



Committee of the Whole

Town of Truro

Thursday, January 30, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

A Committee of the Whole meeting for the Town of Truro occurred on Thursday, January 25, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor C. Hinton, Deputy Mayor B. Thomas, Councillors I. McGrath, J. Flemming, A. Graham, D. Pryor

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Police Chief D. MacNeil

Regrets: Councillor A. Graham, Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Communications A. Grant, Fire Chief B. Currie,

Mayor C. Hinton called the meeting to order and began with a Land Acknowledgment

Approval of the Agenda

1. On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
On motion of Deputy Mayor B. Thomas and I. McGrath, the minutes of December 19, 2024, were approved as circulated. Motion carried.
3. **Regional Strategic Tourism Plan**
Richard Innes of Brain Trust Marketing presented an overview of the Strategic Tourism Expansion Program proposed for the Town of Truro and partners Colchester County, Stewiacke and Millbrook First Nations.
4. **Cougar Dome**
Representatives of the Cougar Dome addressed Council with an update on the programming, community participation, and challenges facing the Cougar Dome. An overview was provided on the financial position of the facility.
5. **Asset Management Planning & Program**
Senior Engineer Oliver Browning shared a presentation on Asset Management Planning and Program. The presentation included a review of Asset Management in relation to Municipalities, the role of Council, Level of Service and Asset Management, risk, and prioritization, where things stand currently and, next steps.

Councillor I. McGrath asked how assets are currently being managed. O. Browning explained that a methodology using historic data such as age and material is currently being used.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas inquired how a decision is made if multiple assets require immediate replacing or repair. O. Browning explained that those decisions will still have to be made but there will be prioritization and dollar values to tie to each.

6. **RECC Proposed Repayment Plan**

CAO M. Dolter informed Council that Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society, which runs the RECC, had been audited by the Canada Revenue Agency and deemed ineligible for funds received through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program during Covid.

The CRA's decision is based on their determination that CNSCC is controlled by the Municipalities. The result of this ruling is that the Society has been directed to repay an original amount of \$1.29M which has now increased to \$1.63M with the accumulation of interest. To avoid further interest on the remaining balance while it files a Notice of Objection and waits for a ruling, the Society would have to pay the balance. There are also associated legal and audit fees related to the process of bringing forward and defending the Notice of Objection that currently total \$48K.

The CNSCC Society is not in a financial position to pay the balance owed and has requested funding from the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester (shared 50/50). If successful in their challenge to the ruling the funds provided by the municipalities will be returned with interest (rate of 1.5%). The Society has requested that it be allowed to deduct the legal and audit fees from the amount to be returned.

7. **Adjournment**

Mayor C. Hinton adjourned the meeting at 5:48pm.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer