
Rural Municipality of West River Council Meeting

Meeting No	9	Chair	Helen Smith-MacPhail
Meeting Date	Thursday, March 11, 2021	Phone	902-675-7000
Start Time	7:00 PM	E-mail	admin@westriverpe.ca
Location	Afton Hall	Session	Public
Present	Mayor Helen Smith-MacPhail, Deputy Mayor Robert Clow, Councillor Aaron MacEachern, Councillor Chad Stretch, Councillor John Yeo, Councillor Lori Ashley, Councillor Pam Baglole, Councillor Shaun MacArthur, Councillor Sharon Slauenwhite, Councillor Stephen Gould		
Also	Laala Jahanshahloo – CAO		
Regrets	Councillor Sabrina Loughran		

- **Call to order**

Mayor Helen Smith-MacPhail called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

- **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Robert Clow and seconded by Councillor Shaun MacArthur; the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared.

- **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor John Yeo, seconded by Councillor Pam Baglole; the minutes of February 11, 2021, Council meeting approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

- **Business Arising from Minutes**

Although the transportation department was informed regarding the pole placement's safety concern in the small island center just off Rte. 19, Maritime Electric installed the pole and the wires. The Council decided to write a formal letter to the transportation department's minister to raise concern accordingly.

The public meeting regarding the financial plan was held at Afton Community Center on March 15, 2021, from 3 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm.

- **Mayor Report**

- ➔ The Mayor has attended the committee meetings and regularly contacted CAO during the past four weeks.
- ➔ The Municipality office has wholly moved to Afton Hall on February 23, 2021.

- **CAO Report**

- ➔ The CAO had a meeting with PEI Watershed Alliance and completed their survey. The watershed groups which operate in the Rural Municipality of West river are the Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation and Cornwall & Area Watershed Group. Considering the Municipality's ecological and environmental landscape, it will be beneficial to open a communication channel with those organizations.
- ➔ Maritime Electric will not finish the Three-Phase Project by the end of March, as it was planned, and the new estimated completion date is the second week of April. Still, ACOA did not accept extending the project to the next Fiscal year, so the final claim is filled, but the vendor's payment will be held until the project's completion.

- ➔ Municipal Affairs is interested in public feedback for the proposed Financial plan 2021-2022. With the proposed tax rate, the non-commercial properties are subsidizing commercial properties, and they want the Municipality to be open transparent to the public accordingly.
- ➔ After the Finance Committee meeting with NRRFD and requesting a contract to have 3 or 5 years fixed-rate for fire dues, The members of the North River Rural Community Fire Company have motioned and approved at the last general meeting dated March 9, 2021, the fire dues assessment rate of \$0.16 per \$100 of taxable assessment for commercial properties and a rate of \$.0775 per \$100 of taxable assessment for residential properties will remain in effect for the calendar years 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- ➔ CAO has attended the ICIP's information sessions on the application and fulfilling the requirements of the submission. Infrastructure Secretariat (IS) will be holding an APPLICATION INTAKE for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). IS will be accepting application forms from 8:00 AM on February 19, 2021 until 4:00 PM April 30, 2021, for projects that will begin in 2022 or 2023 construction seasons. The Council members have been informed about the application deadline as this usually opens every three years, and the last time it was accepting applications was in 2019.
- ➔ CAO has sent a letter to CRA asking to combine the other communities' BNs under BN of West River's former community and assign this BN for the Rural Municipality of West River.

- **Emergency Measures Committee Report**

- ➔ Chair Shaun MacArthur noted the Committee meeting on March 1 was cancelled due to circuit-breaker measures. He asked the members to review the "EOC Team Member Responsibilities" if anyone is interested in taking a position before reaching out to the community to fill the positions.

- **Finance Committee Report**

- ➔ Chair Stephen Gould noted the Committee met on March 2 and presented a summary of the meeting's report.
- ➔ The proposed Financial Plan for 2021-2022 was reviewed. The Council will present it to the public in an open house at Afton Community Center and will be posted on the Municipality's website.

- **Planning Board Report**

- Chair Sharon Slauenwhite noted the Committee met on February 15 and presented a summary of the meeting's report.

- **Properties Committee Report**

- Chair Chad Stretch noted the Committee met on February 22 and presented a summary of the meeting's report.

- Deputy Mayor Robert Clow suggested adding any expenses related to Rice Point property to the property committee proposed maintenance budget as the Municipality owns it.

- **Resolutions**

- **MOTION#2021-32**

Moved by Councillor Chad Stretch

Seconded by Councillor Lori Ashley

WHEREAS

Under Section 151 (1) of the Municipal Government Act, not less than two weeks before adopting its financial plan, the Council shall give public notice and hold a public meeting in respect of the financial plan; and

BE IT RESOLVED

The Council for Rural Municipality of West River will hold a public meeting on March 15, 2021, to present the Financial Plan and have a special Council meeting on March 29, 2021, to adopt the Financial Plan.

CARRIED 9-0

- **Other Business**

- Deputy Mayor Robert Clow brought council attention to the quality of the municipality website. The Council decided to start the Branding RFP process as a prerequisite for upgrading the website also image-making of the new Municipality.

- **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.
- The next meeting will be on March 29, 2021.

HELEN SMITH-MACPHAIL _____ LAALA JAHANSHAHLOO _____
MAYOR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER