

Town of Mulgrave Meeting Minutes October 16/2023

Present: Mayor Chisholm, Deputy Mayor Luddington, Councillor Russell, Councillor King,
Councillor Carrigan, Deputy CAO Walker

Regrets: CAO Gray

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Chisholm.

2. Approval of Agenda/ Additions of Agenda Items

Aulds Cove Intersection

Heating Assistance/Seniors Care Grant

AMANS Training

In-Camera: Personnel

In-Camera: Municipal Land Sale Update

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Luddington that the agenda be approved with the noted additions.

Motion Carried

3. Minutes – October 3, 2023

A Point of Order was called by Councillor Russell to advise as per Robert's Rules of Order, a motion is not required to approve minutes.

No changes are required, the minutes for October 3, 2023, are adopted as is.

4. New Business / Carried Forward Business

a. General Operating Results for the 6 months ended September 30, 2023, with Year-End Projections

The Deputy CAO indicated that the financial results after 6 months were at an acceptable level, despite a deficit of \$62,000. Revenue projections show a surplus of \$28,000 at year-end, comprised mainly of Community Pool Revenue and Interest on Taxes. Expenditure Projections show a 'loss' of \$14,000, this is due primarily to a variance in Transportation Salaries and Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs.

b. Water Utility Operating Results for the 6 months ended September 30, 2023, with Year-End Projections

The Deputy CAO indicated that the financial results after 6 months were at a surplus of approximately \$149,000. This is primarily due to the timing of revenues and

expenditures. Expenditure Projections show a deficit of \$14,000 at year-end. This is comprised of an unfavourable revenue variance in Metered Water Sales and an unfavourable expenditures variance in Purification Operation Supplies and Insurance.

c. Traffic Signs

Councillor Luddington referenced the concern brought forward at the October 3 meeting from the Gallery. Councillor Luddington advised she contacted Bernie Murphy with the Provincial Public Works who confirmed Town of Mulgrave Traffic Authority does have the authority to move the signs, as we see fit. Mr. Murphy advised it is not recommended to have the speed signs moved to the crosswalk area, as it can take attention away from the crosswalk signage already posted. Councillor Russell advised a 70 km/hr sign is missing when leaving town, Public Works Dept. will look into the replacement of this sign.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council agree to submit the recommendations to the town Traffic Authority regarding the movement of the speed reduction sign when entering Town 50-75m towards Aulds Cove, and moving 1 – 50 km/hr sign toward the reduction sign, keeping it within 150m.

Moved by Councillor Carrigan, seconded by Councillor King

Motion Carried

d. Halloween 2023

It was originally announced on Oct 6, 2023, that Council was discouraging the traditional door-to-door trick or treating. This was met with a number of concerns from residents, and Council has decided to revert back to the Traditional Halloween night, allowing Door-to-Door trick-or-treating. The Trunk or Treat event is now moved to Oct 28, 2023, from 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Businesses and Organizations are encouraged to put in a 'trunk' and can contact Mulgrave Recreation to register.

e. Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

This is a Provincial Funding Grant Program for local action on Climate Change in Nova Scotia. This supports community efforts to reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions or to be prepared for or respond to the impacts of a changing climate. The program will cover 80% of the total project cost, with 10% eligible to be 'in-kind' expenses. Quotes were obtained in 2021 for solar panels at the MMC building, Councillor Luddington requested and presented updated quotes. Applications open October 17, with a pre-screening deadline of November 14th. Full application deadline is November 28th. The decision of successful applicants is between March & April 2024. Quote supplied is for \$123,832, providing 104 solar panels to cover the roof of MMC.

5. Reports

a. Council Committee Reports

ii. Library

No date set yet, likely November

v. Guysborough County Home Support Agency (GCHSA)

Next Meeting Oct 26, 2023

vi. Eastern Region Solid Waste Management (ERSWM)

Next meeting is tentatively in November, still discussing possibly changing the frequency of meetings.

b. Staff Reports

i. CAO Report

Deputy CAO highlighted several key initiatives underway including the Accessible Washroom Renovation within the MMC, surveying of Town Land on England Avenue, Discussions with the Building Inspector regarding dangerous and unsightly premises, building permits and potential development.

ii. Recreation & Physical Activity

Remainder of school supplies has been donated to the Food Pantry, Scotia Days wrap up meeting was Sept 21st. Received a donation from the Darryl Lee Dart Tournament to help kids in sports. Attended the 55+ games in Liscomb, a great turnout along with attending the RNS Conference in Digby Oct 10-13

iii. Public Works

Multiple shoulders and washouts identified and repaired throughout the town. The pool is completely shut down, with lines drained and prepped for the winter months. Salt tender is closed and we are awaiting delivery. Our Season Employees are finished for this year and will return in the Spring.

iv. Water & Waste Water

Issues with the PH probe meter at the water plant, repairs are ongoing. 2 Lift pumps in town are having issues, quotes and repairs are ongoing. Hydrant Flushing is scheduled for Oct 23-27th, this is advertised on the radio and social media.

6. Approved Additions to the Agenda

Aulds Cove Intersection

Significant water collection on the road at this intersection. Deputy Mayor Luddington questioned what the process was to have this looked at. Mayor Chisholm advised he would call the Provincial Public Works this week. Deputy Mayor Luddington requested that a letter also be sent.

Heating Assistance & Seniors Care Grant

Deputy Mayor Luddington outlined the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) and Senior's Care Grant. HARP will provide up to \$600 per household if eligibility criteria are met, applications are accepted until March 31, 2024. Senior's Care Grant will provide up

to \$750 per household if eligibility criteria are met, and applications are accepted until March 31, 2024. Deputy CAO Walker mentioned the Senior Tax Rebate which can provide 50% of the prior year's property taxes up to \$800. Applications can be picked up from the Town Office for all 3 grants

AMANS Training

Rules of Order & Meeting Processes training from the Association of Municipal Administrators for Nova Scotia was attended by Councillor Carrigan, Councillor Russell and Deputy CAO Walker on Oct 13, 2023. Councillor Carrigan advised it was a great training session, very informative.

7. Next Meeting November 6, 2023

8. Gallery

Question regarding why the public was not notified of the water rate increase. Deputy CAO Walker advised there was not an increase in Metered Water Bills, rather an error when generating the bills which was not caught until the bills were already mailed. The Bill to & from dates were set to July 1 – Oct 4, 2023, rather than the standard July 1 – Sep 30, 2023. This caused the system to auto-calculate a new base rate to include the extra 4 days on the billing cycle. Advised the next bill will state Oct 5 – Dec 31, 2023 and the base rate will reflect accordingly.

Lorne MacDonald, EMO advised he received the questionnaire about Comfort Centres from the CAO. He was told there would be \$9M allocated since Hurricane Fiona to upgrade Comfort Centres, each County could receive \$300-\$400K. EMO MacDonald advised he suggested purchasing the items noted in the questionnaire that each Comfort Centre should have, along with suggested having the Fire Hall and Legion upgrade to qualify as Comfort Centres and we could apply for the funding to assist in upgrading both locations with accessibility and Comfort Centres.

Mayor Chisholm gave an update to a resident residing at Somers View who was inquiring about having this street paved during the Oct 3rd meeting. The potholes and ruts in the road will be filled with tailings in the spring. If it is done now, it will not have time to set and the plow will push it back out.

9. In-Camera

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor King to move in camera at 7:03 pm.

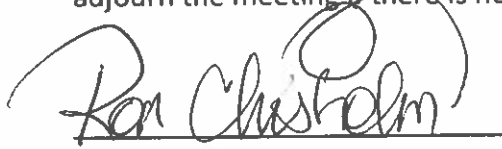
Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Luddington to move out of in camera at 7:28 pm.

Motion Carried

10. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

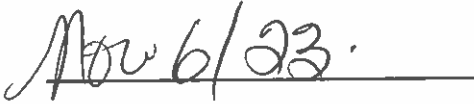
A Point of Order was called by Councillor Russell to advise a motion is not required to adjourn the meeting if there is no further business.



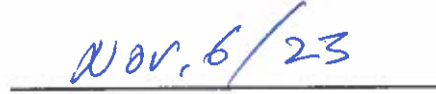
Mayor



CAO



Date



Date