



Before we begin our meeting, we would like to acknowledge that Stewiacke is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Call to Order

Mayor George Lloy called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Attendance

PRESENT:

Mayor George Lloy

Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman

Councillors: Susan Creelman
Pam Osborne
Chad Ramsey

Suzie Lutz
Rebecca Rogers-Laing

Staff: Randi Buchi, Interim CAO
Leah Bennett

Erin Richard
Jeff Sibley

REGRETS / ABSENT:

3. Approval of / Changes to Agenda

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move to approve the Agenda as presented for July 20th, 2023 – Combined Council Meeting
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items

NIL

5. Approval of Minutes

Amended to add prefix 9.j. to the minutes.

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

I so move to approve the Minutes as presented with the above amendment from April 27th, 2023 – Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Creelman:

I so move to approve the Minutes as presented from June 8th, 2023 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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Councillor Creelman noted that on page 3, shut is spelled incorrectly and add Councillor Ramsey in attendance.

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Lutz:

I so move to approve the minutes as presented from June 13th, 2023 – Special Council Meeting, with the addition of adding Councillor Ramsey to attendance.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move to approve the minutes as presented from June 22nd, 2023 – Council Meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Announcements / Proclamations

Combined Council Meeting August 17th, 2023

7. Presentations

a. Presentation of Fiscal 2022 – 2023 Financial Statements – MNP

- MNP reviewed and read the audit report for the town
- Provided information on the audit, 1 small unrecorded item
- Nothing in regards to fraud or illegal
- One change to account standard – implementation of ARO’s – Asset Retirement Obligations
- Unadjusted was a projected error with water
- \$31,460 MNP charge which they are required to share
- \$470,000 in new capital assets

There was a question in regards to misc. revenue being up significantly to which the response was that since covid, miscellaneous recreation, summer and after school programs etc. have been up.

There was a question of the increase of legal fees, which the majority of those were in relation to 50 St Andrew’s St, at least 50%. Leases for Big River and Fire Dept,

Building inspection increased as Truro now doing Fire Inspections etc. Planning and zoning through CBCL has increased.



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- Water collections reduced receivable, payables have stayed consistent and fund balance has increased by \$92 - \$93,000 which represents the accumulated surplus for the year
- Increased with 1 additional staff member
- Rate of return for water utility is 10.1% which is down from last years 12.2%

8. Written Petitions and Correspondence

a. Minister Lohr – Housing

It was brought up that the province owns a high demand piece of property that could be used for housing.

9. Business

a. Staff Reports

i. Administration

- TCPEP is looking at getting clinic with 6 Doctors potentially within 1 year, they have the Doctors, just no clinic for them
- Also, they are doing a transportation study as well
- JRTA – just looking for information from the municipalities to see where they can assist

ii. Financial

- Statements were only 3 months into the year
- Riverside will be moving forward although we have not had any official word yet

iii. Community Development

- \$10,000 over estimated budget in revenue
- Music in park – sound check at 1pm, music 2-3pm, open mic 3pm, if nothing happening, will shut down around 3:15pm
- We do not rent out Dennis Park space and residents contacted the town in regards to the Splashpad, not the Gazebo

iv. Public Works

- 3 quotes on Community Center siding, budget of \$150,000 and had funding
- No spring flushing, it is only once a year in the fall
- We do not mow ditches and there is only clearing if there is a restriction

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Mayor Lloy wants to add swimming pools to September meeting and egress roads for planning and advisory meeting in September.

Councillor Osborne wants egress roads on Agenda for Council discussion.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

I so move to approve the Staff Reports as presented for the July 20th, 2023 – Combined Council Meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Approval of Fiscal 2022-23 Financial Statements

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

I so move to approve the Town of Stewiacke audited consolidated financial for fiscal year ending March 31st, 2023

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the motion of Councillor Rogers-Laing and Councillor Creelman:

I so move to approve the Town of Stewiacke water utility financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31st, 2023

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Boundary Review

Mayor Lloy re-read the Boundary Review

Questions arose from the survey and it was clarified that only residents were included in the final numbers and if there were 'unsure' answers, they were not included in the numbers either.

Discussion regarding both sides of 6 councillors as well as 4 councillors, including letting staff take on more of the council duties, which was later disregarded by another councillor. The main discussion was based on the population numbers per councillor.

Mayor Lloy went around the table and asked each councillor for a yay or nay vote.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move to approve the reduction of Council members from 6 to 4 as part of the Municipal Boundary Review

YAY – 4

NAY – 3



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d. Traffic Flow Changes

Erin stated that we looked at traffic calming in front of Town Hall by making it one way traffic, it would be cost effective but not safe so we are not taking that route.

e. RFP – Riverside Ave and update

We have updated numbers with just Riverside

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Chapman and Councillor Osborne:
I so move to approve the acceptance of the Dexter Bid for the Riverside project in the amount of \$6,350,000.00 + HST

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. RFP – Community Centre Siding

On the motion of Councillor Rogers-Laing and Councillor Osborne:
I so move to approve the acceptance of the Community Centre Siding to Total One Contracting in the amount of \$63,948.14 + HST

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. RFP – Feasibility Study on Community Transit

Erin met with CTCL Colchester and dealt with Common Good Solution.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman:
I so move to approve the acceptance of the Feasibility Study on the Need of Community Transportation to Common Good Solution in the amount of \$20,815.00 + HST

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. Meeting with Colchester Council: Library & Joint Police Advisory Board

Interim Buchi was given 3 preferred dates to meet to chose from and it was decided to move forward

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with August 22nd, 2023. Will confirm time and zoom capability.

10. By-laws and Policies

a. Marketing Levy By-law – First reading

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Osborne:

I so move to approve the first reading of the 2023-01 Marketing Levy By-law:

and

Further that Council advertise this By-law in accordance with sections 168 & 169 of the Municipal Government Act before bringing the By-law back for final reading.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. 2000-07 Tax Billing Policy Update

Councillor Creelman wanted to thank Interim CAO Buchi for making it easier for residents to pay their taxes

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move to approve the amendment to Policy 2000-07 as presented

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Citizen Comments

NIL

12. Mayor Report

- July 23 – Raising the Progressive flag at Dennis Park
- June 28 - Futureworks AGM in Truro
- July 8 – Open house at MGM
- July 11 – Joined Stewiacke Fire Dept and Chad from CEC in recognizing PTSD
- July 17 – Meeting with ALTA Gas in Truro – will provide final report to council when received
- Continue to have Wednesday meetings with Ms Buchi
- Took part in several HR Meetings with Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman, along with recruiter Patrick Hartling
- I want to take the time to thank our staff with the Town of Stewiacke, Council Chambers look amazing, hanging flowers, grass as well.

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- Recreation department has the youth programs
- Also our volunteers are second to none and appreciated
- I want to thank Deputy Mayor Chapman, Councillor Creelman and HR Recruiter Patrick Hartling for the work over the past few weeks in finding a suitable CAO
- Looking forward to Town Days
- Condolences to Chad for your loss

Deputy Mayor Report

- Condolences to Councillor Ramsey on the loss of his mum
- Raising of the Progressive Flag
- Four HR Meetings
- MGM Ribbon cutting ceremony
- Hants East neighbors, ran into at Kitefest in the city and the grass hadn't been cut and that they had driven through Stewiacke and liked how clean and pretty our town is
- Actually used the complaints process and it was quick and easy

13. Councillors Reports

Councillor Lutz – nothing

Councillor Osborne –

- Flag raising
- MGM Ribbon cutting ceremony
- Met with Chad from CEC for PTSD and thank Stewiacke Fire for helping
- Open Hearts Haven Memorial Park this Sunday honoring VON lost
- Reflecting on my time being back, get asked a lot what it is like to be back, and will reflect on how it is different
- From 2011 – 2016 I sat around the Council table with a couple of people who are still here, we respected other and each other's points of view, may not have agreed and sometimes didn't, but we always made time afterwards to get together, put that aside, have a beverage and I really do believe we were a team and we always cared about each others family. We participated in Town Days and it was a lot of fun. Levee's we attended together, we laughed together and it was a great time. Staff were included, at Christmastime we used to go to the Fireman's Dinner in November.
- Since the bi-election in 2023, it is different. Sometimes I feel excluded, sometimes I feel like my questions aren't getting answered, or sometimes they are just ignored.
- I have witnessed bullying around this table, from one council member to another.

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- Everyone around this table knows that there is a court challenge to my bi-election win. Everyone knows who was here in May that my opponents had served me here in this chamber. Since that time, the court action has progressed and is now set aside a 5th time to October. But what you don't know, is that, my family have been subjected to bullying, to harassment, to rudeness, to abrasiveness. They don't deserve that. Come at me if you want to, but leave my family alone.

Deputy Mayor Chapman asked if the abrasiveness was coming from anyone around the Council table?

Councillor Osborne said no that it was from one of her opponents.

Deputy Mayor Chapman asked about the bullying from the Councillors around the table.

Councillor Osborne responded that she thinks it is the way that we speak to each other, not intentional, but I have been asked by residents, what I have seen, what is different, and Councillor Creelman and Councillor Ramsey can talk to it. We didn't always agree, but we always respected each other and I don't know if its tone, might just be the persons everyday tone, and I don't recognize that and residents may not recognize that, but its also a willingness to talk about it, and I think that is what I miss. I miss that after our council meetings we used to get together, and we talked.

Deputy Mayor Chapman wanted to get back to the bullying around the table. She asked Councillor Osborne if she was being bullied?

Councillor Osborne said it was not her but she witnessed it.

Mayor Lloy asked for Councillor Osborne to give us an example please?

Councillor Osborne said she would rather not.

Mayor Lloy stated as the Mayor and the Chair that we have to look into that very seriously to which Councillor Osborne agreed.

Councillor Osborne also added that as far as what her family is enduring, it is not from any of my colleagues, it is not from any of the staff, it is from the court action.

Councillor Rogers-Laing – nothing

Councillor Creelman – Continuing with committee work

Councillor Ramsey – nothing



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14. In-camera Session

Personnel (HR Committee)

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Rogers-Laing:

I so move to go 'In-camera' at 9:02pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Rogers-Laing left the meeting at 9:40pm

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Osborne:

I so move to approve to come out of 'In-camera' at 10:05pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

I so move to approve that the Town of Stewiacke hire Greg Brown as CAO with a salary of \$96,500 and a start date In August.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

NIL

16. Adjournment

Adjournment was 10:05pm

Read and approved this 22ND day of August, 2023


Mayor


CAO

