

# **REGULAR MEETING #19**

## **December 1, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of Council convened in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. in the presence of Mayor Steve Tessier, Councillors, Chief Administrative Officer, Dan Noseworthy, Deputy Clerk Gail Pomroy, Director of Planning and Development, Elaine Mitchell, Director of Finance, Liz Davis, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services, David Tibbo, Director of Engineering and Public Works, Jennifer Manuel, and Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Jennifer Lake.

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### **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

#### **a. Adoption of meeting agenda of December 1, 2015**

**Resolution #15-453**  
**Councillor Tilley/Councillor Murphy**

Be it so resolved that the agenda of the meeting of December 1, 2015 be adopted as presented.

- carried unanimously

#### **b. Adoption of minutes of meeting of November 17, 2015**

**Resolution #15-454**  
**Councillor Connors/Councillor Murphy**

Be it so resolved that the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2015 be adopted as presented.

- carried unanimously

### **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Nil**

### 3. VISITORS, PRESENTATIONS AND PETITIONS

#### a) 2016 Budget

Your Worship, Fellow Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tonight, I have been given the honour of presenting the Town of Conception Bay South 2016 Budget - highlighting the important facets that make this municipality a vibrant and thriving municipality. Many of our residents have voiced their opinion through several Town platforms. We want you to know that we ARE listening and we have planned our 2016 budget around those voiced opinions. We're ready to take those concerns and ideas and, as far as possible, make them a reality!

We have continuously heard your concerns on pedestrian safety within our Town and have significantly increased the traffic light budget to allow upgrading of existing infrastructure and an additional \$150,000 for the installation of pedestrian activated cross walk lights.

With growth, traffic has increased on local streets and, in some places, traffic speed has created hazards for local residents. In 2015, the Town adopted a traffic calming policy which allows Council to evaluate resident concerns in a consistent manner. Council identified a number of streets which are of particular concern. With input from local residents, traffic calming will be designed for Chamberlains Road and Legion Road and further evaluation of the traffic issues on Earlston/Haliburton and on Lawrence Pond Road will be undertaken in 2016. We have heard the concerns and we are happy to deliver an investment of \$100,000 for traffic calming initiatives.

Traffic safety, as well as all issues of public safety, continues to be a priority for this Council. In the new year, a committee, called the *Fire, Enforcement and Public Safety Committee* will be formed to liaise with other agencies such as the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Fire and Emergency Services, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, to name a few. The purpose of this committee is to review and analyze all areas of enforcement and safety in

Conception Bay South, such as traffic concerns, in hope of improving and correcting issues that require attention.

The establishment of the *Fire, Enforcement and Public Safety Committee* will enable Council to be proactive in these efforts with the safety and welfare of the residents in mind.

One of our many valued assets here in the Town of Conception Bay South is our 24/7 dedicated Fire Department. This service also greatly enhances the level of safety provided to our residents.

We are excited to announce that the new Headquarters of the Conception Bay South Fire Department in Kelligrews will house the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for the Town of Conception Bay South.

This new, bright, state of the art facility will be set up to not only incorporate the communication requirements of the Conception Bay South Fire Department and the Town of Conception Bay South but will now have the flexibility to host communications infrastructure from our partner organizations.

Designed to maximize interoperability through the latest in technological advancements, the Town of Conception Bay South will lead the way in Emergency Operations Management.

The Town also continues to strengthen relationships within the community. In 2015, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Salvation Army Conception Bay South Corps to operate an emergency warm room located at the Citadel. In exchange, to ensure maximum comfort when needed, the Town has installed a backup generator at a cost of \$135,000 to see this arrangement come to life. We look forward to continuing this partnership and growing many more throughout the Town.

These developments are in accordance with the findings of the 2008 Protective Services Plan prepared by the Town. This report recommended that the profile of public safety be raised by a more coordinated effort and “be considered in a much broader context of community safety and security, rather than simply a reactive, complaints-driven approach to bylaw enforcement”. We listened to this report, and the public, in providing these initiatives.

In 2015, we saw significant infrastructure development within the Town. The construction of the New Town Hall at 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, the New Fire Station at 13,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and the New Stadium at 58,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, were critical to the long term growth and development of our municipality. This significant infrastructure resulted in an increase in debt payments of \$482,000 for a total annual debt payment of \$4.5 million. We are planning public grand openings of the new buildings in spring 2016.

The Town of Conception Bay South has expanded the Building Maintenance budget to adequately service the new buildings. The new Town Hall will dramatically increase the efficiency of our organization and, with all staff operating out of the same building, project collaboration will greatly improve the services provided to our residents.

As we head into 2016, high on our agenda is guiding the Town in its continuing growth and expansion within our residential sector. We know our residents have concerns about residential property taxes with the recent assessments. We are listening. We are pleased to offer our residents a reduction in residential property tax mil rate from 7.4 to 7.15 mils. With this rate, the residents of Conception Bay South will continue to pay one of the lowest mil rates in the area. We are also very pleased that water and sewer taxes will remain at the current rate.

Staying on par to previous years, the Town of Conception Bay South housing starts remain strong.

- Approximately 168 new homes have been constructed this year with a value of approximately 32.8 million.
- The value of commercial construction this year is in excess of 1.6 million.
- There have been approximately 675 miscellaneous permits issued in 2015 with a construction value of approximately 4.2 million.

This growth and development provides the Town with additional sources of revenue that assists us in our efforts to keep pace with growing demands and rising costs.

We understand that many of our residents are on a fixed income. We've heard your concerns about paying your taxes. To assist our residents, we will be continuing with our Equal Payment Program, whereby residents can pay their taxes over a five month period, with five equal payments and no interest charges.

Our seniors are important to this community. We recognize the financial challenges placed on seniors, and the significant contribution that they make to the Town of Conception Bay South. We listened to our seniors as they voiced their concerns about paying their taxes. We understand and we want to help. We will substitute the Seniors Discount with a 12 month, no interest payment plan for all property owners over 60 years of age. In addition, further assistance will be provided for low income seniors in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement by way of a 20% tax reduction of their property tax.

The Tax Incentive for Conception Bay and Area Chamber of Commerce Members will be continued and we will continue to offer Chamber members the Equal Payment Program. We look forward to working closely with the Chamber as they actively engage in networking opportunities and special event initiatives in 2016.

As many of you are aware, in cooperation with the Provincial Government's Department of Education, the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries Board will be entering into a lease agreement with the Town of Conception Bay South for the construction of a new library which will be also located on Remembrance Square.

We are happy to report that we are nearing completion of negotiations with the Board for that lease agreement which will see a start to construction of this long anticipated project - ensuring the continuation of literacy services at the Conception Bay South Library.

The Department of Engineering and Public Works, the Town's largest department, strives to deliver the highest level of services including water, sewer and road infrastructure, waste collection, snow clearing services, and traffic control.

The Town has had challenges throughout 2015 with delivering its Capital Projects but have worked diligently with all government agencies and, as a result, we are now confident that 2016 will see all approved projects implemented.

These projects include \$8.875 million in new and upgraded water and sewer infrastructure; \$1 million in water system improvements to ensure water consumption efficiency; \$1 million in storm water upgrading and studies; \$4.6 million in street upgrading and paving, and \$1.35 million in new traffic lights which includes a comprehensive transportation study.

The Department has also made considerable additions to our heavy equipment and light duty vehicle fleet. We acknowledge resident's concerns about snow clearing operations and road conditions. And because of those concerns, we are pleased to invest \$650,000 in 2016 towards upgrading equipment and managing its fleet to optimize maintenance with level of service. This will allow the Town to deliver services and programs that the residents expect and deserve.

Our Recreation Department is responsible for the coordination and provision of recreation and leisure services to our residents, sports organizations and community groups throughout the Town. We believe it is important to offer our residents fun, family oriented activities that bring about an even greater sense of community pride.

The department has expanded significantly over the last year. The highlight will be the opening of the new stadium on Legion Road.

This state of the art arena offers:

- a new facility to host large events, conferences, sporting events, trade shows, concerts and more
- Indoor walking track available at no cost to residents and stadium users
- Conversion kit with ice cover will allow large scale events to take place while ice is still in operation
- Ability to host graduation ceremonies, one of which has already been booked for 2016
- Ability to bring large scale events to the Town to further economic development and growth

- Creates an additional ice surface in the Town, allowing more opportunities for ice rentals, tournaments, etc.

Another addition to the department's facilities was the construction, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Northeast Avalon, of the new clubhouse at the Richard Parsons Softball Field. This facility offers booking opportunities for community groups, youth events and birthday parties for the public. As this building is conveniently located next to an upgraded and modern playground it boasts a perfect location for family functions.

Various playgrounds and green spaces have also been developed at Bayview Heights, Franks Road, and Soiree Heights, all of which service residential neighbourhoods. In an effort to keep all of our facilities in pristine condition for our residents, we will see an increase in staffing in the parks and recreation division. Creating additional employment opportunities in the Town.

In addition to the maintenance of our many parks and playgrounds, the Recreation and Leisure Services Department also organizes and implements various special events and programs for Conception Bay South residents. These include everything from Summer Day Camp programs to the Pirate Day on Topsail Beach. In 2016, the Department will be looking to implement more opportunities for youth to be involved with the community.

In 2016, the Town of Conception Bay South will proudly host the Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games. The games are the largest multi-sport athletic competition in the province bringing approximately 1400 youth to the town over eight days. We are pleased to provide the following benefits of hosting this event:

- Through cost sharing opportunities with the Provincial Government and the Town, and grant money allotted to the Games Host Committee, funds have been secured to enhance many of the existing sports facilities. These improvements include:
  - Addition of lights, an electronic scoreboard and new backstop at Richard Parsons Softball Field.

- An electronic scoreboard at Sgt. Ned Nugent's Field which will complement the existing lights and building at this location.
- Lights and an electronic scoreboard will also be added to Stoney Hill Park Field. This field will furthermore avail of refurbished dugouts and significant beautification of the area.
- The Conception Bay South Recreation Complex will receive an electronic timing system. This system will make this venue one of the premier locations to host swimming events.
- A new beach volleyball facility will be constructed next to Villa Nova Junior High.

All of this new and upgraded infrastructure will stay within the community and benefit residents for many years. The pride and passion of the games experience will also be the legacy these games will leave in the Town.

Hosting the games provides excellent opportunity for economic spin off for local business and retailers. Along with the 1400 athletes participating in this event, the Town can expect to see an increase of nearly 2500 visitors to the community during these two weeks. Businesses will realize an economic peak during this time.

In the New Year, as part of keeping our residents informed, the Economic Development and Tourism Department will be providing our residents with a Mass Notification System to ensure our residents are notified about happenings in their neighbourhoods. Advisories on water main breaks, pending storms, emergency situations and other activities that would concern our residents will be sent via telephone messages, email or texts to residents who would be affected by such situations. We ask residents to take notice of a roll out campaign for this system in 2016.

Again, we have heard the citizen's concerns and we're providing a great solution - in addition to the platforms we already use as forms of public awareness (Town website, Facebook, Twitter, radio and print advertising, etc), residents will now be aware, in a very timely manner, of any situations that may directly affect them.



Tourism is a continuous economic benefit for the Town of Conception Bay South. The T'Railway has become a highly used recreation and tourism asset in the Town since the first phase was officially redeveloped in 2014. To date, 10 kilometres of trail have been completed. An additional 4 kilometres will be completed in 2016 along with a network connecting the T'Railway to the gateway, New Stadium and Sgt. Ned Nugent's Complex. The 14 kilometre corridor throughout the Town will continue to be enhanced and maintained by the Grand Concourse Authority. In 2016, the installation of courtesy signage showing a map of the system, designated staging areas and route markers, along with History Boards telling the story of each community in the Town will be in place.

Also in 2016, plans are in place to install pedestrian activated lights at Greeleytown Road and Route 60 to ensure patrons can safely enjoy a full T'Railway experience. Various crosswalks with traffic beacons will also be installed at designated sections of Route 60 west of Foxtrap Access road to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety when crossing Route 60 to access the shoreline portions of the T'Railway.

Council and staff remain committed to the development of the ATV Bypass Route from Indian Pond to Foxtrap Access Road. The route has been finalized, and once the Memorandum of Understanding with neighbouring municipalities and the second staging area has been finalized, the necessary detail design and engineering work will commence. It is our hope that this route will be ready for the 2017 construction season.

A tremendous amount of work has been completed to date on *the gateway* Project from both the infrastructure and sales and marketing perspectives. The entire process from site selection to grand opening is a very time consuming one, however, Council continues to believe in, and remains totally committed to, *the gateway* and know our approach is the best way forward in establishing a strong commercial base. We do anticipate public announcements in 2016 once prospective retailers and developers finalize their development plans.

Also included in our 2016 Budget is a Capital Expenditure Out of Revenue Program in excess of \$1,000,000. This will enable Council

to proceed with various projects on the Town's horizon, and to be financially prepared in the event of any unforeseen emergency situations.

Listening to our citizens was key to balancing the 2016 budget. We, as a Council, strive for financial excellence – this year was no different than previous years. We know that at the end of the day, this budget demonstrates sound fiscal management which will enable the Town to continue to grow – all while focusing on our tax payer's needs and concerns. Based on our financial projections, this budget provides the financial capabilities to meet our commitments, realize our goals and objectives and provide our staff the resources and tools required to provide efficient and effective services to our residents.

At this time, I would like to thank all who were involved in producing this budget. A lot of time, patience, effort, long hours of discussions and much more are part of bringing together a budget such as this. I would like to thank our Senior Staff, particularly the Director of Finance, Liz Davis, and all the staff for their insight, dedication and for putting our resident's concerns and questions in the forefront of this process. I would also like to thank Mayor Tessier and my fellow Councillors for their hard work and dedication and commitment to our community. We had many discussions during this budget process, but one aspect we all agreed upon with that this 2016 Budget had to be a reflection of our resident's concerns and opinions. I believe, as far as possible, we have accomplished that goal.

As a Council, we will continue to dedicate ourselves to our residents. We are devoted to delivering Town services and managing the demands, wants and needs, in a fair but affordable way – and in doing so, portraying the Town of Conception Bay South as a Bright Town with a Bright Future.

Thank you.

**Resolution #15-455**  
**Deputy Mayor George/Councillor Rowe**

Be it so resolved that the Town of Conception Bay South accept the balanced budget hereby tabled for the fiscal year 2016 in the amount of

\$37,203,598 and that this document be submitted to the Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs for review and acceptance.

- carried unanimously

Following the budget speech, members expressed their support for the 2016 budget and noted highlights such as the Fire, Enforcement and Public Safety Committee, traffic calming, traffic lights and the improved payment structure for seniors.

**4. RECOMMENDATIONS OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
(Chair, Councillor Beverley Rowe)**

**Transferred from Privileged Meeting #22**

**1. Confirm Order - 1 Cherry Lane, Manuels**

**Resolution #15-456  
Councillor Rowe/Councillor Youden**

Be it so resolved that the Order issued November 19, 2015 under the Town of Conception Bay South Occupancy and Maintenance Regulations made under the Urban and Rural Planning Act and the Municipalities Act ordering the demolition of the dwelling and an accessory building located at 1 Cherry Lane, Manuels be confirmed.

- 6 yeas  
- 2 abstentions  
(Tessier, Tilley)  
- motion carried

Mayor Tessier and Councillor Tilley declared a conflict of interest with this matter. They vacated the Chamber at 7:52 p.m. and returned at 7:53 p.m.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS OF ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
(Chair, Councillor Richard Murphy)**

No meeting held.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE (Chair, Councillor Paul Connors)**

No meeting held

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE (Chair, Ken George)**

**Transferred from Privileged Meeting #22**

**1. Change in Meeting Schedule**

**Resolution #15-457**  
**Deputy Mayor George/Councillor Murphy**

Be it so resolved that the Public Meeting for January will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

- carried unanimously

**2. Capital Invoices**

**Resolution #15-458**  
**Deputy Mayor George/Councillor Tilley**

Be it so resolved that approval be given to pay capital invoices totaling \$1,948,125.97 as reviewed at the Privileged Meeting of December 1, 2015.

- carried unanimously

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE (Chair, Councillor Darrin Bent)**

No meeting held.

**9. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councillor Tilley advised that he had attended first Eastern Regional Services Committee.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**Councillor Rowe**

stated that the Chamberlains Park Action Committee meeting has concluded for 2015. Officers will be elected at the first meeting of January 2016. She encouraged all residents to experience the beautiful Chamberlains Park.

**Councillor Tilley**

advised that Christine Hand was honoured at a recent gala last week. Requested a letter of congratulations be sent on behalf of the Town.

**Councillor Connors**

advised that \$17,000 was raised for MacKayla Puddicombe at the Paradise Mary Brown's fundraiser.

**Mayor Tessier**

encouraged all to attend the Santa Claus parade on to be held on Saturday starting at 10:00 a.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

**Resolution #15-459**  
**Councillor Tilley/Councillor Rowe**

Be it so resolved that the meeting adjourn.

- carried unanimously

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Steve Tessier  
Mayor

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Gail Pomroy  
Deputy Clerk