

A Committee of the Whole of the Town of Stewiacke was held on February 13th, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall, Stewiacke Nova Scotia.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Attendance

Mayor Robinson

Deputy Mayor Chapman

Councillor(s) Mary Commo, Susan Creelman, Rebecca Rogers-Laing, Russel Stoddart, Chad Ramsey

Staff:

Dale Bogle

Chief Administrative Officer

Randi Buchi

Manager of Finance

Dalas Tufts-Johnston

Recording Secretary

3. Approval of / Amendments to Agenda

On Motion of Councillors Commo and Rogers-Laing it was moved to approve the agenda as amended for February 13th, 2020 with the following changes:

8b) TCPEP Presentation by Brennan Gillis to be removed

11a) 2020 Election Process/ Alternative Voting to be covered under the Administration Report.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items.

Nil

5. Approval of Minutes January 9, 2020.

On Motion of Councillors Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman it was moved to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting for January 9, 2020. as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Announcements/ Proclamations

Nil.

7. Citizen Comments and Communications

Beate Acker enjoys attending the Council meetings, she noticed some items that showed interest to her and she wanted to express some points for Council to consider:

Town Owned Buildings, she felt that the Public Works Building could be used for a Town Museum, if Council wanted Beate to explore the possibly she would be able to get volunteers and do some research on the building.

The Old School property could be used for more greener spaces, such as bigger gardening section, and bring the happy community together.

7. Presentations

b) Stewiacke Fire Department – Chief Mark Crozier

Chief Crozier, requested the Council of the Town of Stewiacke for a combined loan option with a new resolution from the Town.

a) SK Retirement Living

Sarkis Gereige; President/ CEO/Director of SK Retirement Living homes made a presentation to the Council of the Town of Stewiacke. Highlights of the presentation were:

SK Retirement Living plans to develop a first class 72-unit active living community which will consist care-free, healthy and active lifestyle. SK will offer a wide range of unit sizes that include studios, 1 bedroom, 1 bedrooms+dens, and 2 bedrooms that range from 500-900sqft. SK will offer convenient on-site services such as chef-prepared meals, weekly housekeeping and laundry, and amenities such as a café, salon and gym. During the day residents can workout at the gym, get their hair done at the salon or have coffee with friends in the café located in the on-site Stewiacke Library. Residents can also take advantage of additional laundry and cleaning services or host their family and friends in our furnished guest suites at reasonable rates. SK is dedicated to providing an all-inclusive lifestyle to our residents. SK Retirement wants Town Council to consider moving the Library and showed drawings of what the possibility could look like.

8. Written Petitions and Communications

Nil.

a) NSISP (Nova Scotia International Student Program)

NSISP will be putting a sign up by the highway to promote their program.

b) Chamber of Commerce

Received for information.

c) 911 Cost Recovery Fund

Received for information.

d) Stewiacke Fire Department Statistics

Received for information.

e) Shannon MacPhee Email

– defer to 10j)

10. Business

a) General Operating Budget

Randi Buchi; Manager of Finance reviewed the draft Operating Budget with Council and pointed out some changes and recommendations with the budget for Council to consider.

b) Capital Budget

Randi Buchi; Manager of Finance reviewed the draft Capital Budget with Council.

c) Discussion on Agenda Format

Council discussed the agenda format and agreed to refer the format to the Bylaw and Policy Committee and to use Policy format until the change has been approved.

d) Recreation Department Proposed Increase

This was discussed during the General Operating and Capital Budget Report.

e) FCM – Discussion on Attendance

Council held a discussion on the FCM in Toronto, no representative will be available to attend.

f) Video Recordings of Meetings

CAO: Dale Bogle explained the process of Video Recording, Stewiacke has been audio recording for a few years. Council discussed Live Streaming, placing a sign up indicating the meeting is being recorded.

g) Returning Officer / Deputy Returning Officer

On Motion of Deputy Mayor Chapman and Councillor Commo it was moved to recommend to the Council of the Town of Stewiacke, the approval of Dale Bogle as Returning Officer and Randi Buchi as Deputy Returning Officer.

Motion Carried unanimously.

h) Staff Reports – Administration, Recreation, Finance, Planning, Public works

On Motion of Councillors Creelman and Commo it was moved to recommend the approval of the Guaranteed Borrowing Resolution for the Stewiacke Fire Department in the amount of \$\$643,000.00 to the Council of the Town of Stewiacke.

Motion carried unanimously.

On Motion of Councillor Creelman and Deputy Mayor Chapman it was moved to recommend to the Council of the Town of Stewiacke the pre-approval of the refinancing for Main Street and Kitchener Street Water Infrastructure in the amount of \$ 187,500.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

On Motion of Councillors Creelman and Rogers- Laing it was moved to recommend to the Council of the Town of Stewiacke the approval of the Temporary Borrowing Resolution of the Downtown Revitalization-Street Paving and Infrastructure in the amount of \$187,500.00

Motion carried unanimously.

On Motion of Councillors Rogers-Laing and Creelman it was moved that the Committee of the whole recommend to the Council of the Town of Stewiacke to transfer the accumulated surplus of \$439,000.00 to the operating reserve.

Motion carried unanimously.

On Motion of Councillors Rogers-Laing and Creelman, it was moved to approve the Staff Reports as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

i) Town Owned Lands

CAO; Dale Bogle has hired someone to do an assessment on the buildings, the report should be back by the March Committee of the Whole Session.

j) Library / SK Retirement Living / Shannon MacPhee Email

Council had a discussion on SK Retirement Living, the possibility of the Library being included in the building.

On Motion of Deputy Mayor Chapman and Councillor Ramsey it was moved to recommend the approval of entering into negotiations and investigations with SK Retirement Living on the Library leasing/renting.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. By-laws and Policies

a) 2020 Election Process/ Alternative Voting Process – Defer to March Committee of the Whole

12. Citizen Comments and Communications

Beate Acker: Wonderful meeting, filled with ideas, livestreaming – investigate Skype or Whats App to control the audience, free software that is available, which can also do transcription of the meetings. She commented on the deer in the amount of town and was wondering if a Deer Crossing sign could be put up on Main Street East due to the traffic going through. Thank Council for ongoing efforts, on being very transparent to the citizens. If the Town furthers into investigations with SK Living, the town should hire a 3rd party negotiator to proceed. Seek out to the town residents there are a lot of skilled workers right in the town to look into the old NSLC building. When exploring options research crossing to Main Street West.

Shannon MacPhee: thank you for bringing up the email that was sent to Council, feeling there is transparency at meetings, kudos to all.

Nora Habkirk: Open Forum discussion; transparency to the citizens, this is getting people to come out and voice their opinions which is great.

With all that has been happening world events, the importance of having EMO in place is very important to the community.

Holly G. Tattrie: The Library is a great idea, Council consider placing lights up there, perhaps a crosswalk on both sides to cross over for people going up. Put flags up at the crossing if there are flags downtown. From a teen perspective, it's important to focus on the teens, a lot of recreational programs are for children or adults. Needs to be more done for teens. Her husband and her dog were out walking their dog, there was a big patch of ice on the sidewalk which her husband fell, they covered the patch up with snow so the children didn't fall.

13. Mayors Report

Mayor Robinson thanked Council, Staff and Citizens for attending the meeting and showing their support.

14. Councillors Report

Deputy Mayor Chapman: Attended the CAP Presentations in Halifax, very informative the presentations were great.

15. Open Forum to Discuss Councillor of Committee Reports

Mayor Robinson indicated this does not include anyone else during this forum just for Councillors.

16. In Camera Session

Nil.

17. Notice of Motion and Reconsideration

Nil.

18. Adjournment

Time: 10:07pm.

Town of Stewiacke
Committee of the Whole Session
February 13, 2020

5)

Read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Mayor

CAO