

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL**

In attendance were Mayor Shawn Mesheau, Deputy Mayor Andrew Black and Councillors Allison Butcher, Sabine Dietz, Matt Estabrooks, Bill Evans, Kenneth Hicks, Bruce Phinney and Michael Tower. Also, in attendance were CAO Jamie Burke, Clerk Donna Beal, Assistant Clerk Becky Goodwin, Treasurer Michael Beal, and Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller.

Also in attendance were two (2) members of the public.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Shawn Mesheau called the meeting to order.

Mayor Shawn Mesheau acknowledged that we are located within the territory of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR SABINE DIETZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR
BILL EVANS THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF COUNCIL OF JULY 20, 2021, AS CIRCULATED. MOTION CARRIED.**

1. Municipal Reform

Chief Administrative Officer Jamie Burke provided an overview of his Report noting that in January 2021, the provincial government launched the local governance reform process. Following the official release, Council and Staff were provided an opportunity to share ideas directly with the Minister on four key areas: structure, finance, regional collaboration, and land-use planning. On April 6, 2021, the province released a green paper on local governance reform which officially moved the process along to the engagement phase. Since the release of the green paper, the province has hosted virtual engagement sessions across New Brunswick. Stakeholder and public feedback and analysis will be incorporated into a white paper, which is expected to be released later in 2021. Throughout the process, the province has made it very clear that the status quo is not an option, meaning change is expected from the 104 local governments, 236 local service districts and 12 regional service commissions presently established in New Brunswick.

As noted in previous Council reports, the CAO and Treasurer have been participating directly in the local government reform process and are sitting on two of the four working groups (land-use planning and finance). These groups have been meeting on a bi-weekly basis since early May and will be wrapping up at the end of July. The Province has requested that the details of the working groups be kept Confidential.

Despite having met with the Minister directly back in February, Staff felt it was important to publicly formalize the Town's position on the local government reform process. Staff presented a draft letter that they would look to have Council authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of Council, which would then be forwarded to the Local Governance Reform Team.

#21-110 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE LETTER TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE TOWN'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HONORABLE MINISTER DANIEL ALLAIN, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM AS PART OF THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM PROCESS. MOTION CARRIED.

Question Period

Erica Butler asked for clarification on the request regarding Mount Allison Student Count towards the population for the new equalization formula. Treasurer Michael Beal responded that since the new formula was released, the Town has requested that the student population be included in the total population number, given that the Town provides services to those students for the majority of the year.

Bruce Wark asked when does Council anticipate the letter being sent to Minister Allain regarding the Green Paper on Local Government Reform and requested a copy of the draft letter. CAO Jamie Burke responded that the letter will be finalized and sent to the Minister as early as July 21, 2021, and will provide Mr. Wark with a copy of the draft letter.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY THAT COUNCIL ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF JULY 20, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk

Assistant Clerk