

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.

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### 1. Call to Order

Mayor George Lloy called the Council Meeting to order at 7:05pm due to issues with Zoom

### 2. Attendance

PRESENT:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Mayor George Lloy               | Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman<br>(7:55pm left meeting) |
| Councillors: Susan Creelman     | Suzie Lutz   |
| Pam Osborne                     | Rebecca Rogers-Laing                                   |
| Chad Ramsey                     |  |
| Staff: Randi Buchi, Interim CAO | Erin Richard   |
| Leah Bennett                    | Jeff Sibley  |

REGRETS / ABSENT:

### 3. Approval of / Changes to Agenda

Councillor Ramsey noted that during the discussion on Agenda item 9.b. he will leave Council Chambers and return when discussion is complete.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Osborne:

***I so move to approve the Agenda as presented for August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Combined Council Meeting***  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 4. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items

Councillor Ramsey stated that he will remove himself from Council chambers in regards to 9.b. discussion to prevent conflict of interest to which all Council agreed.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

Noted that on Mayor and Councillor Osborne's reports that CEC should have been Sea to Sea Bi-election should have been By-election and in Deputy Mayor Chapman's report, Kitefest should have been Tidefest.

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

***I so move to approve the Minutes as presented from July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Combined Council Meeting with the above changes.***

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## 6. Announcements / Proclamations

NIL

## 7. Presentations

NIL

## 8. Written Petitions and Correspondence

- a. Awarding of PCAP
- b. Beautification & Streetscaping – In Erin's report
  - Councillor Creelman noticed that funding amounts are confidential and not to be made public as of yet.

## 9. Business

- a. Staff Reports
  - i. Administration
    - Started Riverside
    - August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Public Hearing for the Municipal Boundary Review at Council Chambers
    - NSUARB Advertised notice of Public Hearing
    - TCPEP Letter of Support for clinic to NS Health from the Mayor
    - JRTA next one September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - Staff regarding RCMP issues, Constable Curtis MacKinnon will be meeting with CAO and Erin August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
    - Council wondering if RCMP could do an Open House to which Interim CAO Buchi stated that she would ask at the meeting
    - Colchester Joint Meeting will be held August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7pm 1 Church St, Truro
  - ii. Financial
    - The cost will be roughly 1.4 – 2.0 million dollars for this phase of Riverside and asking for approval to borrow from General Operating Reserve until debenture comes in from MFC
    - Looking into an interactive system with Truro regarding up-to-date mapping services
    - Service sharing with Truro has been successful up to date

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- Tax Sale – no bids, we re-advertised with September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 deadline. Now we have two options:
  - 1- Town to give the minimum bid for 50 St Andrew's St
  - 2- Let this deadline lapse and have another Tax Sale with no minimum bid
  - Mayor Lloy polled Council and they all agreed to let this deadline run its course
  
- iii. Community Development
  - Next week is trip week
  - Beautification Terms of Reference sent
  - Want to paint Town Hall exterior
  - Connect two crosswalks and gravel paths along Main St W in Mastodon Ridge and Perry Lake area as per part of the Walkability Plan
  - Question regarding solar lights being added to the new crosswalks being added to which Erin stated there would be
  
- iv. Public Works
  - Still catching up from storms
  - Preparing for large rain events
  - Phase 4 Well Water – completion should be in October
  - Phase 5 Well Water – Design and location
  - Riverside – Working from new development to second manhole and opposite end by river. Will get as much completed as possible before winter and will be first priority in the Spring
  - Riverside will not be paved before winter; they will be gravel and will be sanded in winter

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Lutz:

***I so move to approve the Staff Reports as presented for the August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Combined Council Meeting***

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Request for Leave ( Councillor Ramsey )

Discussion on whether Councillor Ramsey was asking for leave or ordinary resident.

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Creelman:

***I so move to approve the request be considered an ordinary resident while residing outside the Municipality of the Town of Stewiacke for a period of 6 months up to Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

**YAY – 6**

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- c. MDOANS – Municipal Development Officers Association of NS
- Leah has applied, \$100 Annual Fee and is looking to Truro to mentor her to become a Development Officer
- d. Egress Road
- CBCL did have some options and Colchester is working with us as well
  - PAC is looking into this
  - Hopes that future development approvals will take egress roads into consideration
  - \$1 million per km is the cost to build egress roads which is a significant undertaking
  - New developments are building to meet the changes in weather patterns with wider roads etc.
- e. Temporary Borrowing from Reserves

This was reviewed by Randi in her report.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman:

***I so move to approve the use of the General Operating Reserve for temporary borrowing on the Riverside Ave project up to \$400,000 in this fiscal year.***

## 10. [By-laws and Policies](#)

NIL

## 11. [Citizen Comments](#)

Bill Hellewell took the floor:

- Thanked Mr Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for letting him speak
- Moved to Stewiacke in 2009 and intentions were to give back to the town however he could especially after retiring in 2019
- Volunteered time by participating in various committees such as Pandemic Emergency Response Committee and Police Advisory Committee
- When Councillor Commo passed away and a by-election was called, wanted to offer based on his own career in Municipal Government for 25 years as a public servant
- In February, candidacy was officially launched in the upcoming by-election
- Was happy to see we had four potential candidates
- We live in a small town and know each other through community events

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- I know Terri Stewart as she is a neighbor, didn't know Dave LeBlanc or Pam Osborne
- When the results came out, was still happy as we have a new Councillor
- Reached out right away to Miss Osborne to congratulate her on her win
- Now the Town Council is back to full strength
- March 17<sup>th</sup> was inviting to a meeting at Town Hall with the acting returning officer Dale Bogle
- At the meeting with Terri Stewart and Dave LeBlanc
- There was disturbing evidence in the anomalies of the election result
- Mr Bogle advised that he had met previously with Miss Osborne (the current winner) separately as a courtesy, and was also shown the same evidence
- There was some discussion and debate and we three concluded that the results should be challenged and investigated only because the results between the top two candidates had been so close (within 6 votes)
- If the two top had not been so close the results would not have been challenged, but the anomalies exceeded the number of votes in the difference and that was crucial
- Disturbing that Miss Osborne did not move to challenge the results by this process although she would have been aware of the discrepancies and anomalies as we were
- Challenging the results was not at any way aimed at Miss Osborne but at the system used
- For information purposes, Miss Osborne had the same information and the same choice which would have and should have been to take the moral high road but under the legislation requirements we had to add Miss Osborne as a respondent, simply because she did not join as an applicant
- Returning Officer and former CAO Dale Bogle and town lawyer Charles Thompson all had no issue with court documents being served electronically by email, only Miss Osborne refused to accept and avoided every attempt to communicate by her published cell phone number, direct call or text, or email to both her official and personal email addresses
- Every member of Council is responsive to every resident of this town and this Council was approached and refused to respond
- Trying to defend my integrity and the integrity of my fellow candidates of just trying to do the right thing for our town and our neighbours
- Our democracy is being challenged on almost every side
- Municipal politics and meetings are the least attended which deeply saddens me and I can't help but challenge all my friends and neighbors to please start paying attention to more town business
- The town's transparency has gotten so much better through posting of official documents, budgets, councils, expenses and town business has the biggest impact on our daily lives with infrastructure, roads, parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, youth activities
- With any other level of government, it isn't tainted by party politics
- There is no one here that identifies as Liberal, NDP, PC, there is none of that and this is the only level of government that we have, that nonsense doesn't come into that

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- Please get involved, watch Council meetings, express your views, ideas and concerns, not on Facebook chat but where it counts, at the source. Your Town, your Councillors and Town Administration to which I think we have fabulous staff, by the way.
- Stop using these chat sites as gospel, they are not and most times are misleading
- I cannot count how many times I read comments on these chat sites that were completely full of inaccuracy, when the truth was a click away on the town's official website
- There are many memes of 'I saw it on the internet, so it must be true'. It is not, we know that
- Finally I would like to ask Council to add to the next Council Agenda, allow for me to make a presentation to Council specifically to address Councillor Osborne's accusations of being harassed or abused. Miss Osborne or her family, specifically her mother, by me, Miss Stewart or Mr LeBlanc.
- I think it only fair that if Miss Osborne is allowed to have a public platform to level accusations and innuendo's against me personally, we should also be awarded the ability to publicly respond
- Part of this presentation will include a video that completely disproves Miss Osborne's claim that her mother was abused or harassed
- I thank you Mr Mayor and Councillors for your time

## 12. Mayor Report

- July 27 – Attended the REMAC session at the Emergency Coordination Centre in Truro. A NS EMO Preparedness Workshop will take place October 24<sup>th</sup> at RECC
- August 1 – I had lunch with former Town of Stewiacke CAO Sheldon Dorey
- August 2 – HR Zoom meeting with Patrick Hartling & HR Recruitment Committee members
- August 3 – 6 – Attended various Town Days activities. Thank you to the committee members, staff, public works, volunteers & Erin Richard for a successful event especially with the last minute changes due to the weather.
- August 11 – Issued a letter to the citizens of Town of Stewiacke regarding an increase in the attempted break ins and advised reporting any suspicious activities to the RCMP. I requested an increase in the RCMP presence in Stewiacke as an interim measure & data on the number of calls the RCMP have received from the town over the past year. A meeting with the RCMP has been requested and Council will be advised
- August 11 – Met with Municipality of the District of East Hants Warden, Eleanor Ralston
- August 13 – Met with Municipality of Colchester County Mayor Christine Blair
- August 16 – Weekly meeting with Interim CAO Randi Buchi
- August 16 – HR Recruitment Committee Meeting
- Joint Council Meeting with Municipality of Colchester August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 in Truro
- I am pleased to report new waterworks infrastructure, concrete curb, concrete sidewalk & asphalt pavement for Riverside Avenue which has started and will be completed in 2024

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- Thank you to our Interim CAO Randi Buchi, our management team, staff and public works who stepped forward to ensure business as usual continued as we completed our search for a new CAO
- Finally, we welcome the Town of Stewiacke new CAO Greg Brown to our town with a start date of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### **Deputy Mayor Report**

- Attended REMAC session

### **13. Councillors Reports**

Councillor Lutz – nothing

Councillor Osborne –

- Just want to congratulate Erin and all the last minutes changes, I was part of the Canine Flyers and that was a last minute change so kudos on the great Town Days, always great to see old friends and meet new friends

Councillor Rogers-Laing – nothing

Councillor Creelman –

- In helping with Town Days and the History event we had at the Community Centre, had the pleasure of talking to long time resident Betty Dickie, she has given us (and may be more in the future) some articles of historical significance, maybe somewhere down the road we can talk about how we preserve these items.
- Thank you Councillor Ramsey for bringing the stove
- Thanks to Erin, staff and the rest of the community
- Next week we get to meet our new CAO and I wanted to thank the staff as well for rising to the challenge and keeping us on 'track' (train was passing by) to not only keep things going but to keep them progressing as well

Councillor Ramsey – nothing

### **14. In-camera Session**

NIL



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15. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

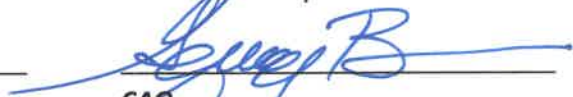
NIL

16. Adjournment

Adjournment was 8:02 pm

Read and approved this 15 day of Sept, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO