



Committee of the Whole
Thursday, February 27th, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – Town Hall

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Town of Truro was held on Thursday, February 27th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, Councillors D. Joseph, B. Kinsman and C. Fritz

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Police Chief D. MacNeil, and Fire Chief B. Currie

Regrets: Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, the agenda was approved as presented. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, the minutes from the January 30th, 2020 meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried.

3. **Financial Condition Indicators Briefing**

Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter reviewed the Financial Condition Indicators provided by the Department of Municipal Affairs which is prepared following completion of the year end audit. The Town's ratios are compared against the town average, which is formulated from all the towns in the province. Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter noted that the way Municipal Affairs calculated the results doesn't reflect a true picture of the Town's overall operations but is a good tool to ensure we are moving in the right direction.

B. Coulter indicated that if majority of the indicators were red/yellow, Municipal Affairs would request a detailed strategic plan explaining how the municipal unit intended to move from red/yellow to green. Municipal Affairs would then proceed to monitor for a couple years.

***ACTION ITEM:** Bonnie to send the Town's previous strategic plan that was submitted to Municipal Affairs to Council.*

4. **CAP Briefing**

Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter advised that the assessment CAP is not working the way it was intended and not equitable. The rationale for the elimination of the CAP is to have all residential properties assessed at market value and that the property tax bills are fair for all properties. Should the removal of the CAP be approved, each municipal unit may have the flexibility to use a phased in approach.

It was noted that the media is portraying conflicting information to what NSFAM is saying regarding this issue and so it was suggested that we post a communication on social media about why eliminating the CAP is good for the Town. Once something is drafted, it will be presented to Council before being posted.

***ACTION ITEM:** Draft social media communication to clarify how the removal of the CAP will affect Truro residents and present to Council.*

5. **Library Funding Model**

CAO M. Dolter provided an overview based upon recent correspondence from Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage. The Province advised of a new funding model showing an increase to the contributions of the municipal units with Truro's increase noted as \$8,387.00. While Truro's increase is relatively smaller as opposed to some, it still poses an issue as the budget has already been set for the upcoming fiscal year.

NSFM raised concerns to the Minister in 2019 which were never addressed, and no consultation was done with the municipalities.

The Library Board will be asking its Colchester East Hants Library stakeholders to adopt the new funding model this fiscal.

***ACTION ITEM:** Prepare a letter to the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage from the four (4) mayors confirming the adoption of the new model while also expressing the municipal units' objection to the process, approach and lack of consultation.*

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO