



ATTENDING

- Mayor Wendy Donovan
- Deputy Mayor Isabel Madeira-Voss
- Councillor Jodi MacKay
- Councillor Mike Butler
- Councillor Jennifer Ingham
- Councillor Wendy Elliott
- Councillor Ian Palmeter
- Chief Administrative Officer Erin Beaudin
- Recording Secretary, Laura Morrison

ALSO ATTENDING

- Director, Financial Services Mike MacLean
- Director, Planning & Economic Development, Devin Lake,
- Director, Parks and Recreation Kelton Thomason,
- Director, Public Works Alex de Sousa
- Special Projects & Communications Coordinator, Barb Shaw
- Manager Community Development, Nick Zamora
- Interested Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mayor Donovan, called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	
1. Approval of Agenda	01-03-23 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.	CARRIED
2.		
a. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes, February 7, 2023	02-03-23 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023, BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.	CARRIED
b. Approval of Committee of the Whole In Camera Minutes, February 7, 2023	03-03-23 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023, BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.	CARRIED

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3. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julia Merritt & Janet Ness, AVRL
4. Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noel McQueen spoke about her concerns regarding a Regional Rec Facility versus upgrading the current Acadia pool.• Mayor Donovan advised of the Joint Council meeting with Kings County and the Towns of Kentville and Wolfville which was taking place later this afternoon and which was open to the public that is discussing a Regional Rec Facility.
5. Committee Reports (Internal)	
a) Accessibility Advisory Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As submitted
b) Source Water Protection Advisory RFD008-2023 Updating Source Water Protection Plan	<p>04-03-23 IT WAS REGULARY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL:</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ALL PROPOSED TASKS TO UPDATE THE TOWN'S SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
c) Town & Gown Committee (verbal report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor Donovan gave a verbal report on this meeting which included the purpose of the meeting, and next steps.• Power point presentation on current MOU including feedback/suggestions put forward from Council and Acadia reps.• Operational items and money commitments from the Town will be taken out of MOU.• MOU includes principals/key goals and processes to review.• EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion), Sustainability and Communication including Collaboration and Consultation are to be added.
6. CAO REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications Specialist introduced Alison Webster, intern from Acadia, to discuss the International Women's Day cards project they had been working on and their visit to the Farmers market.• Councillor Ingham shared information on a Lunch 'n' Learn – Fruit Growers Association for women in agriculture – March 8th \$35 ticket includes meal.• New computer coding after school program for kids called New Creative Computing Program. Offered by the Town, Refresh Annapolis Valley and the school. Free program on Wednesday's after school. 10 places for

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female identifying persons. Older students helping in a leadership capacity.

- Program will take place at the school for grades 5-8.
- Public Works Crosswalk project further explanation on the mixed reviews. In general people are happy to have the flags available but some people are not indicating they are using the flags; motorists like people to use the flags but also motorists are not seeing many using it. Pedestrians say motorists need to slow down.
- Parks Plan – still in preliminary outreach and gathering data stage but intent is to have regular updates from consultants.
- Planning & Development – concerns regarding Town’s infrastructure posted on a new website made up of residents/property owners in the Town. Directors of Public Works & Planning and Economic Development have met with this group to provide some information and education and will engage in ongoing dialogue with them.

7. Discussion Items

**a. Request for
Agenda Item: Basic
Income**

- Discussion with Dr. Jennifer Brady, School of Nutrition & Dietetics around the Basic Income and what Council can realistically achieve with a letter to the Federal and Provincial governments and how that should be worded.
- Councillor Elliot carried out some research on what other municipalities had done.
- Intent is to ask for an impartial feasibility study into basic income guarantee, looking for an all-party commitment.
- Council thanked all the organizations who work to support the community to have their basic needs met.

05-03-23 THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:

THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS URGING THEM TO CREATE AN ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE.

CARRIED

Break 10:07am/Back 10:21am

8. Staff Reports for Discussion

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**a. RFD 005-2023:
Budget &
Operations Plan**

- Discussion on tax rate differences over the past couple of years.
- In response to a question CAO advised Police Review Committee work and proposal could be covered by the CAO fund if approved by Council.
- In response to questions from Council members, Director of Finance advised the following:
 - Acadia Pool contribution from the Town was \$50k for 2022/23. There is \$75k built into budget for next year (2023/24), however, Council will still have to make the formal decision to provide the grant.
 - If tax rate had been left the same last year and not changed, their would have been cost increase to general group of tax payers higher than cost of inflation and an expense would have been associated with it. The percentage would have been lower last year because inflation was lower.
 - Too soon to make the decision with regard to the Red and Blue Crew moving to the MOU.
 - Kings Transit & Education are two external partners whose costs rose between 14% and 16% - double inflation. Those two items alone added up to around \$68k to \$70k above inflation. When outside orgs costs rise faster than inflation that pressure is on Council to make the decision to either increase the tax rate or cut operations. Increase pressure this year is mostly driven by the education rate as more families have moved to Town. As well we try to maintain service levels and there are new dollars to be found for Equity Diversity and Inclusion and Safety.
 - If Council hadn't decreased tax rate last year the overall increase at that time would have been around 1.3%/1.4% *higher* than inflation for the largest portion of taxpayers. Last year inflation was 4.1% so that would have taken it up to around 5.4%/5.5%. This year, adding the 1.75 cents back to the rate also is an overall increase of around 1.3%/1.4% above inflation which is at 7.7% so taking us to 9%. So over two years we are in the same pocket or rate increase.
- Different effect on domestic budgets than for municipalities and their operations. Municipal costs are linked to things like oil prices and materials.

Council request staff to prepare speaking notes to assist them with questions from the community around the differences between the 'basket of goods' for domestic v's municipality and around the CAP rates and what that means to the taxpayer.

06-03-23 IT WAS REGULARY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL:

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That Council approve the 2023/24 Town Operations Plan and related Operating Budget, Ten Year Capital Investment Plan, and the Water Utility Three Year Operating and Capital Budget, including the following details:

- **Town Operating Budget with revenue & expenditures in the amount of \$13,457,000:**
 - **Residential Tax Rate of \$1.475 per hundred dollars of assessment applied to taxable residential and resource assessments;**
 - **Commercial Tax Rate of \$3.575 per hundred dollars of assessment applied to taxable commercial assessments;**
 - **Taxes to be billed by way of Interim Tax Bill (issued in April, due May 31, 2023) and Final Tax Bill (issued in August, due the October 2, 2023);**
 - **Interest on overdue amounts to be charged at a rate of 1.00% per month, compounded.**

- **Town Capital Budget with Year 1 totaling \$5,814,000, including capital reserve funding of \$2,031,100, operating reserve funding of \$130,000, long term debt funding of \$2,033,300, Federal Gas Tax grant funding of \$430,000, ACOA grant funding of \$376,700, Federal/Provincial ICIP grant funding of 167,900, other grant funding of 150,000, and other external grant/contribution funding of \$170,000, and \$325,000 from the Town's Water Utility for its share of street infrastructure projects.**

- **Water Utility Operating Budget with operating revenues of \$1,143,800, operating expenditures of \$1,074,000, non-operating revenues of \$25,000, and non-operating expenditures of \$216,000.**

- **Water Utility Capital Budget totaling \$864,300 including Depreciation Reserve Funding of \$372,100, Capital from Revenue Funding of \$70,000, Long Term Debt of \$399,900 and Accumulated Surplus funding of \$22,300.**

- **Fire Protection Area Rate (pursuant to Section 80 of the Municipal Government Act) of \$0.06 per hundred dollars of assessment**



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- **Business Development Area rate (pursuant to Section 56 of the Municipal Government Act) of \$0.25 per hundred dollars of commercial assessment**

- **Sewer fees**
 - Sewer usage rate of \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used by customer
 - Flat Rate fee of \$115.00 per quarter
 - Minimum quarterly charge for any metered customer \$29.85
 - Sewer connection fee of \$6,500

- **Low Income Property Tax Exemption**
 - Income threshold to qualify a maximum of \$38,000
 - Maximum exemption of \$1,000

- **Grants to Organizations under General Government/Community Development (not part of Strategic & Community Partnership Policy)**
 - Acadia Scholar Bursaries \$11,000
 - Acadia University
 - MOU main grant allotment \$35,000
 - MOU Events hosting contribution \$10,000
 - Pool Operating Contribution \$75,000
 - Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce
 - Doctor recruitment grant contribution \$5,000
 - Devour
 - 2nd Installment of one-time capital grant \$50,000

CARRIED

**b. RFD 009-2023
 Spring Debenture
 Issue Pre-Approval**

07-03-23 IT WAS REGULARY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL:

That Council approve the attached resolution for pre-approval of participation in the Spring Debenture Issue, with the following maximum parameters:

- Highland Ave Project – Street and underground infrastructure \$775,000 30 year amortization
- Water Utility – distribution system on Highland Project \$386,000 30 year amortization



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salt Shed at Public Works 	\$250,000 15 year amortization
	TOTAL BORROWING	\$1,411,000
	Maximum average interest rate set at 6%	
		CARRIED

9. Committee Reports (External)

- a. Kings Point to Point (KPPT) • As submitted.
- b. AVTC (Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition) • As submitted.
- c. WBDC (Wolfville Business Development Corporation) • As submitted.
- d. (VCFN) Valley Community Fibre Network • As submitted.
- e. Interim IMSA Board (VW) & (KTA) • As submitted.

10. Public Input/Question Period • No public input

11. Adjournment of Regular Meeting to In Camera Meeting **08-03-23 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING ADJOURN TO INCMERA AT 11:12am.**



Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
12. Adjournment of Regular & In Camera Meeting	10-03-23 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AND THE INCAMERA MEETING ADJOURN AT 12:05PM.

Approved by Committee of the Whole Motion 02-03-23, March 7, 2023
As recorded by Laura Morrison, Town Clerk/EA.