

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
 Approved Minutes
 January 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm**

1. Call to Order	Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm acknowledging that the meeting was being live streamed and was taking place in the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq People.
2. Present	Mayor Amery Boyer, Councillor Adele MacDonald, Councillor Lynn Myers, Councillor Heather Sadkowski, Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson, CAO Sandi Millett-Campbell, and Recording Secretary Kim Dunning Member of the Public: Roger Lindala (left at 6:28 pm)
3. Regrets	None
4. Absents	None
5. Additions to Agenda	New Business v. Purchase of an Owl System
6. Approval of Agenda	MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-01 It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the above addition by unanimous consent. Motion carried.
Edits to the Minutes	None
7. Approval of Minutes	MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-02 It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the December 4, 2024 minutes as presented by unanimous consent. Motion carried.

8. Presentations
None

9. Public Input
None

10. Unfinished Business

i. Strategic Plan

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson advised that this is being discussed within Council and will be included at a future Council meeting. Mayor Boyer added that the biggest changes may revolve around future objectives. The next meeting is planned for February 2025.

ii. Fire Area Rate

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that there was a presentation from the Fire Department last month to Council and they would like to know what Council's opinion is going forward. CAO Millett-Campbell had spoken to the Fire Chief to find out what the approximate cost for an aerial truck would be and the response was \$450,000 to \$600,000. The lifespan of the truck would be approximately 20 years, and any additions for the vehicle would be at the Fire Department's expense. They added that someone

would fly down and assess the aerial truck, and the cost of this would be included in the initial price. The Town will need to decide how much the Fire Department will be given and it was noted that it can take a year to purchase an aerial truck. CAO Millett-Campbell added that the area rate will come out of the operating budget and last year, the Fire Department received \$56,710 and \$20,000 for capital. They added that \$20,000 has been put aside each year, and this amount is very low and will need to be increased. The previous Council noted that the Town could not afford to purchase an aerial truck, but that it would give the Fire Department what was in the budget and allow it to decide what to use it for. If needed, it could then fundraise any additional money it would need. The question was asked if this has happened before and CAO Millett-Campbell responded no. Mayor Boyer added that the written agreement between the Town and the Fire Department has a basic truck listed as the requirement. Councillor MacDonald responded that the presentation was very clear, and Councillor Myers added that it is not just tall buildings but properties with steel roofs which would need a ladder truck. It was suggested that this might need to be discussed during the budget process, and it was recommended to find out how much a basic truck and an aerial truck would cost to. Councillor MacDonald supports getting an aerial truck, and fully understands the financial issues for the Town, but safety is a key issue. Councillor Myers added that they agree that the Fire Department does need an aerial truck, but there does need to be a discussion as the agreement lists a basic truck. CAO Millett-Campbell also added that the Fire Department is a volunteer group and asking them to fundraise on top of this is a lot to ask. CAO Millett-Campbell will contact the Fire Department to request costs on a basic truck and an aerial truck and report back to Council.

ACTION: Find out the prices for a basic truck and an aerial truck

NAME: CAO Millett-Campbell

DATE: February 5, 2025

11. New Business

- i. Re-adopt Travel Policy #2024-07

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-03

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to re-adopt the Travel Policy 2024-07 dated June 20, 2024. **Motion carried.**

- ii. Repeal and Replace Council Remuneration Policy #2025-02

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-04

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the repeal of Council Remuneration Policy 2013-2 dated June 8, 2013 and its replacement with Council Remuneration Policy 2025-02 dated January 2025. **Motion carried.**

- iii. Repeal and Replace Hospitality Policy #2025-01

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-05

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the repeal of the Hospitality Policy dated January 24, 2019 and its replacement with Hospitality Policy 2025-01 dated January 2025. **Motion carried.**

- iv. Repeal Council Expense Allowance Policy #2009-3

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-06

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council the repeal of Council Expense Policy 2009-03 dated April 20, 2009. **Motion carried.**

2. Request to Purchase an Owl Camera for CoW/Council meetings

Councillor MacDonald advised that the Town doesn't have a choice as this is a way of letting people know what is going on. CAO Millett-Campbell added that there isn't any money in the budget for this.

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the purchase of an Owl Labs Meeting Owl 3 plus expansion microphone at a cost of \$1,768.68 plus HST from the 2024-2025 Operating Budget. **Motion carried.**

12. Correspondence

i. Nova Scotia Association of Realtors

For information only. The Nova Scotia Association of Realtors congratulated all members of Council on their election.

ii. Town Crier 2024 Annual Report

Councillor MacDonald advised that this was a remarkable report and was impressed by how much they had accomplished. Mayor Boyer suggested that this could be discussed during marketing budget discussions.

iii. Thank You Letter – Code of Conduct – Honourable John A. Lohr

For information only. Honourable John A. Lohr has commended all municipalities for successfully adopting the legislated Code of Conduct within the required timeline.

Mayor Boyer suggested drafting a letter to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) regarding the Nova Scotia Municipal Elections Act which specifies that when a person is running for a Council position, they need to be in good standing with respect to any money owed to the Town. However, this requirement does not apply once elected since there is no such provision in the Municipal Government Act.

13. In-camera

Under Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act:

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-08

It was regularly moved and seconded to move into camera at 6:28 pm to approve the in-camera minutes of December 4, 2024 and discuss personnel matters, labour relations and contract negotiation and legal advice. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #CoW2025-01-08-10

It was regularly moved and seconded to move out of camera at 6:55 pm. **Motion carried.**

14. Next Meeting

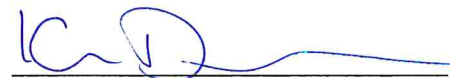
February 5, 2025

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.



Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson



Recording Secretary Kim Dunning