

Committee of the Whole
Administrative, By-Laws and Policies Meeting
May 16, 2022

A meeting Committee of the Whole meeting was held in Council Chambers in Baddeck on May 16, 2022, at 1:00pm with Deputy Warden Dauphinee in the Chair.

Present Were:

District #1- Paul MacNeil

District #2- Perla MacLeod

District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden

District #4- Barbara Longva

District #5- Fraser Patterson

District #6- Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden

District #7- Jackie Organ

District #8- Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Alix Redden, CFO

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Local Improvement By-Law

Councillor MacNeil had concerns about how the water utility will penalize the residents twice.

Councillor Patterson had concerns about not being able to give residents a number value of how this will affect them, and CAO said that can't be provided until we know what the project is going to be.

Councillor Patterson had issues with when/how residents can vote and how they may not be able to vote. Councillor Patterson thinks the residents should have a vote.

Warden Morrison said the majority of the time, decisions will be made and based on what the majority of residents want.

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Councillor Patterson spoke out against the drafting of a Local Improvement Bylaw.

Deputy Warden had major concerns with people in the communities not being able to afford any increases, specifically senior citizens.

Councillor Longva is very nervous with By-Laws.

Councillor Patterson asked for examples of projects from other Municipalities.

Council gave staff the direction to draft a Local Improvement By-Law to be discussed further and it being discussed at the Open House Sessions.

Streetlight Policy

Deputy Warden Dauphinee wants to get rid of giving away streetlights altogether.

Councillors are not in favour of having the cost recovery through their District Budget and would like to have it removed from the Policy.

Travel Policy

Remuneration

Currently defined by a motion on the books to increase based on negotiated wage increase by bargain unit, Alix believes this is a conflict of interest.

Councillors agreed that the perception from the public may be different and it may be perceived that a bargain unit with Councillors on it may look bad.

Remuneration/Stipend Policy. Majority of municipalities use an annual cost of living adjustment for council remuneration.

Council was not prepared to make a decision on this area.

Travel Allowance

- Based on distance from municipal office
- Propose calculation based on estimated # of trips (council session)
- Adjusted annually by cost of living
- Would be a taxable benefit

Councillor Patterson does not agree with this at all, he does not want it on his paycheck, he doesn't want it taxed.

This would eliminate councillors having to submit an expense form for council travel.

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Council asked for Alix to come back with an estimated number and a decision will be made after that.

Reimbursable Travel

Nothing new to add the list.

Who/how many attends the events should be in the policy. Put in the policy that 4 Councillors, alternating years, will be send if it is out of province (FCM) and in province (NSFM) any number of councillors can go. This will continue to be a decision of Council.

Flight Cancellations – it will be the responsibility of the Councillor who cancels to pay for that cancelled flight. Unless it is a medical emergency.

Council Travel Authorization

If you're travelling outside your district it has to be approved by the warden and if the warden is absent it has to be approved by the CAO.

Mileage Rate

Current Mileage is \$0.48/km

Align mileage rate with NS provincial government going forward?

April 1, 2022, change from \$0.4615km to \$0.5113/km.

It was decided to match the provincial rate.

Meal Allowances

Clarity is needed as to when they can be claimed.

Other

Steff discussed what she learned at an "Effective Council Meeting" course and proposed some changes to the following:

Agenda Format

- Removing Old Business/Business Arising
- Removing Taxation Update – we are doing well, no need to have on the agenda as a separate item, it will be discussed through the CAO Report.

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- Removing Department of Public Works (formerly TIR) concerns, can be discussed under District Concerns
- Motions – to make the meeting more effective, Motions can be submitted to Steff beforehand. This does not mean that motions can't be made from the floor, but if a Councillor knows they will be making motion(s), please send ahead of time to Steff using the Making a Motion form.

Meeting Format

It was discussed and agreed that we will try to have a full day of meetings on Council days. If there is a "one of" meeting, it will be scheduled virtually.

For Council meetings, if a Councillor cannot attend, they cannot attend virtually, so no hybrid. As outlined in the MGA, an elected official needs to be able to see all other Councillors at all times. This is not possible when one Councillor is attending virtually while all others are physically present. So, if a Councillor cannot attend a meeting in person, they need to decline the meeting request. The meetings need to be either all virtual or all in person.