

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025 @ 4:30 P.M.
GUYSBOROUGH MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

Warden Paul Long called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Warden Paul Long
Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche
Councillor Mary Desmond
Councillor Neil DeCoff
Councillor Dave Hanhams
Councillor Susan Cashin
Councillor Hudson MacLeod
Councillor Fin Armsworthy

OTHERS PRESENT

Shawn Andrews, Deputy CAO
Deborah Torrey, Development Officer
Danita Imlay, Director of Finance
Sean O'Connor, Director of Economic & Community Development
Angie Tavares, Director of Recreation
Glen Avery, Director of Public Works
Ashley Cunningham-Avery, Executive Director GDBP
Media (via zoom)
Members of the Public

REGRETS

Barry Carroll, CAO

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-04-94945

8.b) Media Correspondence

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: THAT the Committee of Whole approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2025

25-04-94946

MOVED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

MOTION: THAT Committee of the Whole approve the minutes of March 5, 2025 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

25-04-94947

EDIA

Mr. Sean O'Connor briefly reviewed the Briefing Note included in the package regarding the membership and terms of reference for the EDIA Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the EDIA Terms of Reference and Committee Membership as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

WARDEN'S REPORT

25-04-94948

Warden Paul Long's report was included in the meeting package for the information of Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: THAT Committee of the Whole approve the Warden's Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

25-04-94949

Mr. Barry Carroll was not available for today's meeting.

DEPUTY CAO REPORT

25-04-94950

Mr. Shawn Andrews briefly reviewed his report which was included in the meeting package and welcomed any questions from Council.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Hudson MacLeod

MOTION: THAT Committee of the Whole approve the Deputy CAO's Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

25-04-94951

Mrs. Danita Imlay briefly reviewed her monthly report which was included in the package.

MOVED: Councillor Hudson MacLeod

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the Director of Finance Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE – NOTICE TO AMEND POLICY F-6, TAX EXEMPTION AND RELIEF POLICY

25-04-94952

Mrs. Danita Imlay reviewed the Briefing Note included in the package regarding a proposed change to Policy F-6 to change the wording from “Low Income Tax Exemption” to “Municipal Property Tax Exemption”.

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole give notice of motion to amend Policy F-6, Section 1 of the Tax Exemption and Relief Policy to include the suggested changes wherein the term “Low Income Tax Exemption” will be replaced with “Municipal Property Tax Exemption”;

AND FURTHER THAT the changes be recommended for approval at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER’S REPORT

25-04-94953

Ms. Deborah Torrey stated that her report has been included in the meeting package and that she is happy to answer any questions Committee may have.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the Development Officer’s Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE – REQUEST FOR LAND DONATION

25-04-94954

Ms. Deborah Torrey reviewed the Briefing Note included in the package regarding request for land donation in Cutlers Brook Estates Subdivision from Community First: Guysborough County Housing Association.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole advise Community First: Guysborough County Housing Association that MODG would be willing to consider donation of land in Cutlers Brook Estates Subdivision for a housing project that has been approved and funded;

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality is willing to provide confirmation of a land donation as MODG's contribution to a housing project as part of a funding application.

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT

25-04-94955

Mr. Glen Avery stated that his report was included in the meeting package and that he is happy to answer any questions Committee may have.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the Director of Public Works' Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE – NORTH RIVERSIDE AREA STREET LIGHTING

25-04-94956

Mr. Glen Avery briefly reviewed the report included in the package regarding a request for street lighting in the North Riverside area. Mr. Avery noted that since he submitted his report, they had received two additional responses both of which were in favour of street lighting.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole recommend to the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that they proceed with installation of streetlights in the community of North Riverside in accordance with the Municipal Street Lighting Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE – RFP, CANSO & AREA FITNESS CENTRE

25-04-94957

Mr. Glen Avery reviewed the report included in the package regarding the RFP for the proposed Canso & Area Fitness Centre project.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole authorize MODG Staff to proceed with the advertisement of the Design-Build RFP for the Canso & Area Fitness Centre.

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche thanked Council and Staff for their work on this project.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT

25-04-94958

Mrs. Angie Tavares stated that her report was included in the meeting package and briefly reviewed her report for the information of Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the Director of Recreation Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 25-04-94959

Mr. Sean O'Connor stated that his report was included in the meeting package and proceeded to briefly review this report for the information of Council.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the Director of Economic & Community Development's Report.

MOTION CARRIED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GDBP

25-04-94960

Mrs. Ashley Cunningham-Avery briefly reviewed her monthly report which was included in the meeting package.

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Hudson MacLeod

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the report from the Executive Director of the GDBP as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

PETITION – SHIPPING CONTAINERS

25-04-94961

Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche presented a petition to Council that she received from Mr. Harry Myette asking that Council amend the Land Use Bylaw to permit shipping containers on residential lots.

Ms. Deborah Torrey reviewed the briefing note that was presented to Committee of the Whole in November 2024 for a similar request noting that the Council decision at that time was to refer this request to the Planning Review which is scheduled to commence in 2026.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

SECONDED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

MOTION: **THAT** the Committee of the Whole instruct that a letter be sent to Mr. Harry Myette acknowledging receipt of the petition and advise that this request will be considered during the Planning Review scheduled to commence in 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

MEDIA CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Dave Hanhams expressed concern over voting procedures and stated that he feels that when there is “nay” vote, he would like to see Councillors state why they are voting nay. Councillor Hanhams stated that if you don’t understand what you are voting for, that’s one thing, but if you do and you are voting nay, you should state why you vote nay. Councillor Hanhams also expressed concern with the article that just appeared in the Guysborough Journal stating that no where in the article did it say what actually took place during budget deliberations. Councillor Hanhams stated that Mr. Alec Bruce did not get all the information or the entire storey noting that there are several contradictions in the article. Councillor Hanhams stated that Mr. Bruce wished to call him tomorrow, he would provide a statement to set the record straight. Councillor Hanhams noted that he wanted to include \$200,000 in the budget to address some of the requests from these organizations; however when asked who would be in favour of this addition, it was tied with four in favour and four against putting this in the budget.

Councillor Fin Armsworthy stated that he stands by his decisions.

Warden Paul Long stated that Council must now move forward in a positive way and working together.

Councillor Mary Desmond stated that although it took a few days with the working group to prepare the budget, it was a great democratic process. Councillor Desmond stated that according to Roberts Rules of Order, you cannot ask why someone voted they way they. Councillor Desmond stated that the Budget is over and that they have to move on noting that unfortunately, some things were outside of policy, but Council followed policy.

Warden Paul Long stated that going forward, it is very important Council understands and completes the Code of Conduct training. Warden Long noted that he understands both sides and collectively we have to do a better job.

Councillor Susan Cashin stated that she thought Councillor Hanhams was going to put the motion forward the day of the Budget adoption for vote on the \$200,000 grant funding.

Councillor Dave Hanhams clarified that his request was not supported by a majority of Council during the previous day, therefore it was not included in the Budget for final adoption.

CLOSED SESSION

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday, April 9th @ 6:00 pm – Joint Council Meeting, Sherbrooke
- Wednesday, April 16th @ 3:00 pm - StanFest
- Wednesday, April 16th @ 4:30 pm – Regular Monthly Council
- Wednesday, April 16th @ 6:00 pm – EMO (Council Chambers)
- Wednesday, May 7th @ 4:30 pm – Committee of the Whole

ADJOURNMENT

25-04-94962

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** the April 2, 2025 Committee of the Whole stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED (5:32 pm)

WARDEN

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE