



## Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

**Place:** Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024  
**Presiding Officer:** Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald  
**Councillors Present:** Mayor Greg Henley, Carla Black, Olivia Canning-Sweet, Brenton Colborne, Chrystal McNutt, and Paul Jones  
**Councillor Regrets:** Nil

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

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Ruthann Brookins - Manager of Finance, Nick Purdy – Public Works Supervisor (via Zoom), Mitch Hannigan – MPAL (Interim), Bruce Rushton – Fire Chief (Via Zoom, and Kyle Purdy – Deputy Fire Chief

**Presenters in attendance:** Nil

**Media and Gallery in attendance:** Mark Rushton and Gary MacDonald

Kyle Purdy left the meeting at 6:07 PM.

Mitch Hannigan left the meeting at 6:16 PM.

### 1. **Call to Order – Welcome**

At 6:00 PM Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald called the meeting to order and welcomed all in the Gallery including Mark Rushton and Gary MacDonald.

It was announced that immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting there would be a Regular Council meeting in place of the regularly scheduled meeting that would have been held on September 25, 2024.

Further, it was announced that there will be an official Municipal Election this year and the official Notice of Pole has been issued and will be shared on our social media sites and in our local paper, *The Casket*. All who decided to run for the Town of Oxford Council offices this year were thanked.

Lastly, it was announced that there would be a Candidates Forum for the community to get to know the candidates. This was held at the Oxford Capitol Theatre on October 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

**2. Approval of Agenda, Pages 1 – 2**

Moved by Mayor Henley and seconded by Councillor Jones that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Wednesday, September 11, 2024, be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

**3. Approval of the Minutes – June 12, 2024, Pages 3 – 7**

***Approved by***



---

**Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, Chair, on September 11, 2024**

**4. Town Departments Reports**

**4.1 Public Works Department** – presented by Nick Purdy, Public Works Supervisor *via Zoom, Pages 8 - 10*

**4.2 Fire Department** – presented by Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief, *via zoom*, and Kyle Purdy, Deputy Fire Chief, *Pages 11 - 12*

**4.3 Administration Reports** – presented by Linda Cloney, *Pages 13 - 15 – Admin Assistant Report, and Page 16 – CAO Report*

**4.4 MPAL Report** – presented by Mitch Hannigan, Interim MPAL *Verbal Report, Submitted separately*

Mitch Hannigan presented the highlights from the MPAL office over the summer. In June, the MPAL office:

- Assisted the CAO in the interview process and onboarding of the summer students
- Completed soccer registration, which had over 130 participants

In July:

- Assisted summer students on daily projects including maintaining and watering community gardens with the summer horticulturist student.
- Pride Day colouring event
- Assisted in Canada Day activities at the Oxford ball fields.
- Directed summer rec student in implementing programming including nature walks, rock painting events, movies, snacks, games and activity stations.

In August:

- Blueberry harvest events
- Organization of the Terry Fox Run held on September 15, 2024.
- Christmas parade planning
- Truth and Reconciliation Day event planning.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald thanked the Town Staff for their respective reports.

**5. Council Committees and Boards Reports – presented by Linda Cloney**  
**5.1 Cumberland Public Library Committee Report, Pages 17 – 30 – Annual Report – 2023/2024**

The Cumberland Public Library 2023/2024 Annual Report was reviewed with the Council, which was included in the package.

- Councillor McNutt added that in the past year, 67,000 visitors attended the Cumberland County Libraries.

- Councillor Black added that the library in Amherst, NS is offering a program for grants and provides streamlined access grants, their applications, closing dates and how to apply for them.

## **5.2 Northern Region Waste-Resource Committee Report,**

*Pages 31 – 34 – April 12, 2024, approved minutes*

*Pages 35 – 36 – Divert NS Letter re: Readiness Report Feedback – June 24, 2024*

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

## **6. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney**

### **6.1 Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter – Canada Community-Building Fund – July 18, 2024, Page 37**

Linda Cloney, CAO reviewed the letter from Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Canada Community-Building Fund with the Council. The letter outlined that the province has signed a new 10-year agreement with the Federal Government under the Canada Community Building Fund. This agreement will provide 318 million in the first 5 years to the 49 municipalities of Nova Scotia offering up front and predictable long-term funding to help address local infrastructure priorities.

### **6.2 Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter – Municipal and Village Codes of Conduct – August 9, 2024, Page 38 – 39**

Linda Cloney, CAO reviewed the letter from Municipal Affairs and Housing to all elected officials and to the CAOs to provide an update on the Municipal and Village Codes of Conduct. The Code of Conduct working group provided 25 recommendations to be considered by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all 25 recommendations were accepted. The Code of Conduct framework will come into effect following the October 2024 Municipal Election. The Code of Conduct framework has been handed out to all of the candidates that are taking part in the 2024 Municipal Election. The Minister of Municipal

Affairs and Housing has prescribed that all municipalities and villages of Nova Scotia must adopt and implement the Code of Conduct framework within 6 days following the 2024 Municipal Election and provide confirmation of the notice of adoption. Failure to provide confirmation may result in being withdrawn from receiving any grant funding in the future.

The Code of Conduct framework will be added into the October 2024 Council agenda to review the implementation of this mandated process following the Municipal Election.

### **6.3 Environment and Climate Change Canada – response to Mayor’s letter regarding volunteer emergency service – November 27, 2023, *Page 40***


Linda Cloney, CAO reviewed the response letter to Mayor Henley from Environment and Climate Change Canada that the Oxford Town Council had directed Mayor Henley to write. The letter was regarding the use of fossil fuels and their use and effect on the climate. Oxford Town Council directed the letter addressing concern for the extra financial burden on the volunteer emergency service providers considering their limited fixed budget to protect the Town of Oxford.


The letter, written in November of 2023, requested the removal of the Carbon Tax on the volunteer emergency service providers' fossil fuel usage be removed.

The letter responded in understanding of the Town of Oxford’s position regarding the volunteer emergency service providers' grant of an exemption of the fuel charge rates under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing act. However, the matter raised falls under the prevue of the Department of Finance Canada and therefore a copy of the letter will be forwarded to the office of the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Minister of Canada

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Mayor, Arnold MacDonald, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

10-09-2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved