

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, 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, and Michael Tower. Also, in attendance were CAO Jamie Burke, Assistant Clerk Becky Goodwin, and Sgt. Eric Hanson.

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 MICHAEL TOWER AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILLOR SABINE DIETZ THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, AS CIRCULATED AND
MOVE INTO IN-CAMERA. MOTION CARRIED.

1. RCMP Monthly Report

Sgt. Eric Hanson left the meeting.

Public – 7:00 P.M.

Treasurer Michael Beal, Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller, Town Engineer Jon Eppell, Manager of Parks and Facilities Todd Cole and Manager of Tourism and Business Development Ron Kelly Spurles joined the meeting.

Also, in attendance were eight (8) members of the public.

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

2. Presentation – Waterfowl Advisory Committee

Sandy Burnett of the Waterfowl Advisory Committee presented to Council on the history of the Waterfowl Advisory Committee, noting that the Waterfowl Park is the asset it is now because of a constructive partnership between the Town, Mount Allison University, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Canadian Wildlife Services, and the Waterfowl Advisory Committee.

The objectives of the park are:

- To sustain and manage an area of healthy, productive wetland in the Town of Sackville
- To provide infrastructure that will enhance visitor enjoyment of the area without compromising the natural integrity of the site
- To provide signage, pamphlets, interpretive tours and non-intrusive recreational and fitness activities that will enrich visitors' appreciation of the park without disturbance to wildlife and natural processes

- To revitalize the Town's image as an ecotourism destination and community that prizes environmentally responsible citizenship.

Mr. Burnett noted that the forthcoming amalgamation of the new Town of Tantramar will have an immediate impact on the legal status of the Waterfowl Park, and clarification will be required on the new role the Regional Services will have to the park. The expanded area of the Town of Tantramar will have additional natural attractions, that could open the opportunity for new partnerships.

3. Presentation – Mount Allison Student Union

Ngoc Huynh, Vice President External Affairs of the Mount Allison Student Union presented to Council, reviewing the vision, mission and values of the Student Union. Mr. Huynh discussed concerns with the housing crisis and hospital inaccessibility as well as reviewing priorities for MASU including student financial aid, mental health and the Town & Gown relationship.

4. Presentation – Climate Change Advisory Committee

Doug Bliss, Climate Change Advisory Committee member and lead for Green House Gas emissions and electrification presented to Council on the recommendation to install solar panels at the Bill Johnstone Park. Mr. Bliss discussed the climate change initiatives fund that was established in 2021 and used for the natural assets inventory. In assessing how best to apply this fund for 2022, the Climate Change Advisory Committee considered projects that can be completed within the fiscal year, and which may not have other funding sources. The recommendation from the Climate Change Advisory Committee is to have solar panels installed at Bill Johnstone Memorial Park. Installation is expected to take 4-6 weeks. The project will show the Town's leadership in mitigation and reducing carbon emissions and will be used as an effective education tool, while saving the Town money by reducing electricity bills paid to NB Power.

5. Solar Installation Proposal for Bill Johnstone Memorial Activity Centre

Following the presentation from the Climate Change Advisory Committee, Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of her report, noting that Council has approved \$28,750 in the 2022 operating budget for climate change initiatives. It was determined that a small-scale solar installation on the Bill Johnstone Memorial Activity Centre is the preferred option for the 2022 project. There would be potential for expanding the panels in the future and the project would have a significant impact on reducing municipal greenhouse gas emissions. Staff obtained quotes from two solar companies with the proposals evaluated based on cost, design of the system, amount of electricity offset by the system and the unit cost of energy production. Consideration was also given to the location of the solar installers for travel-related emissions. Staff are recommending Vertex Solar Solutions be the installer for the solar array. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2022, for Council to consider the purchase and installation by Vertex Solar Solutions in the amount of \$25,000 plus HST.

6. Winter Salt

Town Engineer Jon Eppell provided an overview of his report, noting that each year the Town purchases about 1,200 tonnes of road salt for winter maintenance. The road salt is normally delivered at intervals as it is consumed. Quotes were received from both Nutrien and Windsor Salt. The quote from Nutrien did not include the cost of delivery, so additional trucking prices were obtained from three trucking firms. Mr. Eppell also reviewed the quality of the salt from both companies indicating that the Windsor Salt product is likely to clump than the Nutrien product and it was observed in the past year that the consumption of the Nutrien road salt

seemed higher for the same result with Windsor Salt. Mr. Eppell noted that there is risk with committing to a contract that has a component tied to fluctuating fuel prices. Staff are recommending that Council approve Windsor Salt as the supplier at \$79.09/tonne including delivery plus HST. A motion will come forward at the Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2022 for Council to consider.

7. New Trail Connection – Retention Pond

Manager of Parks and Facilities Todd Cole provided an overview of his report, noting that the 2022 budget includes \$25,000 for new trail development. The planned project will consist of a trail connection on St. James Street to follow the Ducks Unlimited dyke and connect to the old rail trail across from Struts Gallery. Recently, Public Works has installed two culverts to access this trail. Three quotes were received for the project with Beach Hill Landscaping being the lowest bidder. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2022 for Council to consider awarding the construction of the retention pond connection trail to Beach Hill Landscaping in the amount of \$21,250 plus HST.

CAO Jamie Burke noted a Disclosure of Interest as he is a resident of St. James Street where the work is being proposed.

8. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon's (RRFB's)

Town Engineer Jon Eppell provided an overview of his report, noting that as part of the Town's ongoing consideration of crosswalk enhancements, the Engineering and Public Works Department are proposing two additional Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's), one at the Main Street at Charlotte Street crosswalk and one at the Queens Road at Fairfield Road crosswalk. Both crosswalks are widely used, and both locations have issues with sight distance. Council has approved the capital budget for crosswalk flashing light systems for 2022. Pricing has been obtained for supply and will be obtained for installation separately. The lowest price supplier is Absolute Traffic & Sign Solutions at a cost of \$16,788.04 plus HST. As the project is within staff's approval limits, no motion is required. A motion will only go to Council if the installation quotes exceed those limits.

9. Renaissance Grant

Manager of Tourism and Business Development Ron Kelly Spurles provided an overview of his report, noting that Renaissance Sackville has received a grant application from Sip Express Beverages for infrastructure equipment. The grant will enable Sip to purchase kitchen equipment to provide food service for their business, as well as to help establish a community kitchen model. The requested funds will be used to purchase a stove and related equipment, refrigerators, and a freezer. Sip Express Beverages is a speciality beverage shop started in collaboration with Bagtown Brewing Company. The goal of their business is to act as a food provider to their customers as well as customers of Bagtown Brewing. An additional part of their vision is to create a community kitchen where they can offer their own food products along with rental space for local vendors. Part of Renaissance Sackville's mission is to help provide seed funding for new local businesses. The Board has reviewed this application in the amount of \$4,330 and recommends the support. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2022 for Council to consider the transfer of funds from the Town's 2022 operating budget to Renaissance Sackville to fund this project.

Question Period

Erica Butler asked where the funding for the new trail in the Retention Pond was acquired from. Manager of Parks and Facilities Todd Cole responded that \$15,500 was received from the Federal Active Transportation Fund.

Erica Butler asked if there is an official name for the Retention Pond. CAO Jamie Burke responded that Manager of Recreation Programs and Events has been working with local schools to come up with a name. There is also an opportunity to engage the youth of the community through the Climate Change Advisory Committee and options will be brought forward to Council regarding a name.

Erica Butler asked if there were any updated on what will happen to Advisory Committees such as the Waterfowl Park Advisory Committee once the new Town of Tantramar is incorporated. CAO Jamie Burke responded that there will be a transitional period to allow the new entity to catch up with amalgamation items and that there will be some transitional authorization to allow business to continue.

Erica Butler asked if other municipal buildings were reviewed for the solar panel project, such as the Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre. Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller responded that several years ago, the feasibility of solar panels for municipal buildings were reviewed including existing electrical and mechanical requirements and that the Civic Centre was not a viable option for the project.

Erica Butler asked for confirmation on how the Climate Change Initiatives fund has been used in the part and if it was used for the Climate Change Coordinator position. Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller responded that ran Miller responded that the fund was established in 2021 and was used for the Natural Asset Inventory. In 2020, staff completed an application to Environmental Trust Fund for the Climate Change Coordinator position which was a two-year project. Funding was received for the first year initially, so the Climate Change Advisory Committee decided that in the event the EFT funding was not available for the second year of the coordinator position, the Climate Change Initiatives fund would be used to offset the cost of that position. EFT funding was received for year-two, therefore the committee looked at other projects and determined the Solar Panel project be their recommendation.

Erica Butler asked if the Climate Change Coordinator position will be difficult to fill, given that it is a temporary position. Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller noted that the position has always been advertised as a temporary position as it is a pilot program and may have implications on the applications received.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILLOR MATT ESTABROOKS THAT COUNCIL ADJOURN THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF COUNCIL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Assistant Clerk