

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 @ 4:30 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL & BUDGET ADOPTION**  
**GUYSBOROUGH MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

Warden Pitts called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**ATTENANCE**

Warden Vernon Pitts  
Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche  
Councillor Paul Long  
Councillor Neil DeCoff  
Councillor Dave Hanhams  
Councillor Hudson MacLeod  
Councillor Fin Armsworthy

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Barry Carroll, CAO  
Shawn Andrews, Deputy CAO  
Danita Imlay, Director of Finance  
Gordon MacDonald, Director of Economic Development  
Glen Avery, Director of Public Works  
Angie Tavares, Director of Recreation  
Magdelyn Connolly, Municipal Clerk  
Emmy Alcorn, MRT  
Barb Bell, MRT  
Catherine Hartling, UPBSAC  
Lance Peters, HVFD  
Doug Halfpenny, HVFD  
Elizabeth & Myles Connolly, Guysborough & Area Food Bank  
Tera Dorrington, Guysborough Academy  
Colleen Pelly, Guysborough Academy  
Media

**REGRETS**

Councillor Mary Desmond

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**23-03-30318**

**8.24 Rose's Garden of Gifts**  
**8.25 Congratulations Canso Minor Hockey**  
**Omit Committee & Board Reports**

**MOVED:** Councillor Fin Armsworthy

**SECONDED:** Councillor Neil Decoff

**MOTION:** **THAT** Council approve the agenda as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL 23-03-30319**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:** **THAT** Council approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 Regular Council as presented with no noted errors or omissions.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

## DELEGATIONS

## NEW BUSINESS

### ADOPTION OF 2023-2024 BUDGET ESTIMATES

23-03-30320

**MOVED:** Councillor Fin Armsworthy

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:** **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough adopt the Budget Projections for Revenues and Expenditures for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 showing projected Revenues and Expenditure of \$17,556,484 (seventeen million, five hundred fifty six thousand, four hundred eighty-four dollars);

**AND FURTHER THAT** the 2023-2024 Budget so adopted will be attached to the original of the Minutes as Appendix "A".

**MOTION CARRIED**

### ADOPTION OF 2023-2024 CAPITAL & SPECIAL MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES/PROJECTS BUDGET ESTIMATES

23-03-30321

**MOVED:** Councillor Neil Decoff

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams

**MOTION:** **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough adopt the Capital Budget Projections for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 showing projected Revenues and Expenditures of \$9,972,323 (nine million, nine hundred seventy two thousand, three hundred twenty three dollars);

**AND FURTHER THAT** the 2023-2024 Capital Budget and Special Municipal Initiatives/Projects so adopted will be attached to the original of the Minutes as Appendix "B".

**MOTION CARRIED**

### ADOPTION OF ESTIMATES AND STRIKING OF TAX RATE

23-03-30322

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough estimates that the sum amounting to \$4,899,678 (four million, eight hundred ninety nine thousand, six hundred seventy eight dollars) is required for the lawful purpose of the Municipality aforesaid for the Fiscal Year commencing April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 after crediting any probable revenue and from the abatement and losses which may occur in the collection of taxes and for taxes for the said Fiscal Year which may not be collectible or collected;

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the said Council hereby authorize the levying and collection for a rate of \$0.77 per \$100.00 of assessment for all RESIDENTIAL/RESOURCE property and a rate of \$2.74 per \$100.00 of assessment for all COMMERCIAL PROPERTY assessed on the Assessment Roll to defray the expenditures of the Municipality aforesaid for the period April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 and any deficit from the previous year;

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** in addition to the above rates, the said Council hereby authorize the levying and collection for a rate of \$1.5126 per \$100.00 of assessment for all RESIDENTIAL/RESOURCE property in District 8 and a rate of \$1.3470 per \$100.00 of assessment for all COMMERCIAL PROPERTY in District 8 assessed on the Assessment Roll to defray the expenditures for additional local services of the Municipality aforesaid for the period April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 and any deficit from the previous year;

**AND FURTHER RESOLVE THAT** as part of the elimination of the Business Occupancy Assessment the Municipal Law Amendment (2005) Act, (Bill 191), establishes a process for Assessment to identify seasonal tourist businesses

**AND WHEREAS** properties containing seasonal tourist businesses are eligible for a reduced commercial tax rate on their real property the said Council authorize the levy and collection for a rate of **\$2.06** per \$100.00 of assessment for all properties identified by Assessment as seasonal tourist business;

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the said Council requires payment of said rates to be made to the Treasurer of the Municipality aforesaid on or before the **31<sup>st</sup> day of JULY, A.D., 2023;**

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the said Council hereby impose an additional percentage charge for EIGHTEEN PER CENT (18%) SIMPLE INTEREST per annum on arrears outstanding after the **31<sup>st</sup> day of AUGUST, A.D., 2023;**

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Council hereby fixes the **31<sup>st</sup> day of JULY, A.D., 2023** as the day after which the Treasurer may proceed to issue warrants for the collection of all rates and taxes, then unpaid and in arrears.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**TRANSFER OF PREVIOUS YEARS SURPLUS TO GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE 2023-2024** **23-03-30323**

**MOVED:** Councillor Paul Long

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**MOTION:** **THAT WHEREAS** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough has deemed it necessary to transfer into the 2023/2024 Operating Budget an amount not to exceed **\$267,736 (two hundred sixty-seven thousand seven hundred thirty six dollars)** from the operating reserve accumulated surplus;

**BE IT THEREFORE MOVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough approve the transfer of an amount not to exceed **\$267,736 (two hundred sixty-seven thousand seven hundred thirty-six dollars)** to the 2023 2024 Operating Budget.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BORROWING RESOLUTION - 2023-2024** **23-03-30324**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**MOTION:** **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough authorize Warden Vernon Pitts and Barry Carroll, Chief Administrative Officer, to borrow up to ½ of the 2022/2023 tax levy, **\$2,242,484 (two million, two hundred forty-two thousand, four hundred eighty-four dollars)** if required to meet the current operating expenses for 2023-2024.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**FIRE PROTECTION LEVIES 2023-2024** **23-03-30325**

**MOVED:** Councillor Neil Decoff

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:** **THAT WHEREAS** it has been determined that the following specific amounts will be required by the various Fire Departments within the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to provide Fire Protection for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the 2023-2024 Area Fire Levies be

assessed on the various areas as follows:

F1	Milford Haven	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F2	Erinville and District	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F4	7 Communities	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
E4	Auld's Cove	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F5	Chedabucto	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F6	Three Top	0.1350 per \$100 of assessment
E6	Larry's River	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F7	Harbourview	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F9	Little Dover (162 Units)	65.00 per unit
E2	Goshen (60 Units)	65.00 per unit
E3	Tracadie	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment
F8	Canso /Hazel Hill	0.1550 per \$100 of assessment

**AND FURTHER THAT** in accordance with the Municipal Government Act Section 78(1)(a)(b)a Forest Acreage Fire Levy will be established at **\$.01** per acre for 2023-2024.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**STREET LIGHTING LEVIES 2023-2024** **23-03-30326**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams

**MOTION:** **WHEREAS** it has been determined that the specific amounts will be required for the provision of Street Lighting for the various areas of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** an area rate of **\$.0579 per \$100** of assessment be adopted and levied for Street Lighting for the taxation year 2023 2024.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2023-2024 SUNNYVILLE PUMP HOUSE RATES** **23-03-30327**

**MOVED:** Councillor Paul Long

**SECONDED:** Councillor Neil Decoff

**MOTION:** **THAT WHEREAS** it has been determined that an amount of **\$221.34** has been spent to operate the Pump House in Sunnyville for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the area rate for the operation of the Sunnyville Pump House for 2023/2024 be established at a rate of **\$0.05785 per \$100.00** of assessment for operating costs.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2023-2024 SEWER RATES – GUYSBOROUGH** **23-03-30328**

**MOVED:** Councillor Paul Long

**SECONDED:** Councillor Hudson MacLeod

**MOTION:** **THAT WHEREAS** it has been determined that an amount of **\$68,705** may be expended on the Guysborough Sewer System during the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 covering projected operational costs as budgeted;

**AND WHEREAS** it has been determined that of the **\$68,705** projected expenditures an amount of **\$68,705** must be raised through a direct levy to the users of the system;

**THEREFORE BE IT MOVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough set the 2023/2024 Annual Sewer Maintenance Charges,

based on a User Fee System, of \$235.29 per equivalent unit, there being 292 equivalent units presently connected to the system.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**2023-2024 SEWER RATES - HAZEL HILL** **23-03-30329**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams  
**MOTION:** **THAT WHEREAS** it has been determined that an amount of \$3,806 may be expended on the Hazel Hill Sewer System during the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 covering projected operational costs as budgeted;  
  
**AND WHEREAS** it has been determined that of the \$3,806 projected expenditures an amount of \$3,806 must be raised through a direct levy to the users of the system;  
  
**THEREFORE BE IT MOVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough set the 2023/2024 Annual Sewer Maintenance Charges, based on a User Fee System, of \$237.89 per equivalent unit, there being 16 equivalent units presently connected to the System.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**2023-2024 SEWER RATES - LITTLE DOVER** **23-03-30330**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Neil Decoff  
**MOTION:** **THAT WHEREAS** it has been determined that an amount of \$32,251 may be expended on the Little Dover Sewer System during the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 covering projected operational costs as budgeted;  
  
**AND WHEREAS** it has been determined that of the \$32,251 projected expenditures an amount of \$32,251 must be raised through a direct levy to the users of the system;  
  
**THEREFORE BE IT MOVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough set the 2023/2024 Annual Sewer Maintenance Charges, based on a User Fee System, of \$225.53 per equivalent unit, there being 143 equivalent units presently connected to the System.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**FULL TAX EXEMPTIONS** **23-03-30331**

**MOVED:** Councillor Fin Armsworthy  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Neil Decoff  
**MOTION:** **THAT** pursuant to the Tax Exemption By-Law as approved by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough the following tax exemptions or partial exemptions from taxes be granted provided that the exemption meets the qualification provisions, and the applications were received in accordance with the deadlines as set out in the By-Law as approved:

NAME	ACCOUNT NUMBER	WRITE OFF
Goldboro/Isaac’s Harbour Community Development Association	2150255	\$5,222.44
Guysborough Waterfront Development Society	3378314	\$2,352.29
Mulgrave Road Theatre	1830848	\$1,441.24
Keepers of the Beacon	3398013	\$ 983.66
Boylston Community Association	0888907	\$2,833.16
Whitehaven Community Development	4897307	\$4,030.54
Mulgrave Road Theatre	3562522	\$5,803.32
Chedabucto Bay Folk Society	4967135	\$4,728.66



Chedabucto Bay Folk Society	1186191	\$5,799.45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,194.76</b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTIONS** **23-03-30332**

**MOVED:**     Councillor Hudson MacLeod  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long  
**MOTION:**   **THAT** pursuant to the Partial Tax Exemption By-Law approved by the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough the following be granted tax exemptions in accordance with the By-Law provided that the exemption meets the qualification provisions, and the applications comply with all provisions of the By Law the exemption being the difference between the Commercial Rate and the Residential Rate:

NAME	ACCOUNT #	WRITE OFF
Masonic Hall	03075796	\$2,206.40
Sunnyville Community Association	04479556	\$ 809.67
Sunnyville Community Association	05101913	\$ 669.80
St. Patrick’s Hall	01830945	\$1,891.20
Chedabucto Curling Club	00726923	\$3,547.97
Guysborough Fish & Game	01830821	\$1,540.54
Lincolnvile Community Association	07107897	\$1,361.27
St. Joseph’s Parish Hall	04402901	\$1,686.32
Country Harbour Gun Club	00962422	\$2,172.91
Masonic Hall Lodge # 96	03075702	\$ 719.05
Canso Curling Club	00653012	\$1,735.57
St. Agnes Parish Hall	00695408	\$2,432.95
Eddy Point Marine Park	03378543	\$ 45.31
Eddy Point Marine Park	03378519	\$ 669.80
Lincolnvile Community Association	05088666	\$ 37.43
Little Dover Development Association	07145195	\$1,445.98
Guys. Waterfront Development Society	03378314	\$1,417.42
Lions Club of Canso	5632528	\$2,267.38
Shamrock	5957389	\$1,513.39
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,170.35</b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MUNICIPAL GRANTS AND BURSARIES** **23-03-30333**

**MOVED:**     Councillor Fin Armsworthy  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams  
**MOTION:**   **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough approve the granting of the grants and bursaries in a total amount of **\$45,000.00** in the 2023/2024 Budget covering the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 as proposed;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the balance be distributed upon receipt of written request and the approval of the Committee of the Whole of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough:

Other		\$ 5,000
School Bursaries	(10 x \$250.00)	\$ 2,500
School Bursaries	(2 x \$250.00)	\$ 500
Stan Rogers Folk Festival		\$ 2,000
GOALS		\$10,000
St. Martha’s Hospital Foundation		\$25,000

**T O T A L** **\$45,000**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPOINTMENT - MUNICIPAL AUDITORS** **23-03-30334**

**MOVED:**        Councillor Neil Decoff  
**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche  
**MOTION:**    **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough appoint the Firm of **Grant Thornton** as Auditors for the Municipality of the District of Guysborough for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR** **23-03-30335**

**MOVED:**        Councillor Paul Long  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Fin Armsworthy  
**MOTION:**    **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough appoint the Firm of **MacKeen Legal Services Incorporated** as Solicitors for the Municipality of the District of Guysborough for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**TRANSFER OF OPERATING RESERVE FUNDS TO GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE 2023-2024** **23-03-30336**

**MOVED:**        Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long  
**MOTION:**    **THAT WHEREAS** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough has deemed it necessary to transfer into the 2023/2024 Operating Budget an amount not to exceed **\$3,322,060 (three million, three hundred, twenty-two thousand, sixty dollars)** from the Operating Reserve Fund;  
  
**AND WHEREAS** Section 99(6) of the Municipal Government Act permits a municipality to maintain other reserve funds for such purposes as the Council may determine;

**BE IT THEREFORE MOVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough approve the transfer of an amount not to exceed **\$3,322,060 (three million, three hundred, twenty-two thousand, sixty dollars)** from the Operating Reserve Fund to the 2023/2024 Operating Budget for the following expenditures:

1.	Collection Truck	\$ 450,000
2.	Waste Grapple Trailer	\$ 60,000
3.	Collection Garage Extension	\$ 710,000
4.	Public Works Vehicle	\$ 50,000
5.	Parks & Recreation Masterplan	\$ 100,000
6.	Sewer Upgrades	\$ 160,000
7.	Solar Project	\$ 257,964
8.	Skidsteer	\$ 31,250
9.	Economic Development Projects	\$ 200,000
10.	Canso Community Enhancements/Commercial Cable	\$ 275,000
11.	CLC Pump	\$ 7,000
12.	Cutler’s Brook Phase II	\$ 570,846
13.	Wind Initiatives	\$ 100,000
14.	Mulgrave Road Grant	\$ 150,000
15.	7 Communities Recreation Association Grant	\$ 200,000
		<b><u>\$ 3,322,060</u></b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TRANSFER OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS TO GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE 2023-2024** **23-03-30337**

**MOVED:**        Councillor Hudson MacLeod

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams

**MOTION:**    **THAT WHEREAS** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough has deemed it necessary to transfer into the 2023/2024 Operating Budget an amount not to exceed **\$1,583,000 (one million, five hundred, eighty three thousand dollars)** from the Capital Reserve Fund;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 99(6) of the Municipal Government Act permits a municipality to maintain other reserve funds for such purposes as the Council may determine;

**BE IT THEREFORE MOVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough approve the transfer of an amount not to exceed **\$1,583,000 (one million, five hundred, eighty three thousand dollars)** from the Capital Reserve Fund to the 2023/2024 Operating Budget for the following expenditures:

1. Sidewalks	\$ 1,583,000
	<b><u>\$ 1,583,000</u></b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**INVESTMENT INCOME**

**23-03-30338**

**MOVED:**    Councillor Dave Hanhams

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**MOTION:**    **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough authorize that any income generated from investment activity shall be directed to the General Operating Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION 2023-2023:**

**23-03-30339**

**MOVED:**    Councillor Fin Armsworthy

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:**    **THAT** pursuant to Policy F-4 Low Income Tax Exemption approved by the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough **the income threshold level for the low-income tax exemption from all sources is set at \$35,000 or below;**

**AND FURTHER THAT** **the rebate amount for the exemption be raised from \$100 to \$200.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BRIEFING NOTE: APPOINTMENT OF LEVEL 2 BUILDING OFFICIALS    23-03-30340**

**MOVED:**    Councillor Paul Long

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**MOTION:**    **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough appoint Mr. Sean Donovan and Mr. Jonathan Martin as the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" in accordance with Section 5 of the [Building Code Act](#) and specifically receive "Certificates of Appointment" in accordance with Subsection 5(4) of the Act.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BRIEFING NOTE: MILES CRESCENT**

**23-03-30341**

**MOVED:**    Councillor Neil Decoff

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:**    **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough name the new street in the Cutler's Brook Subdivision "*Miles Crescent*".

**MOTION CARRIED**



## **GAPS IN CELLULAR CONNECTIVITY**

Mr. Carroll stated that this was included as an informational item for Council.

## **ROSES GARDEN OF GIFTS**

**23-03-30342**

Warden Pitts stated that Rose has announced her retirement. He stated that Rose's Garden of Gifts has been a focal point in our community and that her business will be greatly missed.

**MOVED:** Councillor Fin Armsworthy

**SECONDED:** Councillor Paul Long

**MOTION:** **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough send Rose a thank you for her years of service to our community and well wishes on her retirement.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **CONGRATULATIONS MINOR HOCKEY**

**23-03-30343**

Deputy Warden Peitzsche stated that the U13 and U18 Canso Bluefin's both came home with gold from the Birthplace of Hockey Tournament held in Windsor. She stated that she would like Council to send a letter congratulating the Minor Hockey Association and both teams.

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dave Hanhams

**MOTION:** **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough send a letter congratulating the U13 and U18 Canso Bluefins on their gold medals.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm – Committee of the Whole
- Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 pm – Department of Public Works
- Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm – Regular Monthly Council
- Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm – EMO

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**23-02-30344**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

**MOTION:** **THAT** the Regular Council Meeting of March 15, 2023 stand adjourned.

**MOTION CARRIED (4:57 p.m.)**

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**WARDEN**

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**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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**DATE**