



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Presiding Officer: Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald
Councillors Present: Mayor Greg Henley, Carla Black, Chrystal McNutt, Olivia Canning, Paul Jones, and Brenton Colborne
Councillors Regrets: Nil

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Ruthann Brookins, Manager of Finance.

Public in attendance: Denise Corey – Cumberland Public Libraries, MLIS Library Director, Gary McDonald, resident.

1. Call to Order – Welcome

At 6:00 PM, Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting including those members of the public in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda - *pages 1 – 2*

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Mayor Henley that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for January 10, 2024, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Presentation –

3.1 Cumberland Public Libraries – Denise Corey, MLIS – Library Director - *pages 3 – 15*

Linda Cloney, CAO introduced Denise Corey, MLIS Library Director for Cumberland Public Libraries to present on providing adequate funding for a better Oxford branch library.

Cumberland County will see a deficit this year of \$80,000

In summary, the presentation to the Council reviewed that there are 9 library boards in the province of Nova Scotia, all run separately with their own Board of Directors. Cumberland County Libraries is headquartered in Amherst, NS and has 7 locations including outreach services and has seen growth in visits and checked-out items in the past years with increased services and offerings for items that can be checked out. Various programs are also offered to the public through the Cumberland County Libraries.

The Town of Oxford branch has seen in the past year 3,416 people visit, borrowing 10,456 items and 350 people attended programs provided at the Oxford branch. However, since a large increase in funding in 2020, there has been no increase to municipal funding despite increases in CPI and as such, Cumberland County Public Libraries has been the first to cut hours in Nova Scotia, but other library boards in the province will most likely follow.

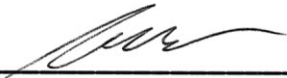
The Amherst Town Council has extended additional funding this year and has also written a letter of advocacy to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to encourage them to provide some additional emergency funding. This request has been extended from all library regions in Nova Scotia to their respective branch location town councils.

Mayor Henley extended an offer to write a letter of advocacy to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to encourage them to provide extra funding, however, the Council would have to meet to discuss if there is any way to provide additional funding on behalf of the Town of Oxford.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes - December 13, 2023 - *pages 16 – 18*

Approved by



Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, Chair, on Jan 10, 2024

5. **Town Departments Reports**

5.1 **Public Works Department** – presented by Councillor McNutt, *Pages 19 - 20*

5.2 **Fire Department** – presented by Councillor McNutt, *Page 21*

5.3 **Municipal Physical Activity Report** – presented by Councillor McNutt,
Pages 22 - 23

5.4 **Administration Report** – presented by Linda Cloney, CAO, *Pages 24 – 25*

5.5 **Financial Reports** – presented by Ruthann Brookins, **Manager of Finance**

5.5.1 **General Operating** - *Pages 26 – 33*

5.5.2 **Water Operating** – *Pages 34 - 35*

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald thanked the Town Department
Heads and staff for their respective reports.

6. **Council Committees and Boards Reports** – presented by Linda Cloney – verbal
reports

6.1 **Accessibility Advisory Committee Report**

6.2 **All Saints Community Health Care Foundation**

6.3 **Policing Services Review Committee**

6.4 **Road Trails Act Committee**

Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald thanked all Committees and Boards for their
respective reports.

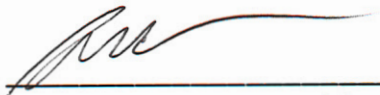
7. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney

7.1 Nil

8. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald reviewed that the PVSC (Property Valuation Services Corporation) Property Valuation Assessments have been mailed out to all residents of Nova Scotia. This is a provincial assessment and to clarify the Council does not set these assessments. The Council's role is to set the tax rate. Please note that there is an opportunity to appeal your property assessment if you feel it is excessive, please send your appeal to the information provided on your property assessment no later than February 8, 2024. If you have any questions about that process, please contact the main office.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.



Deputy Mayor, Arnold MacDonald, Chair



Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

02-14-2024

Date Approved