Council agreed that this item be submitted to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities as an agenda item for the fall conference.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the municipal advisor be invited to meet with Council regarding items outlined in the 12-month notice.

Further, the RCMP National Police Federation's collective bargaining agreement with the Government of Canada was signed on August 6, 2021. Economic increases and market adjustments were included from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2023. The average cost increase to municipalities under the Provincial Police Service Agreement is 11% for 2022-23. Based on the new sergeant position, the Municipality will experience an average cost increase of 22%. It was unanimously agreed that if this issue is not addressed, it could negatively impact municipal budgets and services in the future.

MOTION: LETTER TO THE PROVINCE REGARDING ON-GOING POLICING COSTS

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Municipality of the District of Shelburne write a letter to the federal and provincial governments expressing our concerns regarding the retroactive pay for RCMP.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

10(c) Trudy Payne, CAO, informed Council of correspondence received from the Office of MP Perkins informing Council of proposed electoral boundary changes.

The proposed changes would move Shelburne County from the South Shore-St. Margaret's riding to the West Nova Riding. Mrs. Payne noted that she had contacted other municipal units within the county. It was noted that the Municipality of Barrington will request that a public hearing be held in Shelburne County. The Town of Shelburne has invited Mr. Perkins to speak on this matter.

There was discussion regarding concerns about the lack of a public hearing within the County when Shelburne County is most affected by these changes. In addition, the Council directed staff to contact the four other municipal units in Shelburne County to request a joint letter be sent to the federal government. This letter will request that a public hearing be held in Shelburne County about concerns regarding redistricting of electoral boundaries.

10(d) Trudy Payne, CAO, informed Council of correspondence received from the Office of Minister LeBlanc regarding the Gas Tax Fund.

Ms. Payne noted that Mr. Perkin's office had sent a letter to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities regarding changing the funding criteria for the Gas Tax Fund to include municipal buildings. According to the Minister, the criteria will not be changed.

During the discussion, Warden Smith stated that she would continue to advocate on behalf of this issue.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES:

- a. Councillors'/Committee Reports
- b. Warden's Report

11(a) Councillors Gosbee, Thorburn Irvine, Wagner and Deputy Warden Richardson provided updates on their recent activities.

Councillor Gosbee advised that he attended the following event:

- Arena Meeting – May 9, 2022

Councillor Thorburn Irvine advised that she attended the following events:

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities – May 4-6, 2022
- Roseway Manor Community Meeting – April 30, 2022
- McLeans Island activities
- On-going roadside clean-up
- Forestry Committee
 - There was a question raised on the status of the Lahey Report, and Warden Smith advised that she had advocated on Council's behalf to the Minister of the Environment regarding this matter. The Minister may have staff present to Council on the Lahey Report at a later date.

Regular Council Meeting
May 11, 2022

Councillor Wagner advised that she had attended the following event:

- Fire Advisory Committee – May 10, 2022

Deputy Warden Richardson advised that he attended the following events:

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities – May 4-6, 2022
- Fire Advisory Committee – May 10, 2022
 - Darrell Locke was elected as Chair and Lewis Chetwynd as Vice-Chair
 - Staff report to come to Council regarding training
 - On-going discussion regarding the possible new position

11(b) Warden Smith advised that she attended the following events:

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities – May 4-6, 2022
- Shelburne County Mental Health and Wellness Committee – May 4, 2022

Discussion was held regarding current gasoline prices and the negative impact the situation has on residents. Council will continue to advocate both the federal and provincial governments regarding this matter. Council directed staff to write a letter to both governments.

MOTION: GAS TAX REDUCTION

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Municipality of the District of Shelburne send a letter to both the federal and provincial governments to ask for a reduction in the gas tax.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm. The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, in the Shelburne Council Chambers.

Chana Ross
Recording Secretary

Date

Penny Smith, Warden

Erin Hartley, Director of Corporate Services