



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF YARMOUTH
Thursday, February 13, 2025**

A Committee of the Whole Meeting for the month of February 2025 was held virtually on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Warden John Cunningham with the following in attendance: Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, Councillor Jim Baxter, Councillor Loren Cushing, Councillor Daniel Muise, Councillor Phil Mooney, CAO Victoria Brooks, and Jenny Porter, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Presenters Derek Fenton, Marty King, Livinus Numfor, and Nancy Ellis were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

2. **In-Camera**

It was moved by Councillor Loren Cushing, seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to move in-camera at 4:06 p.m.

Motion carried.

2.1 **Potential Litigation – MGA 22:2 (f)**

2.2 **Public Security – MGA 22:2 (h)**

2.3 **Public Security - MGA 22:2 (h)**

2.4 **Contract Negotiations – MGA 22:2 (e)**

Consensus was reached by Council at 4:45 p.m. to move out of in-camera.

It was moved by Councillor Loren Cushing, seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to hold a 10 minute recess.

Motion Carried

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 5:03 p.m.

3. **Land Acknowledgement** – I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on the traditional lands of the Wasoqopa'q First Nation, part of Mi'kma'ki (meeg-ma-gee), the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Warden John Cunningham requested to add Doctor Recruitment as item 8.3.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Mooney, seconded by Councillor Loren Cushing to add agenda item 8.3 Doctor Recruitment.

Motion carried.

5. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Loren Cushing, seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried.

6. Approval of COTW minutes from January 9, 2025

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Muise, seconded by Councillor Jim Baxter to approve the January 9, 2025, Committee of the Whole minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

7. Declarations of any conflicts of interest

Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham declared a conflict on item 10.1.4 Memorial Club Monuments Committee.

8. Presentations

8.1 Marine Protected Areas, DFO, Derek Fenton

Derek Fenton and Marty King from Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented the federal government's Marine Conservation Network Plan. Their presentation covered the plan's background, process, proposed locations, feedback received, and next steps.

The Chair thanked the presenters and they left the meeting.

8.2 Youth Wellbeing Network, Denise Vacon & Livinus Numfor

Livinus Numfor, Health Promotion Specialist with Nova Scotia Health, presented an update on the Youth Wellbeing Network, including its progress, goals, and opportunities.

The Chair thanked Mr. Numfor and he left the meeting.

8.3 Doctor Recruitment, Nancy Ellis

Nancy Ellis, Community Navigator for the Western Region, presented the 2024 Community Navigator Program Report. The report highlighted site visits, recruitment efforts, and progress in retraining doctors within the region.

The Chair thanked Ms. Ellis and she left the meeting.

9. Old Business

10. Correspondence

10.1 For Action

10.1.1 Funding Support for Nova Scotia Music Week

It was moved by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to recommend to Regular Council that the Municipality approve Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association's (YASTA) request for funding to support Nova Scotia Music Week. The approved amount of \$15,667.00 will come from the 2025-26 Grants to Organizations program, with the understanding that some funds may need to be released in the current fiscal year.

Motion carried.

10.1.2 Derelict Boat at John's Cove Beach

Council discussed concerns regarding the derelict boat at John's Cove beach. The CAO shared with Council similar situations in other areas and how they were approached.

It was moved by Councillor Loren Cushing , seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to recommend to Regular Council that the Municipality send a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada, with a copy to MP Chris d'Entremont, requesting the removal of the derelict boat at John's Cove beach.

Motion carried.

10.1.3 Deer Management Inquiry

Council discussed the inquiry regarding the deer presence in the residential areas.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Mooney, seconded by Councillor Daniel Muise to recommend to Regular Council that staff invite Department of Natural Resources to speak to Council about the deer population.

Motion carried.

10.1.4 Memorial Club Monuments Committee

Deputy Warden Cunningham declared a conflict and stepped away from the meeting 6:27 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Mooney, seconded by Councillor Daniel Muise to recommend to Regular Council that the Municipality receive legal advice on responding to Maple Grove Memorial Club request regarding access and ownership to the monument located near Maple Grove Education Centre.

Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Cunningham returned to the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

10.1.5 Yarmouth County Minor Hockey - Championship Tournament

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Muise, seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to recommend to Regular Council that the Municipality approve Yarmouth County Minor Hockey's request for \$1,500.00 to host the Provincial Championship Tournament from the 2024-2025 Grant Contingency Budget.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Daniel Muise to recommend to Regular Council that a letter of thanks be sent to the Yarmouth County Minor Hockey tournament organizers, recognizing their hard work in organizing the tournament hosted in our region.

Motion carried.

10.1.6 Industrial Inquiry Commission Reviewing Canada Post

CAO Brooks informed Council that when a similar request came to the Municipality in 2015, the information was shared, but no action as taken.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Mooney, seconded by Councillor Jim Baxter to receive the request regarding the Industrial Inquiry Commission Reviewing Canada Post and place it on file.

Motion carried.

10.1.7 African Heritage Month Gala

Deputy Warden Cunningham assumed the role of Chair at 6:40 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Danile Muise, seconded by Warden John Cunningham to recommend to Regular Council that the Municipality make a contribution in the amount of \$180.00 to the African Heritage Month Gala, and that it be funded from the 2024-

2025 Council Public Relations Budget.

Motion carried.

Warden Cunningham returned to role as Chair at 6:44 p.m.

10.2 For Information

10.2.1 Municipality of Chester re: Code of Conduct

11. New Business

11.1 Policies

11.1.1 Council Remuneration Policy C-029-01

CAO Brooks reviewed the draft amendments of the policy.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Mooney, seconded by Councillor Daniel Muise to recommend to Regular Council that the amendments to Council Remuneration Policy C-029-01 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

11.1.2 Travel and Expense Policy T-088-20

CAO Brooks reviewed the draft amendments of the policy.

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Muise, seconded by Councillor Loren Cushing to recommend to Regular Council that the amendments to Travel and Expense Policy T-088-20 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

11.1.3 Fees Policy F-044-02

CAO Brooks informed Council two corrections to the draft amendments: replacement civic signs should be \$20, not \$18.50 and replacement posts should be \$57.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Mooney, seconded by Councillor Jim Baxter to recommend to Regular Council that the amendments to Fees Policy F-044-02 be approved.

Motion carried.

11.1.4 Mobile Device Policy M-682-25

CAO Brooks informed Council that this new policy aligns what with the practice has been with mobile devices.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Loren Cushing to recommend to Regular Council that Mobile Device Policy M-682-25 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Phil Mooney to extend the meeting by 1 hour.

Motion carried.

11.2 Request for Decision - Agenda & Minute Software

It was moved by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Jim Baxter to recommend to Regular Council that;

Whereas the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth is seeking to modernize and enhance its digital infrastructure in a cost-effective manner that minimizes the impact on taxpayers;

AND

Whereas the Municipality's current agenda and minutes software is being phased out and is no longer compatible with the new municipal website;

AND

Whereas the Council for the District of Yarmouth is committed to ensuring compliance with accessibility legislation and addressing the needs of individuals with barriers;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth approve the proposal to adopt the eScribe Digital Readiness Bundle;

Further be it resolved that an amount of \$14,215.00 be allocated in the 2025-2026 rating Budget for the purchase of the software;

Further be it resolved that the CAO be instructed to initiate implementation supporting an April 1, 2025 roll out of the system.

Motion carried.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Councillor Jim Baxter, seconded by Councillor Loren Cushing to hold a 5 minute recess.

Motion carried.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 7:19 p.m.

13. In-Camera

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Muise, seconded by Councillor Jim Baxter to move in-camera at 7:19 p.m.

Motion carried.

13.1.1 Public Security - MGA 22:2 (h)

Consensus was reached by Council at 8:18 p.m. to move out of in-camera.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 8:18 p.m.

14. In-Camera Recommendations

There were no in-camera recommendations.

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Warden John Cunningham

Victoria Brooks, CAO

Jenny Porter, Deputy Municipal Clerk