

TOWN OF SAINT ANDREWS SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Electronic Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

A Special Meeting of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present Mayor Doug Naish, Deputy Mayor Brad Henderson, Councillors Kate Akagi, Guy Groulx, Edie Bishop and Andrew Harrison. Also, present: Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer, Paul Nopper Clerk – Senior Administrator, Alexander Gopen, Planner, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission.

Late – Councillor Kurt Gumushel 7:03 p.m. Absent – Councillor Edie Bishop

Facebook Attendance - 19 Zoom - 2

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 305 - 08/20

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Akagi, and carried that the Agenda be approved

as presented.

Carried 4 - 0

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NONE

PRESENTATION

Purpose of Budget

Process

Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer – Presentation on the preliminary 2021 Budget for the Town of Saint Andrews. Highlights of the presentation included:

- o Set levels of service and resources needed
- Capital needs and wants
- Funding from alternative sources
- Review debt levels
 Set the mill rate
- o Public input sessions August 26
- First draft August 31
- o Discussions weekly
- Final presentation to public in late October new legislation changes
- Council acceptance November 2nd, Staff goal
- o Filed to ELG
- o Mill rate to ELG mid December
- Changes to Legislation New provincial process for tax assessment and review
 - Steady growth 2016 \$284 million assessment
- Assessment Base Growth 0 2019 \$330 million plus.
 - 18% growth over 4 years4.9% per year growth

2020-09-01

Saint Andrews Mill Rate

- Steady growth of the rate due to asset management
- TBD for 2021
- Cities 1.40 1.78
 Similar communities 1.28 1.58
- Comparative Rates

 o Saint Andrews 1.26
 - Provincial average of villages and towns 1.35
 - o Shut down of services
 - Arena
- 2020 Challenges COVID-19
- Youth centre
- Access to town half
- Post COVID-19 budget in May 2020
 - Loss of revenue and expense \$339,000
- o Council only sets Mill Rate and BIA Rate
- o Assessments done by SNB
- Provincial portion of property tax set by Government of NB
- o Infrastructure deficit
- 4.6 million deficits in utility fund
- Safety is primary concern on infrastructure due for replacement for 50 years plus.

Other Challenges

Reminder

- Aging facilities
- o Requests for new services
- Downloading of responsibilities
- o COVID-19 in 2021
- o Breakdown of pie chart
- o Administration 23%
- o Public Works 17%
- Debt Servicing 6%

Where Tax Dollars are Spent

- Heritage/Culture/Recreation 16%
- o Economic Development 3%
- Solid Waste 3%
- o Capital 14%
- o Wellness centre

Major Projects 2020

- o Restore Katy's Cove Causeway
- New plough truck
- o Asphalt replacement
- o Wharf and market square refurbishment
- Upgrading joes point and brandy cove road coastal link trail

Potential Projects 2021

- Upgrades to the arena sidewalk replacement, equipment rehabilitation, window replacements final phase
- Parking lot rehabilitation at fire hall
- Court House Painting application to built heritage fund
- First draft to Council August 31
- Open Council meeting to discuss 2021 2025 budget

Moving Forward

- Open to suggestions by public and to improvements to service.
- Community groups with large asks get info in by September 30th

Council discussed the presentation and highlighted discussions on:

- Request a breakdown of taxation with property tax to mill rate to review all taxation as Council review budget;
- Review the amount of debt load of the Town:
- · Identification of additional capital projects; and
- Discussion of timelines for budget, growth rates, and submissions to Province.

INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION, AND PASSING OF BY-LAW AND MOTIONS

FA200704

Public Information Session on the Preliminary 2021 Budget Discussions Town of Saint Andrews

Council discussion with presentation and questions from the audience.

PW200703

Motion: 306 - 08/20

5 Year Designated Highway Program

It was moved by Councillor Akagi, seconded by Councillor Groulx and carried that Council approve the 5-year Designated Highway Program from 2021 – 2025.

5 - 0 Carried

Council discussed the following regarding the 5 Year Designated Highway Program:

- Cost associated with program and 100% Provincial funded.
- Turn lane at Marine Science Drive.
- Removal of sidewalks from plan along Highway 127 and replaced with active transportation lanes.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

QUESTION PERIOD

- 1. Does the Town do anything with funds for student housing?
- 2. Is there enough student housing for the college for 2020?
- 3. With our Mill Rate being low, assessments are high, can you take this into consideration when looking at the budget specifically with non-primary house rates and double taxation? If we can say we have the lowest Mill Rate, can be a selling point for real estate.
- 4. Does the campground property on Indian Point pay property taxes?
- **5.** Properties in Saint Andrews paying double tax, some other provinces and states have a home rebate instead of double taxation, is this an option available?

COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Naish – Would like to thank everyone for participating and for staff for all the hard work they have put into the budget process to this point.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion: 307 - 08/20

At 7:49 PM it was moved by Councillor Akagi, seconded by Councillor Gumushel and carried that Council move into Closed Session per the Local Governance Act, Section 68(c) information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract

5-0 Carried

Motion: 308 - 08/20

At 8:08 PM it was moved by Councillor Gumushel, seconded by Councillor Harrison, and carried that Council return to Open Session.

5-0 Carried

Motion: 309 - 08/20

It was move by Councillor Gumushel, seconded by Councillor Gumushel, that Council approve a Volunteer Recognition Award to CPL. Jayson Hanson, Royal Canadian Mounted Police on September 12, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 310 - 08/20

At 8:11 p.m., it was move by Councillor Akagi, seconded by Councillor Gumushel that the meeting be adjourned.

6-0 Carried

Doug Naish, Mayor

Paul Nopper, Clerk Senior Administrator

