



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

Deputy Mayor Chapman called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Attendance

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Chapman

Councillors: Susan Creelman  
Suzanne Lutz  
Chad Ramsey (via Teams with issues, in at 7:08 and 7:24 after dropping out and having issues with sound and hearing)

Rebecca Rogers-Laing  
Pam Osborne

Staff: CAO Brown  
Leah Bennett

REGRETS / ABSENT: Mayor Lloy

3. Approval of / Changes to Agenda

Councillor Creelman added that in November the vote for Deputy Mayor is done, should this be added to the Agenda? It was decided that as Councillor Ramsey could not participate as he is attending via Teams that it will be deferred until December Combined Council Meeting.

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Osborne:

*I so move to approve the Agenda as presented for the November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – Council Meeting*  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items

NIL

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)

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

*I so move to approve the Minutes as presented from October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council Meeting.*

6. Announcements / Proclamations

NIL

7. Presentations

NIL



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## 8. Written Petitions and Correspondence

### ***a. Fundy Rose Ferry – Digby to Saint John***

Ben Cleveland from Digby, sent out an email for a request for a Letter of Support to be sent to Ottawa in reference to the Fundy Rose Ferry and the plans to relocate to Isle-de-la-Madeleine. This would cut out the ferry from Digby to Saint John affecting the fisheries as the products would have to be trucked around, adding a 7 hour trip along with a mandatory 10 hour layover on their way to the Boston markets.

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Creelman:

***I so move to approve a Letter of Support for the Municipality of Digby.***

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9. Business

### ***a. JRTA (Joint Regional Transportation Agency) – Terms of Reference***

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Deputy Mayor Chapman:

***I so move to approve to officially support the Terms of Reference governing the work of the Municipal Working Group and the overall mandate of the Joint Regional Transportation Agency. Further, to formalize this support through the Chief Administrative Officer being a signatory of the Terms of Reference and actively participate in the Agency's planning efforts.***

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### ***b. Town of Stewiacke Cenotaph – Care and Maintenance***

Discussion was brought up regarding any funding they apply for to be shared with Council.

On the motion of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Lutz:

***I so move to approve an unbudgeted expenditure of \$14,740.00 to reimburse the Stewiacke Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for maintenance and repair work to the Town-owned Cenotaph property for the 2014-2022 period. Further, that going forward the Town allocate an annual contribution in its yearly operating budget in the amount of \$1000.00 to the Legion for the purposes of on-going maintenance, repair and general stewardship of the property. Said funds to be matched by Legion fundraising efforts and subject to Town Council review and approval where project-related expenses exceed \$5000.00 on a per project basis.***

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**c. Municipal Capital Growth Program**

Some glitches with this in regard to applying for support for funding with the installation of a third lagoon. Upon closer review, the budgeted \$1.9 million was for a Class D estimate, which is not an accurate estimate at all. Have to go through a preliminary design process to get a Class A (construction ready number). CAO Brown will go back to the department and find out what type of number is acceptable for the application and what we would have to do to get to that number. Current capacity for the lagoon is 1950 residents. Will ask for something in writing in the form of an extension deadline. Decision was made to defer to December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Combined Council Meeting.

**d. Budget – 2024 – 2025**

CAO Brown read the dates that Randi proposed for meetings for the Capital and Operating Budget. **Capital Budget** – January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – Councillor Lutz and Councillor Creelman questioned the dates as there conflict with Audit Committee meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. CAO Brown stated that Randi sent an updated schedule, Councillor Lutz stated there we not any dates for future Audit Committee meetings. **Operating Budget** – January 31<sup>st</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will be held in Council Chambers at 6:30pm. A questioned was raised regarding public participation in regards to the budget to which CAO Brown stated it had not been brought to his attention but he is open to it. A suggestion for a Participatory Budget meeting was also brought up.

**10. By-laws and Policies**

**a. Community Parks, Recreation and Events Committee – Terms of Reference**

On the motion of Councillor Creelman and Councillor Osborne:  
***I so move to approve the Terms of Reference for the Community Parks, Recreation and Events Committee and proceed to publicly advertise for citizen membership to establish this new Committee of Council.***

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councillor Creelman asked when we can start to advertise for citizens to apply to join committees to which CAO Brown responded that we could do that right away. Were waiting to have Terms of Reference approved for the Community Parks, Recreation and Events Committee and then we would advertise to fill the vacancies.



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**b. Flag Policy**

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

*I so move to approve an amendment to the Flag Flying Policy 2007-27 to allow the CAO the discretion to approve the flying of flags as requested by non-profit or charitable organizations as might be appropriate.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. Citizen Comments**

NIL

**12. Mayor Report**

Deputy Mayor Chapman read Mayor Lloy's report

10 Nov – Attended Open House for the proposed wind farms in Colchester County

11 Nov – Laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the Town of Stewiacke during the Remembrance Day Ceremony. MLA Larry Harrison laid a wreath on behalf of the province of Nova Scotia. Thank you to Stewiacke Legion for refreshments after the ceremony, the Stewiacke Fire Department for traffic control and everyone who volunteered.

14 Nov – HR Committee Meeting

15 Nov – Tree cutting ceremony at Bette Gourley's. Amazing community turnout. Interviewed by Saltwire and offered my congratulations to Bette Gourley and family for the amazing donation.

15 Nov – Chaired the Planning & Advisory Committee meeting

20 Nov – HR Committee Meeting

22 Nov – Audit Committee Meeting

Weekly briefing meeting with CAO Brown

Thank you to Deputy Mayor Chapman for chairing tonight Town council meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Report**

- Attended Tree Cutting Ceremony
- HR Committee Meeting
- Reminder of the Craft Sale this weekend for Carma Cat Rescue



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### 13. Councillors Reports

Councillor Lutz –

- Audit Committee Meeting

Councillor Osborne –

- Attended tree cutting for Boston, was a wonderful turnout, was great to see the school children there, could not believe the traffic went past the golf course on both sides of the road
- Attended the PAC Meeting
- Remind people of Dec 2, Christmas in Stewiacke – Light our Christmas Tree in Dennis Park, Food Drive from 10am – 2pm at the Foodland parking lot, Stewiacke Fire Department will be there. For people who are working on Saturday, I will be in the park during the Christmas Tree Lighting also collecting food donations and donations to Feed Nova Scotia.

Councillor Rogers-Laing – Nothing

Councillor Ramsey – Nothing was said

Councillor Creelman –

- Would like to invite Council to Business & Tourism Meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am. Invited some business people from Stewiacke mostly and a few from outside Stewiacke, going to do an asset mapping exercise where we are going to list all the Tourism assets that we have in Stewiacke and South Colchester. This information will be compiled so as the marketing levy - strategic plan rolls out, we will be ready to show off what we have here. It is an informal discussion with staff members from both Truro and Colchester in attendance as well as ACOA.

### 14. In-Camera Session

NIL

### 15. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

NIL

### 16. Adjournment

Adjournment called at 7:39pm.



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Read and approved this 24 day of January, <sup>2024</sup> ~~2023~~

Mayor

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CAO