

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 @ 4:30 P.M.
GUYSBOROUGH MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

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

ATTENDANCE

Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche
Councillor Neil DeCoff
Councillor Dave Hanhams
Councillor Susan Cashin
Councillor Hudson MacLeod
Councillor Fin Armsworthy

OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Carroll, CAO
Shawn Andrews, Deputy CAO
Deborah Torrey, Development Officer
Sean O'Connor, Director of Economic & Community Development
Glen Avery, Director of Public Works
Magdelyn Connolly, Municipal Clerk
Media (via zoom)
Members of the Public

REGRETS

Warden Paul Long
Councillor Mary Desmond
Danita Imlay, Director of Finance
Angie Tavares, Director of Recreation

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-05-94963

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

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

MOTION CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2025

25-05-94964

MOVED: Councillor Hudson MacLeod

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the minutes of April 2, 2025 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

25-05-94965

REPORTS

WARDEN'S REPORT

25-05-94966

Deputy Warden Peitzsche stated that the Warden's report was included in the meeting package.

MOVED: Councillor Susan Cashin

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

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

MOTION CARRIED

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

25-05-94967

Mr. Carroll stated that his report was included in the meeting package for the information of Committee. He echoed the praise and appreciation to our Emergency Management Office including the Deputy CAO, Mr. Andrews.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole approve the Chief Administrative Officer's Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

DEPUTY CAO REPORT

25-05-94968

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

Councillor Hanhams thanked Mr. Andrews for his Emergency Management efforts during the recent events in our Municipality.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Susan Cashin

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

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

25-05-94969

Deputy Warden Peitzsche stated that Mrs. Imlay's monthly report which was included in the meeting package.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

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

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

25-05-94970

Mrs. 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 Dave Hanhams

MOTION: THAT Committee of the Whole approve the Development Officer's Report as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT

25-05-94971

Mr. Avery stated that his report was included in the meeting package and that he is happy to answer any questions Committee may have. He briefly reviewed the contents of his report for the information of Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Susan Cashin

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

BRIEFING NOTE – RFP TWO NEW 4X4 PUBLIC WORKS TRUCKS

25-05-94972

Mr. Avery briefly reviewed the report included in the package for the information of Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough award the purchase of two new Municipal trucks to Canso Ford for the tendered amount of \$57,958.00 plus HST for the ½ Ton and \$65,926.00 for the ¾ Ton.
MOTION CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE – CANSO & AREA FITNESS CENTRE

25-05-94973

Mr. Avery reviewed the report included in the package.

MOVED: Councillor Hudson MacLeod

SECONDED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

MOTION: THAT Committee of the Whole recommend to the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to 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

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT

25-05-94974

Deputy Warden Peitzsche reported that Mrs. Tavares report was included in the meeting package.

MOVED: Councillor Susan Cashin

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

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

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 25-05-94975

Mr. 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 Fin Armsworthy

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

J-CLASS ROAD SUBMISSION

Mr. Carroll stated that this approval has been included for the information of Committee, which includes 0.3km of Tompkinsville Road.

CANSO BANK

Councillor Armsworthy asked for an update on the future of banking in Canso.

Mr. Carroll reported that there is no update on banking in Canso, while they have been in conversation with RBC on the possibility of putting a full-service banking machine in the Co-Op.

TAX CONSULTANT

25-05-94976

Councillor Hanhams stated that he supports Councillor Armsworthy on further review into the Canso tax rate. He stated that he is looking to get a resolution for residents concern with the Canso tax rate. Councillor Hanhams stated that he would like an independent consultant to be hired to further investigate this concern.

Councillor Armsworthy stated that he would like support from his fellow Councillors on investigating options for the Canso tax rate.

Mr. Carroll stated that Council will be looking at an estimated \$50,000 - \$100,000 to complete this work.

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

SECONDED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole recommend to the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to 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

INTO CLOSED SESSION

25-05-94977

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

SECONDED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole proceed into closed session.

MOTION CARRIED

OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

25-05-94978

MOVED: Councillor Neil DeCoff

SECONDED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

MOTION: **THAT** Committee of the Whole return to open session.

MOTION CARRIED

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Thursday, May 15th @ 3:00pm – Economic Development Session

- Wednesday, May 21st @ 4:30pm – Regular Monthly Council
- 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

25-05-94979

MOVED: Councillor Dave Hanhams

MOTION: **THAT** the May 7, 2025 Committee of the Whole stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED (5:32 pm)

WARDEN

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE