

# MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

## Public Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 10, 2021

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In March of 2020, in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing declared that Municipal Councils will not meet in person but will instead hold virtual meetings. Under this order Council of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland held Committee of the Whole video meetings via Zoom. This meeting was also streamed live on Facebook.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Mayor Scott called the Public Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1.2 Municipal Clerk, Brenda Moore, called the roll with the following Councillors present: Mayor Murray Scott, Councillor Fred Goud; Councillor Rod Gilroy, Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling, Deputy Mayor Kathy Redmond, Councillor Angela McCormick, Councillor Mark Joseph, Councillor Dale Porter, Councillor Carrie Goodwin.

Staff present Allie McCormick, Acting CAO; Steve Ferguson, Director of Community Development; Andrew MacDonald, Director of Finance; Justin Waugh-Cress, Director of Operations and Public Works; Amanda MacLeod, Sustainable Communities Marketing Officer; Shelley Hoeg, Communications/Executive Assistant to the CAO; Will Balsler, Junior Planner; and Brenda Moore, Municipal Clerk who recorded the meeting.

Media present Bill Martin from Six Rivers News.

### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilroy seconded by Councillor Gould to approve the agenda as circulated.**

**No Objections  
MOTION CARRIED**

2.2 Delegations/ Presentations/ Petitions

**•Parrsboro and Area Playground Society**

Matthew Brewer provided Council with an overview/update on a proposed community playground/park to be located in the heart of the community of Parrsboro. At the conclusion of the presentation Mayor Scott asked for questions from Council. Mr. Brewer responded to the question of pre design work to be expanded after they ensure all facets of the population have had an opportunity to provide input. Mayor Scott thanked Mr. Brewer for his presentation.

•**Cumberland Energy Authority**

Ray Hickey, Executive Director of the Cumberland Energy Authority provided Council with an update on the Geothermal Industrial Park. Studies and reports, to support this presentation were included in the meeting materials. After the presentation Mr. Hickey responded to questions from Councillors. Mayor Scott thanked Ray for his presentation.

**3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ISSUES**

3.1 Cumberland Regional Library Board

February Report for the Cumberland Regional Library Board was included in the meeting material.

**4. MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

4.1 A Tax Collection Report for January 2021 was included in the meeting material.

4.2 A Tax Collection Report for February 2021 was included in the meeting material. Director Finance Andrew MacDonald reviewed the reports for Council.

4.2 The following updates were given by Councillors.

**Councillor Goodwin**

**Communications Committee**

The committee has been meeting weekly since January and have a DRAFT Communications Plan ready to go to Council this month.

**Cliffs of Fundy Geopark**

The Geopark board has hired a part time administrative assistant and a full-time geologist. Strategic plan is well under way. Marketing and infrastructure committees are looking into ways to develop the brand brand as well as supporting and encouraging visitors to explore the geo park with proper way finding and information signage. Looking at ways to encourage travel and retain visitors.

**Deputy Mayor Redmond**

**Cumberland/Colchester Internet Project**

This committee has approved a Communication Plan and is working to implement this plan.

**Councillor Porter**

**LA Animal Shelter**

The shelter is going to hire a new manager. They are working on fund raising – planning a spring tea; a mask and calendar sales; on line auction and have applied for a licence to start a lotto tree. They are working with UPEI and their Junior Surgery Program that provides free spaying service for the cats. Just purchased a number of new cages for cats.

**Councillor Joseph**

**Policy and By-Law Committee**

There are 3 councillors and 3 staff on this committee The committee meets monthly. Currently looking at the Land Use By-Law and several other policies and by-laws. The next meeting is this Friday.

## **Councillor Houghtaling**

### **Cumberland Forestry Advisory Board**

They have a monthly newsletter that they sell advertising in. They have had discussion on the Lahey Report; the 2 Billion Trees federal tree planting initiative which is open for applications now; wood banks throughout the County.

### **East Cumberland Lodge**

Just completed a Professional Development Assessment for the new CAO. He is taking initiative on several projects including nurse training programs and some renovations.

### **Pugwash Multi Purpose Centre**

The cost estimates for the business plan are almost complete. The building is designed to be Net Zero when in operation.

### **YMCA**

YMCA staff are working with Affordable Housing Assoc of NS to renovate a 4-unit home in Amherst for affordable housing in Amherst.

### **Tourism Marketing Committee**

The committee met today reviewed a new website design that should be live by the end of March. Tourism NS is calling on businesses to register so they can be part of the website. They will be rolling out Google ads based on demographics.

### **Wellness Committee**

The committee is working on monthly wellness challenges.

### **Sunset Industries Committee**

Sunset Industries has purchased the building in Oxford that houses their thrift store and café; they have some apartments upstairs and now provide a laundry service for Oxford Frozen Foods.

## **Councillor Gould**

### **Cumberland Public Libraries**

The Library Board has Councillors from Amherst, Oxford, and the County on it. They have been working hard through the pandemic to provide services. The River Hebert library is still closed due to restrictions surrounding regulations during COVID. They still have access to the free borrow by mail through the Amherst branch. The Next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup> and there will be a public meeting via Facebook on April 27.

### **VON**

This group also consists of Councillors from Amherst Oxford and the County as well as several volunteers. They are raising money to support programs in our communities. The Adult Day Program which runs out of Oxford and Amherst but is open to residents of the County as well. The Meals on Wheels Program runs out of Amherst but during COVID they have provide a cold meal option which has allowed them to deliver outside of Amherst and they have delivered to areas such as Wallace Wentworth and Springhill.

The committee has committed to \$80,000 funding to support these programs. They have several fund-raising projects on the go, a toonie draw a \$50 ticket on a draw every week for 52 weeks. Tickets are still available.

#### **CJSMA**

The board is continuing to push for Extended Producer Recovery program and ways to deal with our recycling materials. Next meeting is tomorrow night and the main item on the agenda is the budget approval to come to Councils. Anyone looking for information on the CJSMA can check out their website as well as the Municipality of Cumberland's website.

#### **Mayor Scott**

##### **REMO**

Mike Johnson Cumberland County staff member Mike Johnson is the Coordinator of the REMO program for Cumberland County Oxford and Amherst. Mike has been working very hard to identify comfort stations throughout the county. The most recent one being in Malagash. Mike and his counter parts have been very busy preparing for the extreme weather and the conditions resulting from these events. This committee meets quarterly.

##### **GOVRC**

The Golden Opportunities Vocational Rehabilitation Centre has 22 clients, a staff of three and is partially funded by the Province. It is a facility for adults with disabilities. The board consists of 10 or 12 members. The clients work building pallets which they sell; they operate a greenhouse which will be starting up soon from which they sell plants in the spring; and they have recently begun a laundry service that has been very busy.

#### **5. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY/BYLAW ISSUES**

There are no Organizational Policy/By-Law Issues for this meeting.

#### **5. BUSINESS ISSUES**

There are no Business Issues for this meeting.

#### **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

There are no Information Items for this meeting

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from Deputy Mayor Redmond the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.