



**Town of Mulgrave
Council Meeting Minutes
Feb 4, 2019**

Present: Mayor Ralph Hadley, Councillor Bob Russell, Councillor Sheila Brophy, Deputy Mayor Tanya Snow, CAO, Darlene Berthier Sampson.

Regrets: Councillor Ron Chisholm

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Mayor Hadley. Mayor Hadley welcomed Misty MacDonald from ESREN.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Snow and seconded by C’lr Russell that the agenda be approved as circulated with the following additions

- *Mulgrave and Area Medical Centre*
- *Library-New funding model*
- *Body Armour Control Act*
- *African Heritage Month*
- *ERSWM (solid waste management)*
- *Sympathy Card: Guysborough*

Motion Carried

3. Minutes

Moved by C’lr Russell and seconded by C’lr Brophy that the minutes of Jan 21st, 2019 be approved as presented with the exception of the item 3 (Past minute dates should read January 21st rather than January 28th)

4. Reports/Presentations

a. Workflow plan:

Council was presented with a workflow plan prepared by the town office. The living document highlights key admin priorities, regulatory deadlines, maintenance regimes, and other filing deadlines. The report supports succession planning, time management and creates an accountability framework. Current priorities over the next Quarter include the ICIP application for the waste water treatment plant, water plant decommissioning, 2019/2020 budgeting, Capital maintenance items (diesel tank/generator), Year end audit, Marketing Mulgrave Education Centre, Reviewing procurement contracts, establishing audit and hospitality committee/policy and office location.

b. Insurance

Council informed of the offices intent to reduce insurance coverage on Mulgrave Education Centre from \$7.7mil (replacement value) to \$ 4.4 mil(cash value) to avail of a \$1000+ refund given insurance of that value is not necessary as the full building would not be replaced.

c. Tax Roll

A comparative schedule of year over year tax roll assessment was provided. The comparison showed that category 2, Commercial taxable declined from \$21.970 mil to \$20.383mil (-7.22%). Category 22, Commercial Exempt also declined from \$15.363 mil to \$12.332 mill (-19.73%). Category 01, residential taxable increased by .53% category 21, residential exempt increased by 45.31% and category 03, Resource taxable increased by .73%. Category 27, resource forest and category 55, provincial forest (exempt) remained unchanged. The exact impact on revenue and the Town Budget has not yet been computed however decreases to the commercial rate will negatively impact the budget and cost savings will need to be pursued.

d. Tennis Court

The town was notified its purchase of the tennis court is complete. Mayor Hadley highlighted that the Town was very pleased about this after wanting to purchase it for approximately eight years and executing its right of first refusal.

e. Meter Testing/Cost defray

Regulation 16 of the UARB Board Order (Schedule D- Water Utility rules and regulations) gives the authority for a utility to charge 0 for meter testing to defray the cost of testing meters up to 1.5 inch. Where the test is accurate a refund is not provide; where the meter is over registering by more than 1.5% the fee is to be refunded. The CAO explained that the town can be asked to check a lot of meters. Because the meters have a 99.9% accuracy and it is costly to the Town, the activity is consuming funds more frequently than necessarily. There was a consensus to implement the policy permitted by the regulations. Enforcement of the charge will be communicated in the quarterly newsletter and implemented.

5. New Business:

- a. Information item: Provincial library session dates noted in Antigonish and Membertou on Feb 5th and 6th respectively
- b. Home warming program- Meeting was held with representative to get program information. To be advertised in Q. newsletter. Representative willing to put booth in spring fair.
- c. Guysborough Tourism strategy-Group seeking council member in addition to recreation coordinator. Agreed, that at this time, Rec coordinator would continue with role.

6. Additions to agenda:

- a. **Mulgrave and Area Medical Center-** The center requested a letter of support from the Town to apply for funding under the shift program. Copy of letter dated Jan 31, 2019 was included and read.
- b. **Library funding model-** Letter received from Hon Deputy Minister Tracey Taweel, Community Culture and Heritage. Funding model change has resulted in increased cost to Mulgrave. The model shows that 2015/2016 cost of \$5222 would increase to \$7000 under the new model: an increase of 34%.
- c. **Body Armour Control Act-** New act proclaimed makes the wearing/possession of body armour illegal unless you are required to wear body armour due to the nature of your employment. Does not impact Mulgrave.
- d. **African Heritage Month-** The town renewed its ad this year to raise awareness that February is African Heritage month.
- e. **ERSWM-** Darlene and Sheila attended a meeting today. Highlights included:
 - **Funding formula change-** Mulgrave cost to decrease from \$5982 to \$4164 (31%) given uniform/proportionate funding changed from 50/50 to 70/30 respectively.
 - **Diversions Credit-** Mulgrave has negative 157 tonnes diverted thus no real rebate here

- **New sharps campaign-** Name of campaign is “don’t be a prick”.
 - Campaign intended to grab viewers attention
 - Videos show risk posed to line workers sorting garbage where needles are present.
 - As a result of the campaign, sharps containers have been ordered for the school, town office and firehall.
 - Reminder of importance to go in Q. Newsletter
- **Landfill inspections:** Those conducted for Mulgrave residential were A1. Very pleased with inspection outcomes.
- **Green Bins-** Estimated that 75% are in use.
- **Community profile –**ERSWN working on a community profile waste flowchart that will show the source and destination of the communities solid waste.
- **Letter from Minister of Environment-** Province will not be supporting province wide ban on plastic bags at this time.
- **Key take away-**Regional approach has hopes of succeeding however local approaches will not likely work. ERSWWM seeking letters of support. Darlene to prepare letter **(ACTION ITEM)**
- Next meeting of ERSWWM is March 21/2019.

f. **Sympathy Card** –Cards were sent to the Guysborough Council and the family of Mr George on behalf of Mulgrave Town Council.

8. **Gallery-**Question posed from the Gallery regarding the impact of assessments on tax rates. CAO responded that its too early to tell. Budgeting exercise needs to be completed first.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Feb 19th, 2019 (Tuesday)

10. **In Camera session:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Snow and seconded by C’lr Russell to move to in camera session at 7:30 pm.

Motion Carried

Discussion on LOC and ESREN took place

Moved by C’lr Russell and seconded by C’lr Brophy to come out of in camera session at 7:40 pm.

Motion Carried

11. **ESREN-** Moved by C’lr Brophy and seconded by Deputy Mayor Snow that the Town of Mulgrave not rejoin Eastern Regional Enterprise Network for the 2019/2020 year and that the Town Office send a letter to that effect **(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion Carried

12. **Adjournment-** Moved by C’lr Russell and seconded by C’lr Brophy to adjourn at 7:43pm.

Motion Carried

Minutes approved by:

Minutes recorded by:

Mayor Ralph Hadley/Deputy Mayor Snow

CAO, Darlene Berthier Sampson