

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 @ 4:30 PM
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL
GUYSBOROUGH MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Warden Paul Long called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

ATTENANCE

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Danita Imlay, Director of Finance
Christina Bowie, Manager of Special Initiatives & Communications
Magdelyn Connolly, Municipal Clerk
RCMP Advisory Members, Brent MacLeod & Lois Ann Dort
Media (via zoom)

REGRETS

Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche
Barry Carroll, CAO
Deputy CAO, Shawn Andrews

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-05-30822

- 8. b) Invitation to Host Cacus Meeting
- 8. c) Library Board Funding

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

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

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2025 REGULAR COUNCIL

25-05-30823

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Susan Cashin

MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025 Regular Council Session as presented with no noted errors or omissions.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

DELEGATIONS

RCMP

Corp. Anothony Fink and Corp. D'Arcy Doucette reviewed the contents of the quarterly report as it was included in the Council meeting package.

Councilors around the table made comment to the report and a discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

NATURAL RESOURCES – CROWN LAND LEASE FOR NEW GOLD MINE

Warden Long stated that this was included in the meeting package for the information of Council.

CANCUS MEETING INVITATION

25-05-30824

Warden Long stated that he would like Council to send a letter to Premier Houston to invite the PC Caucus to host their fall meeting in the Municipality. He stated that MODG would welcome the opportunity to present to the Caucus about our focus on resource development and project development and how that has led to MODG becoming a financial success story for a rural municipality.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

MOTION: **THAT** the Council of the District of Guysborough send a letter to Premier Houston inviting his office to host the fall PC Caucus meeting at the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex.

MOTION CARRIED

LIBRARY BOARD LETTER

25-05-30825

Councillor Cashin provided Council with a verbal update following a recently attended meeting. She stated that Council may expect to see a request from Eastern Region Counties Library representatives to present to Council. Councillor Cashin stated that she would like the following motion passed as a result of her attendance at the recent NSFM conference.

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Susan Casin

MOTION: **WHEREAS** Public libraries provide collections, programs and services, on behalf of Municipality of the District of Guysborough and the Province of Nova Scotia, and contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Nova Scotia;

AND due to rising costs, public libraries in Nova Scotia can no longer sustain said collections, programs and services without significantly depleting reserve funds and are unable to provide living wages for the majority of library staff;

AND the current funding formula for public libraries in Nova Scotia does not account for Municipal contributions for capital costs and the funding formula has now expired;

AND funding for the public libraries in Nova Scotia is currently under review by the provincial government;

I MOVE THAT the issue of adequate and sustainable funding for public libraries in Nova Scotia be brought forth to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board for consideration as an advocacy priority.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

RECCOMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECOMMENDATION – CANSO & AREA FITNESS CENTRE

25-05-30826

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** as recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough authorize that the Design-Build RFP for the Canso and Area Fitness Center be awarded to Iron Maple Constructors at a bid price of \$2,025,916.00 including HST;

AND THAT Council authorize the use of \$625,616.00 from the Municipal Gas Tax Reserve;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize the use of \$700,000.00 from the Municipal Capital reserve.

MOTION CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION – TAX CONSULTANT

25-05-30827

Councillors around the table made comment to the motion on the table regarding Canso Tax Consultants.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

MOTION : **THAT** as recommended by the Committee of the Whole the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough do hire, through an RFP process, a nationally recognized accounting firm to do an in-depth taxation review on tax rates, property assessments and tax burdens pertaining to the community of Canso in comparison to a similarly municipal serviced community in the Municipality of the District of Guysborough;

AND THAT they provide recommendations as appropriate on the current tax rates and tax rate structure in Canso;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the cost of the study be funded from the operating reserves.

MOTION CARRIED

NAY: Councillor Mary Desmond

ERSWM

Next meeting scheduled for June 19th.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE COMMITTEE

No report.

GALA

Councillor Fin Armsworthy reported that they met last week and that there are new board members. He stated that they are looking to begin their classes and that operations are going well.

WASTE MANAGEMENT LIAISON

Councillor Decoff reported that the Committee has not met.

LIBRARY BOARD

Reported above.

HOME SUPPORT BOARD

No report.

COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD

Councillor Cashin reported that the Board met, holding a round table to discuss events happening throughout the various communities. She stated that Ms. Rhonda Procure presented on Square Roots, an organization that continues to grow. Councillor Cashin reported that the Board received 17 applications for the Wellness Fund.

CANSO AREA STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

No report.

GUYSBOROUGH AREA STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

No report.

TRANSIT ASSOCIATION OF GUYSBOROUGH

Councillor Desmond stated that the Association will meet tomorrow.

GUYSBOROUGH DISTRICT BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Warden Long reported that the Board met yesterday. He reported that they have been awarded funding for tourism rest stops in Canso and Guysborough. Warden Long reported that advertising is underway for kiosk vendors at the Canso Waterfront and that a local resident will be operating the Sailors Rest Building. He stated that the Board is hosting a Seafood Festival on June 28th in Larry's River. Warden Long reported that the Board is advertising for a summer student and that the part-time newcomer coordinator position has been filled. He stated that there is no update on the Black Duck Cove lease and that phase 1 of the Wayfinding Signage RFP is nearing completion. Warden Long reported that the Board is investigating funding options for façade updates on Mainstreet.

GUYSBOROUGH & AREA BOARD OF TRADE

No report.

COMMUNITY FIRST GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY HOUSING ASSOC.

Councillor Cashin reported that the Association met on Tuesday. She reported that the budget is being prepared for 2025/26 which will be presented at the AGM, on June 17th at the Boylston Community Center. Councillor Cashin provided Council with a brief update on the plans for Boylston apartment building.

ANY OTHER COMMITTEE OR BOARD

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, June 4th @ 2:30pm – ATN
- Wednesday, June 4th @ 4:30pm – Committee of the Whole
- Wednesday, June 18th @ 3:00pm – NS Remedy Act
- Wednesday, June 18th @ 4:30pm – Regular Monthly Council

ADJOURNMENT

25-05-30828

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: THAT the Regular Council Meeting of May 21, 2025 stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED (5:51pm)

WARDEN

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE

DRAFT