

Privileged meeting
(By teleconference)
October 5, 2020

Minutes

Call to Order

In attendance: Mayor Derm Moran
Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy
Councillor Vince Swain
Councillor Fraser Paul
Councillor Dale O'Driscoll
Councillor David Ryan
Councillor Colleen Hanrahan
Pat Curran, CAO

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Motion for appointment of Acting Town Clerk

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, seconded by Councillor Vince Swain, to appoint CAO Pat Curran as Acting Town Clerk for this meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, seconded by Councillor Fraser Paul, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept O'Brien's Trucking quotation (\$7,963.75, HST included) for ditching

It was moved by Councillor Vince Swain, seconded by Councillor Fraser Paul, to accept O'Brien's Trucking quotation (\$7,963.75, HST included) for ditching

Motion carried unanimously

Motion to accept DMG quotation on concept design for pit (\$2,668. HST included)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, seconded by Councillor Vince Swain, to accept DMG quotation on concept design for pit (\$2,668, HST included).

Discussion.

Councillor Hanrahan sought clarification on this project, indicating that in instances where the Town was seeking landscape design that we should be considering engaging a landscape designer rather than an engineering firm. She asked for some background to better understand the proposed work.

CAO Pat Curran provided some background, indicating that the Town's pit and fire training grounds essentially represented a pit within a pit and esthetic considerations would be difficult to address, given the setting. He indicated that given the need to separate salt and sand storage from fire department training, it was felt that an overall design would enable better utilization of the property. The request for quotations (RFQ) was sent to 3 firms, including the Town's engineer of record DMG Consulting, along with Tract Consulting and Mills & Wright Landscaper Architecture. DMG's bid was the lowest of the three responses to the RFQ.

Councillor Paul added that the CAO and other members of Public Works had toured the area with the Acting Fire Chief in August and identified their plans and requirements. This in turn became the basis for the RFQ.

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to make an offer for acquisition of beach property

It was moved by Councillor Dale O'Driscoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, to offer up to \$8,000 for the purchase of the property.

Discussion

Councillor Hanrahan indicated that the Town might attach conditions to the offer based on whether the septic and water systems can be reused. She expressed support for relocating the Town's Visitor Centre from Lower Pond to this area. Deputy Mayor Murphy concurred, indicating that the beach property was a far more suitable site for the activity. Councillor Paul indicated that the property would have value at \$8,000 whether the septic and water systems were operational. He added that given its exposed, ocean front location, any buildings erected on the site would have to be well constructed, and of materials that could stand up to conditions.

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on location/format for October Public Meeting of Council

The CAO asked for guidance on the date, location and format of the October public meeting of Council, acknowledging both Council's and the public's frustration over the continued need to use teleconferencing for public meeting purposes. He had hoped that the Council Chambers may have been reconfigured in time to accommodate the face to face meeting but it would be November before that work could be complete, leaving one of two options for a meeting – a) use of the Puffin Centre with limited public access or b) continued use of teleconferencing for the October meeting.

There was some discussion, with several councilors indicating their reluctance, due to pre-existing medical conditions and the potential impact of COVID-19, to use the Puffin Centre for council's public meetings. In addition, there was general acknowledgement that the acoustics at the Centre were very poor. Councillor Paul suggested that council take an opportunity after the next public meeting to meet to review considerations around public meetings, with a view to finalizing a solution for November. There was general agreement with this suggestion. In the meantime, the CAO indicated that he would continue to refine potential options for the consideration of Council.

Given the potential impact on Council operations due to roofing repairs the latter part of the week of October 5, the fact that Monday, October 12th was a federal holiday, it was agreed to move the date of the October public meeting of Council to Wednesday, October 14. The public would be notified of the change of date via Facebook. The CAO indicated that a public notice had already been distributed regarding a deadline of 4:30 pm, October 6th for additions to the October agenda. That said, the CAO would exercise discretion, with the advice of Council, on adding urgent matters to the agenda. In terms of preparation of Council meeting materials, the CAO indicated that it was his expectation, depending on whether the roofing project commenced this week or not due to weather, to have Council packages available by 12:00 pm on Friday, October 10th.

Adjournment

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Maureen Murphy, seconded by Councillor Colleen Hanrahan, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.