



## Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Conducted through Zoom, streamed live to FaceBook  
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
Presiding Officer: Mayor Gregory Henley  
Councilors Present: Deputy Mayor Wade Adshade, Carla Black, Brenton Colborne, Paul Jones, Arnold MacDonald and Chrystal McNutt  
Regrets: Nil

***A quorum was present throughout the meeting.***

Staff in attendance: Senior Accountant – Ruthann Brookins and A/Town Clerk - Linda Cloney (recording secretary)

Media in attendance: Mark Rushton – Six River News

Presenter in attendance: Donna Jewers, RCMP Liaison – Nova Scotia Department of Justice

### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for April 6, 2021 be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### **3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for March 1, 2021 be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### **4. Presentation – Donna Jewers, RCMP Liaison – Nova Scotia Department of Justice – Policing Resourcing Model (PRM)**

Ms. Jewers presented to Council an overview of the Policing Resourcing Model to Council. The PRM started in 2018. As a result of the Policing Review, Councils recommended that Cumberland RCMP could reduce the members by three regular members, reprofile one of those members to a public service employee to service a Court Liaison Officer. This recommendation also included the closure of the Pugwash Detachment and combine Oxford and Pugwash resources at the Oxford Detachment.

Council asked Ms. Jewers for a timeline as to when we would start to see some savings.

*Response: As the reduction of one regular member has been approved by the former Minister of Justice, Mark Furey, RCMP have one year (from November 2020) to make that reduction. There cannot be a cost savings until that vacancy happens.*

The current contract with the RCMP is a 20-year contract and will expire in 2032.

***Following this presentation Ms. Jewers exited the zoom meeting.***

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Vacant Memberships – Lillian Albion Animal Shelter, Cumberland Region Tourism Marketing Committee and Tourism Advisory Committee**

These vacancies are items for discussion at the Special Meeting scheduled on Monday, April 12, 2021.

### **5.2 Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program**

The Government of Canada's Building Communities through Arts and Heritage program increases opportunities for local artists, artisans, heritage performers or specialists and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultural carriers to be involved in their community. It also allows local groups to commemorate their local history and heritage.

This program provides up to \$200,000 in funding for non-recurring events.

Non-profit groups, a local band council, a local tribal council or other local Indigenous government (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) or equivalent authority, a municipal administration, municipal agency or a public authority of the municipality are all eligible for funding.

### **5.3 Letter from Municipality of the District of Barrington Re: Bill 47**

Some of the Municipalities are expressing their concern of significant financial and administrative burden on the municipalities due to Bill 47. This was a letter that was sent from the Municipality of Barrington that was shared to Oxford Town Council for discussion.

Council will discuss this at the next Regular Council meeting for Council's stand regarding Bill 47.

#### **5.4 Accessibility Advisory Committee & Accessibility Plan**

An Accessibility Advisory Committee needs to be formed and the Accessibility Plan needs to be submitted to the Province by April 1, 2022. It was suggested by AMANS that municipalities could work on this as a Joint Committee. Council will review this at the Special Meeting on April 12, 2021

#### **5.5 Citizen Request for Council**

There was a request to have their sewer charge waived. Council directed the staff to follow the bylaw and do not waive the sewer charge. Staff was directed to send a letter to the citizen regarding Council's decision.

#### **5.6 Oxford Minor Baseball**

This request is forwarded to the Recreation Commission for discussion.

#### **5.7 Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia's Oxford Project**

Council discussed the report. The timeline stated for the Oxford Project is January 2021 – Planning & Prep, August 2021 – Oxford Build, and December 2021 - Key Ceremony.

#### **5.8 Citizen correspondence to Council**

This letter was referencing the garbage found around Town and the behaviour of groups of minors hanging around the Gazebo at lunch. Council asked the community to help by picking up garbage they find and hopefully others will see that and act on that as well. Council supports the idea that the Recreation Commission coordinate an Earth Day event.

#### **5.9 Preliminary Capital Budget**

Staff presented to Council the preliminary Capital Budget. Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- Infrastructure money – will there be any this year? *Staff have not investigated that yet.*
- Council is prioritizing in building back up the reserves.
- Council directed staff to investigate Heritage funding regarding the Town Hall.
- Council suggested to put \$50,000 in reserves and place a spending freeze on everything.
- Council suggested to keep the boiler for the Town Hall, the heat pump in the Medical Centre and the breathing apparatus for the Fire Department in the Capital Budget.

#### **5.10 NSFM meeting update – Verbal Report**

Mayor Henley and A/Town Clerk Cloney attended the NSFM virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Highlights that were shared from the meeting were as follows:

- Vaccine Rollout
- Public to keep practicing Health Protocols
- Compared to other provinces, Nova Scotia is doing well recovering from job loss due to COVID-19
- Bill 47 – the financial burden that municipalities are concerned with regarding this bill.

### **5.11 Poetry Month**

April is Poetry Month. There is a contest win a Wild Blueberry Poetry Basket of goodies for those that follow their facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/PoetryAtLargeOxford>

### **Other items of Council discussion.**

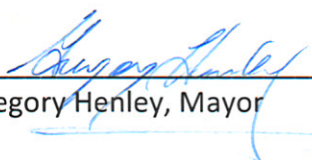
Council has decided to form a Recreation Commission, as the Town of Oxford does not have a Recreation Director. Councillor McNutt is chair of this committee, she and the committee will address all the recreation requests on behalf of the Town of Oxford.

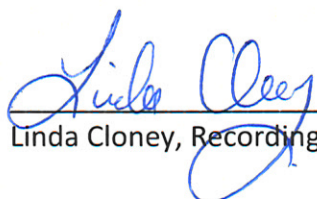
Council set a Special Meeting for Monday, April 12 at 6 pm to discuss Committee appointments.

### **6. Adjournment**

At 7:24 pm, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

***Motion Carried***

  
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Gregory Henley, Mayor

  
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Linda Cloney, Recording Secretary