Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting

Place:	Conducted through Zoom and shared to Facebook immediately following meeting
Date:	Monday, November 15, 2021
Presiding Officer:	Mayor Gregory Henley
Councilors present:	Deputy Mayor: Wade Adshade and Councillors: Carla Black, Brenton Colborne, Paul Jones, Arnold MacDonald, and Chrystal McNutt
Regrets:	nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Town Clerk – Linda Cloney (recording secretary)
Media in attendance: Mark Rushton – Six Rivers News

1. Call to order

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Mayor Henley noted that the Public Works Crew is working very hard to get the water break fixed on James Street. Residents and businesses, in that area, do not have water service till that is fixed.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Regular Town Council Meeting for November 15, 2021, be approved, as presented.
Motion Carried

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting for October 18, 2021, be approved, as presented.
Motion Carried

4. New Business

4.1 Vaccination Policy

Staff presented to Council a drafted Vaccination Policy that will affect all Town of Oxford Employees, Council, Volunteers and the Board and Committee Members. All affected personal outlined in this policy must be fully vaccinated by January 17, 2022.

It was moved and seconded to accept the COVID 19 Vaccination Policy as presented.
Motion Carried

4.2 Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee, Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Property Reduction Advisory Committee is to advise all municipalities of Cumberland County on matters regarding poverty reduction through the application of social equity lenses within rural communities.

It was moved and seconded that Council accepts the Terms of Reference for the Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee, as presented.
Motion Carried

4.3 Policing Review Update

Regarding a recent letter from Donna Jewers that was received regarding the Municipality of the County of Cumberland's decision on the reduction of RCMP members. It was stated that the Municipality of the County of Cumberland Council have declined any further reduction in RCMP members.

At the October 18 Council meeting, Council asked staff to reach out to Ms. Jewers for clarity of Oxford's options. The response was that there were not many options left for the Town of Oxford other than to do a Request for Proposal if Oxford wants to explore other policing models.

4.4 Black River Substance Update

The Town of Oxford has not heard anything back from the Department of Environment regarding the Black River Substance that occurred back in the early fall. The Mayor will continue to reach out to the Department of Environment until the Town of Oxford gets a response regarding this issue.

4.5 Recommendation of the Steering Committee, re: Divestiture of Cumberland Central Landfill

The Steering Committee recently met and put forward to the respecting Councils the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:
It is the unanimous recommendation of the Steering Committee that the Councils approve the legal agreements necessary to give effect to the land exchange agreement with Rothesay Paper Holdings Ltd. and the indemnity agreement with GFL Environmental Inc. pursuant to the terms of the agreement for the sale of the Cumberland Central Landfill to GFL Environmental Inc.

It was moved and seconded that the Oxford Town Council approve the subdivision, granting of right of ways over and exchange of lands owned by the Municipality of Cumberland County in Trust for the Towns of Oxford and Amherst by approving the land exchange agreement with Rothesay Paper Holdings Ltd. and the indemnity agreement with GFL Environmental Inc., and that the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to

execute the agreements with such amendments as the Mayor and Town Clerk deem necessary or advisable and implement same.
Motion Carried

4.6 Eat Local Cumberland request

Eat Local Cumberland received a grant from the Municipality of Cumberland for use towards the municipality's community gardens and was awarded a grant of $1,500. The Eat Local Cumberland board decided to distribute the funds to the active community gardens in Pugwash, Amherst, Oxford, Springhill and Joggins. Therefore, Eleanor Crowley (volunteer representative for Oxford) received a cheque for $215.00.

Mrs. Crowley wrote a letter to Council for allowance to be able to spend that money on the gardens in South Oxford, also to start one back up at the foodbank. Another area of focus is the group of gardens at the Meadow Vista to find a solution to deter wildlife from eating the plants.

It was moved and seconded to accept Eleanor Crowley's request to spend the $215.00 on the Community Gardens as needed.
Motion Carried

4.7 Oxford Historical Society request

The Oxford Historical Society sent in a request for use of space, upstairs, at the Town Hall. The Oxford Historical Society is made up of volunteers and people, at times, give the volunteers historical items that would end up being thrown out in the trash if not taken. Volunteers do not have room to house these items and are in fear that they will lose valuable history of Oxford.

It was moved and seconded to grant the Oxford Historical Society use of the upstairs at the Town Hall to store the Oxford Historical Society items.
Motion Carried

4.8 Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club request

The Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club sent in a request to pain the paneled walls at the OPH Centre. Also noted in the request that there are broken floor tiles at the centre that need to be replaced as this is a hazard.

Currently in the budget there is money set aside to have repairs done on the roof, window, and handrails. Those projects are not completed yet.

Council gave permission for the Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club to paint the panel walls as long that they are supplying the paint, not the Town.

Council authorized having the broken floor tiles the outside light fixed. Staff will ask Public Works to investigate these maintenance issues.

5. Reports

5.1 Public Works Report

Report accepted. No discussion.

5.2 Fire Department Report

Report accepted. No discussion.

It was moved and seconded to accept the reports as presented.
Motion Carried

6. Committee Updates

6.1 Accessibility Committee – Chairperson Councillor MacDonald

The Accessibility Committee had their first meeting last month and another meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 18. Drafted together a Terms of Reference and working towards the mandate of having an Accessibility Plan in place by the end of March 2022.

6.2 Arena Committee – Councillor Colborne

The Arena Association is working on renovations for a Community Room upstairs. The company hired to fix the ceiling tape needs to get a lift truck and then will be able to proceed with the project.

The Arena Association and the Town of Oxford worked together on a Rink Revitalization grant and submitted it today. If successful with the Rink Revitalization Grant the projects highlighted to get done are the Arena Louvers project, renovations to the Community Room upstairs, the Zamboni / engine room needs repair. If there are any monies left over from this the next projects are the repair/replacing of the puck boards, repairing windows, and painting. Staff anticipates learning about the success of the Rink Revitalization Grant application by the third week of December 2021.

6.3 Audit Committee – Councillor Black

It was reported that the Town of Oxford books have been completed and are now under review with the staff. A meeting with the Audit Committee will be coordinated soon for their review.

6.6 Procurement Committee – Chairperson Councillor Jones

Parts for the defibrillator at the Medical Center have been ordered to bring them up to code. The RFP of the Arena Louvers may get completed with funding from the Rink Revitalization Grant, if successful. The committee has authorized the purchase of the Meeting Owl Pro from Robert Mannette for conference centre needs, it should enhance the zoom meetings. The cost of the Meeting Owl Pro will come from the Safe Restart Funds.

6.7 Public Works Committee – Mayor Henley, Councillors Black and Jones

Council reminded the public that between November 15 to April 15 night parking is prohibited and vehicles will be towed at owner's expense. Residents should take note to remove any of their property close to the road, as in basketball nets, lumber, fill for example. This affects how well the Public Works Crew remove the snow.

6.8 Recreation Commission Committee – Councillor McNutt

The Recreation Commission is going to meet, this week, with the Oxford Minor Ball and the Fire Department regarding their request last week for use of Town Land at the Ballfield. The 16th Annual Parade, Parade of Lights, is set for Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm. There is a free skate organized following the parade at the arena, proof of vaccination and masks to be worn will be required. If participant is on the ice, they can then remove the mask. The parade committee was in contact with public health regarding all COVID protocols set. All participants in the parade must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination the night of the parade. There will be nothing handed out or tossed during the parade this year.

6.10 Town Services Committee – Chairperson Councillor Jones

The committee has authorized the staff to purchase 5-gallon hot water heaters for two locations at Town Hall, this expense will be funded by the Safe Restart Funds. It was suggested to investigate the on-demand hot water also. Staff will investigate that and get back quotes to the committee.

It was moved and seconded to accept the reports as verbally presented.
Motion Carried

7. Correspondence

7.1 Municipal Affairs and Housing – Minister Lohr – Municipal Awareness Week

Municipal Awareness Week is recognized November 22 to November 28. This is a time to highlight the important work happening at local government level and to encourage citizens to participate in municipal government and in elections.

7.2 Nova Scotia Department of Justice – Hayley Crichton, A/Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Division – Collective Agreement

The Collective Agreement was signed on August 6, 2021, with an expiry date of March 31, 2023. This agreement, RCMP total compensation, including pensions and benefits, is competitive with other police services, and considered to be fair and reasonable for Canadian taxpayers.

The province is aware that policing represents a significant cost for municipalities. Currently the provisions in the Nova Scotia Police Service Agreements are unchanged and remain in effect.

As soon as the Nova Scotia Department of Justice has answers to calculate the financial impact to municipal budgets, they will share this information.

8. Adjournment

At 6:35 pm, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

Gregory Henley, Mayor

Linda Cloney, Recording Secretary