

Committee of the Whole
APPROVED MINUTES
September 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order	Deputy Mayor Tompkins gave the land acknowledgment and called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Present	Mayor Boyer (also acting as Recording Secretary), Deputy Mayor Tompkins, Councillor Sanford, Counsellor Hafting, Counsellor Wear, CAO Millett-Campbell Two members of the public present for the discussion on road paving.
3. Regrets	
4. Additions to the Agenda	i. Request for decision: Grant request for accessible crosswalk at 112 Prince Albert Road (Tab 15)
5. Approval of the Agenda	MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-01 It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the agenda with one addition. Motion carried.
Edits to the Minutes	
6. Approval of the Minutes	MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-02 It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of July 5, 2023. Approved by unanimous consent. Motion carried.

7. **PRESENTATIONS**
None

8. **PUBLIC INPUT**
Spencer Reynolds of 703 Upper St George Street addressed the road conditions on St George Street. He understands that the roads budget is small. When they moved into their house two years ago, there were no cracks in the walls and that now there are. He hopes that the Town can make a bigger commitment to fixing the roads and lowering the speed limit, making noise with the Province if that will help.

Elizabeth St John is a neighbour at 693-695 St George Street who has lived there for 17 years. She had previous conversations with Kevin McLean, former Superintendent of Public Works. She does not think that it was realized that windows have been broken. She was very happy when the upper part of the road was repaired last year and thought it would extend down to her property. She finds it distressful to live there with the rattling and shakes as transport trucks go by.

9. **NEW / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
i. Quarterly Annual Update General Operating Budget

DFO Robinson explained the main revenue variances as follows. The HST offset came in higher than expected. Grants in lieu are \$40,000 higher due to the in NSPI grant being greater than anticipated. Triton revenues are coming in higher than anticipated. License and permits are below budget due to a slow spring (timing difference). Wharf anchorage is above budget and the Town received a donation through CanadaHelps for the playground. Interest on investments is up. Deed transfer is above budget. A small wellness grant of \$300.00 came in for the Town garden. And there is \$2,000 more in Pixie Dust revenues for Friday event rain venues. On a question from Mayor Boyer, she confirmed that Police Triton revenues were \$60,000 budgeted, with \$30,000 for expenses. She also confirmed that the Boots to the Street program contributed \$100,000 to Police revenues.

Expenses: Marketing expenses were a bit below due to timing differences. Town Hall repairs are also under budget. Heritage award money is still being held in reserve (\$2,500) for a heritage conference that has yet to be scheduled by a third party. Police protection has minor variances. The grant for the Fire Department was booked in June, but shows up in July (timing difference) - same for trees. Labour costs are down slightly but other costs such as software and equipment repairs are up (due to the Kubota). Patch paving has not yet happened but is expected to happen in September. The UV bulbs purchase was less than anticipated. Library costs are coming in higher than budget – this is perhaps due to a timing difference.

ii. Quarterly Annual Update Capital Budget

DFO Robinson went over the budget and there were no questions. The water main saddle project has not started so far.

iii. Workers Compensation Board Rates Update

The Town's WCB rates are going to increase substantially due to claims experience.

iv. Wharf Structural Assessment Report July 2023

Deputy Mayor Tomkins stated that he feels there should be a public meeting to discuss the future of the Wharf. Mayor Boyer stated that she would like to see the AIMN report that would include information about options for and costs for sea level rise protection for the structure. It was agreed that a public meeting will be scheduled once the AIMN report is received which is expected some time in December. A copy of the most recent engineering report will be sent to the Community Wharf Committee.

v. Request for Decision: Wharf repairs

It was agreed that the safety issues need to be addressed. However, more information is needed before proceeding with any work.

vi. Service Exchange Proposal

The proposal from the Province was briefly discussed. The details were included in the most recent issue of the Town Crier Newsletter. Reaction from municipal units in the Province has largely been positive to date, except for the matter of funding for roads in The counties as opposed to the towns.

vii. Annapolis County Inter-Municipality Working Group Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Group were reviewed by members of Council. There was some discussion about sharing of detailed financial information between municipal units.

viii. Strategic Plan

The annual review of the Town's strategic plan was discussed. The last review was completed in December 2022. Many things have changed in the past year and there is a need to review the plan in its entirety. It was decided to have a working meeting of Council to update the plan on September 27 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

ix. Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 2023 Conference

CAO Millett-Campbell has booked two rooms for the conference from Nov 8 to 10, one for herself, and one for any member of Council who would like to attend. Anyone interested in attending can let CAO Millett-Campbell know and the arrangements will be made.

x. Regional Emergency Measures Organization Appointment

A replacement is required for former Deputy Mayor Pat Power.

MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-03

Moved and seconded to recommend to Council the appointment of Councillor Sanford to sit on the REMO Advisory Committee with the term ending October 2024. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting will be held on September 25 at 6:30 at the Municipality of the County of Annapolis offices.

xi. Property Valuation Services Corporation Annual Report

The report was presented in a very positive way. There were a few points:

- Perhaps if reserves exceed policy requirements, some adjustments in fees charged to municipal units should be considered
- Few appeals are successful

xii. Temporary Borrowing Resolution

MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-04

Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Councillor Hafting to recommend to Council approval of the temporary borrowing resolution for Valley Waste with the Town of Annapolis Royal's share of the 2023-2024 capital budget at 1.31% in the amount of \$7,244. **Motion carried.**

xiii. Grant request for accessible crosswalk at 112 Prince Albert Road

Staff have secured a grant for 75% of the cost (approximately \$6,433.89) subject to Council approving 25%.

MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-05

Moved and seconded that Council approve the installation of the accessible crosswalk with a total project cost of \$6,800.00 + HST on Prince Albert Road, on approval of the funding application, and the Town's share of the cost of the project (25%) to a maximum of an additional \$2,000.00 from the 2023-24 general capital budget. **Motion carried.**

10. CORRESPONDENCE

i. Letter of concern – Upper St. George Street Residents

Deputy Mayor Tompkins asked if members of Council wished to move the item correspondence up on the agenda. Mayor Amery Boyer declared a conflict of interest due to deemed pecuniary interest. Deputy Mayor Tompkins asked if anyone else had a conflict of interest to declare and all remaining members of Council declared "no".

CAO Millett Campbell explained how the priorities for the budget of \$20,000 for paving was determined. She explained that anything above the work that was agreed could not come out of this year's paving budget. It would have to come out of Reserves. However, staff have decided that the existing gravel bumps in the road will be completely dug out (out of the existing paving budget) and the adjacent area widened.

There is about \$660,000 in the Operating Reserve. Usually, paving work stops in October. However, there is nothing to stop the Town from obtaining quotes and having numbers for next year's budget.

There are two really big sections in front of Charlie's Place and at School Street that need to be completed. Deputy Mayor Tomkins stated that the Town spent \$120,000 on three sections of St George last year and that the work was done properly.

Councillor Hafting stated that there were earthquake large tremors from trucks. She referenced her email from May 2023 and stated that the owner of the new home that

was built on St George Street had to bear the cost of repairing the street after the required work was done. The CAO said that it was the home owner's responsibility to pay as per the streets and sidewalk policy and the road was in fair condition at the time the home was built. At the time the work was being done, it was not possible to get the pavers in as the paving company was closed. CAO Campbell stated that the group behind the correspondence was specific about the area from St Patrick's Lane to Riverview Drive.

Councillor Hafting said that her number one concern was damage to property. Her second concern was stress to homeowners.

Deputy Mayor Tompkins responded that the main issue appears to be the hump. Councillor Hafting said that the hump was the final straw and that there has been a problem there for years. Deputy Mayor Tompkins stated that the new Municipal Service Exchange may well provide 50/50 funding from the Province towards roads.

Councillor Hafting asked that the Town look at paving the area for the eight houses affected. Deputy Mayor said that the Town should not be budgeting for sections. The Town should be considering a plan first. CAO Millett-Campbell stated that the Town would have to tender any work. The process would take a month. Councillor Hafting said that the Town should go to tender then. DoF Robinson mentioned that the reason that the Town received a good price for St George Street last year was that the paving company was in the area already and could give the Town a good deal.

DoF Robinson said that the 2023-2024 budget has already been passed. If Council feels that it is an emergency situation, the Town could proceed with the tender and then review the tenders when they come in and have another conversation. DoF Robinson stated that there is also a cost for going to tender of a few thousand dollars. Councillor Wear asked if the area was really the priority for St George Street. He would want to see a report on the entire street. CAO Millett-Campbell stated that the Town is awaiting the AIMN infrastructure report to determine the priority areas for roads.

MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-06

Moved by Councillor Hafting, seconded by Councillor Sanford that a recommendation be made to Council to tender for the repaving of St George Street from St Patrick's Lane to Riverview Drive. One "aye" and three "nay" votes. **Motion failed.**

11. ROUNDTABLE:

- i. Mayor Boyer
Included as Appendix 1
- ii. Deputy Mayor Tompkins: Natal Day was exceptional this year, the fireworks were highly praised, and he enjoyed the parade. The numbers were up based on the people you could see on the street. The Natal Day Committee will be

conducting a review of this year's event. He heard that there was a safety incident at the pool this year and would like to know more about it.

- iii. Councillor Hafting: attended GOM awards at King's Theatre; Carman Kerr was there to present the awards to John Bottomley and the St George St Andrew United Church. She also attended the commemoration of the Acadian Deportation and the de Gannes-Cosby house plaquing.
- iv. Councillor Sanford: also attended the commemoration of the Acadian Deportation and the de Gannes-Cosby house plaquing event. Natal Day and Pride weekend were great. People loved the fireworks. The Fire Hall donated over \$5,000 for the fireworks.
- v. Councillor Wear: he was sorry to have missed the fireworks display, but he was here for the Parade. Over 100 people came to the de Gannes-Cosby plaque unveiling which says a lot about community support. Friends of the Library are eager to have him attend their meeting next week. The meeting of the Library Board will be a week after that.

MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-07

It was regularly moved by Councillor Sanford and seconded by Councillor Wear to move in camera at 8:05 pm to discuss one personal matter, contract negotiations and sell property. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #CoW2023-09-06-09

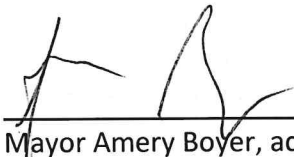
It was regularly moved by Councillor Sanford and seconded by Councillor Wear to move out of camera at 8:35 pm. **Motion carried.**

12. ADJOURNMENT

The agenda having been completed; the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.



Michael Tompkins, Deputy Mayor



Mayor Amery Boyer, acting as
Recording Secretary