



Naturally Yours

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**REGULAR SESSION OF THE 51ST COUNCIL
OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF SHELburne
July 13, 2020**

The Regular Session of the 51st Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne was held on Monday, July 13, 2020 commencing at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Warden Penny Smith
Deputy Warden John Roscoe
Councillor Roger Taylor
Councillor Norman Wallet
Councillor Doris Townsend
Councillor Terry McIntyre
Trudy Payne, CAO

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Williams, Director of Finance
Erin Hartley, Director of Corporate Services
Alicia Flowers, Executive Assistant
Adam Dedrick, Director of Recreation and Parks
Timothy Gillespie, Media
Jodi Ybarra, Nova Scotia Health Authority
Kevin Chapman, Doctors Nova Scotia
Nick Coates, Grant Thornton
Kelsey Murphy, Grant Thornton
Fraser Mooney, Nova Scotia Health Authority

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Warden Smith.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Agenda of July 13, 2020, be approved as amended.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(a) Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2020

3(a) **MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2020**

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that the Minutes of June 29, 2020, be approved as circulated.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING:**

There was no business arising.

5. **PRESENTATION:**

- (a) Jodi Ybarra, Nova Scotia Health Authority Re: Update on Healthcare in Shelburne
- (b) Kevin Chapman, Doctors Nova Scotia Re: Physician Service Master Agreement
- (c) Meeting with Minister Delorey update by Warden and CAO

5(a) Jodi Ybarra, Nova Scotia Health Authority, presented the Update on Healthcare in Shelburne.

Discussion and questions were opened to Ms. Ybarra regarding the information package that was circulated to Council in the Council package this week after Warden Penny Smith thanked her for her work getting the information package ready.

Council raised a question regarding the Nurse Practitioner, who has recently relocated to Barrington, asking if a reason was provided for her choice, it was stated she simply preferred the style of practice that was offered in Barrington. A question was raised by Council regarding her replacement, if there was a replacement, and it was confirmed that the student who has been completing her residency here will have successfully completed her training in time for her to step into the role left behind.

It was mentioned that the Physicians who were originally coming to Shelburne this Fall will now be coming in March/April.

Regarding the Shelburne Family Practice Clinic, there has been a significant drop in the number of patients that are seen due to COVID-19. There has been a change to the lab where there is now a 1-800 number that clients can call to have an appointment made. This has been a welcomed change and a much better process now that waiting time to be seen has been decreased dramatically which corrects the issue of the waiting room not being big enough. This also helps eliminate much of the overlap for patients who may be sick waiting with patients who are in for x-rays or other forms of services but are not ill, reducing the risk of infection spreading.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority and Council were all very concerned that citizens are becoming too comfortable with the thought of the coronavirus being over and therefore not continuing to take preventative measures. We were told that COVID-19 is far from over and that not everyone has been swabbed to see if they are carrying the virus and some people are showing to be asymptomatic so may still be spreading the virus without knowing it. This is why it is still so crucial to use hand sanitizers and keeping the social distancing regulations.

It was also mentioned that virtual care has been used in the Shelburne Family Practice Clinic, mostly through telephone conferencing but there were still some Zoom meetings taking place. This has proved to be very helpful and had provided great feedback. The Nova Scotia Health Authority is very hopeful for this type of work expanding in the area.

Waiting lists for patients looking for family physicians has dropped thanks to physicians in the area taking on more patients. It is strongly encouraged that anyone who does not have a physician be registered with 811 and, in time, will be picked up when spots become available.

Recruitment continues to be at a standstill although virtual tours are available for new doctors or students looking to complete their residency, there appears to currently be no interest. There have however, been three new physicians in Yarmouth who are also filling the locum positions at the Roseway Hospital, which the Nova Scotia Health Authority views as a small victory. Council members asked who in the Nova Scotia Health Authority was looking out for Shelburne County since we are in a desperate need for healthcare workers. Ms. Ybarra answered that she is an advocate for the Shelburne area, and she is working diligently to bring healthcare workers into the area.

- 5(b) Kevin Chapman, Doctors Nova Scotia, presented the Physician Services Master Agreement. The information document was circulated to Council in the Council package and discussion and questions pertaining to information in the document was held.

Council noted that in the Master Agreement it states that specialists are being paid extra as an incentive for their speciality, this should be considered in the hiring process for physicians in Shelburne. Having an extra pay incentive may bring and keep physicians and their families in the Shelburne area. Mr. Chapman noted that there is a rural recruitment specialist whose main responsibility is getting the areas that are lacking physicians to recruit physicians. These five main areas

of focus are: Family Practice, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthetist, and Psychology. The rate of pay for Family Physicians is the same across the province. Most of our Family Physicians come from Dalhousie and we are very fortunate to have a medical university in the same province. However, physicians are getting paid more to work out of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, so it makes Nova Scotia less desirable. To help rectify this, Doctors in Nova Scotia will see a 25% increase over the next couple of years.

Mr. Chapman stated that the government has put a significant amount of money into in-patient care since in-patient care was decimated in the area – he believes that without this help the Physician we currently have for in-patient care may not be in the position.

Recruitment is a long game; Nova Scotia Health Authority wants to bring in physicians who will stay in Shelburne. They will be holding a virtual fair with Dalhousie University in the future. Unfortunately, the changes that are being made with Dalhousie will take about 4 to 5 years to show true results, but he is cautiously optimistic.

Dalhousie has created 16 more seats for visual minority students including African Canadians, students from small rural areas, French, and Indigenous. Dalhousie has had a drastic decline in medical students who choose to go into Family Medicine, they are working hard in making Family Medicine appear more attractive to students as the University is very interested in community family practices.

Due to COVID-19, graduates are not able to write their final exams therefore leaving them with defined licences and restrictions, making it harder for them to take more prominent positions. As well, Mr. Chapman noted, that they are unable to recruit doctors from the United Kingdom because it is a very high touch piece where the personal interactions and relationships created between the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the students is crucial. Travel restrictions and social distancing measures currently make this impossible.

- 5(c) Warden Penny Smith presented that herself, the Deputy Warden and the CAO had a meeting with Minister Delorey, Minister of Health, on July 7, 2020. Warden Smith stated that within the document presented to Minister Delorey the three major concerns for Healthcare in Shelburne were highlighted as a) lack of doctors b) Emergency Room closures and c) Access of Primary Health Care. Minister Delorey stated that the issues that the Municipality raised at the meeting were the responsibility of the NSHA and advised of some changes that have been made in health care including that more responsibility has been given to Pharmacists and that there has been changes to administration with medical backgrounds so that they would hold more responsibilities as well. The CAO was provided with names and contacts with those who may be able to help and continued dialogue with the Minister. CAO stated these contacts will be contacted for future meetings.

6. **FINANCE:**

- (a) Presentation of the 2019-2020 Financial Statements from Grant Thornton

- 6(a) Nick Coates, Grant Thornton, presented Council with the Report to Audit and Control Committee – Audit results.

Kelsey Murphy, Grant Thornton, presented Council with The Consolidated Financial Statements and The Financial Information Return, Summary of Financial Condition Index. Discussion was held regarding the details of the various aspects of the budget.

MOTION: 2019-2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – ADOPTION

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne adopt the Financial Statements for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: 2019-2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – SURPLUS

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approve transferring the surplus for the 2019/2020 fiscal year to the Operating Reserve Fund.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: 2019/2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – REALLOCATE FUNDS

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne reallocate the general amount for broadband from the General Administrative and Financial Management line to the General Government Services Broadband Upgrade line.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

7. RECREATION:

- (a) Welkum Park Accessibility Upgrades RFP

- 7(a) Adam Dedrick, Director of Recreation and Parks presented Council with the Welkum Park Capital Upgrades to increase Accessibility RFP.

Discussion was held regarding the RFP process and proposals received.

MOTION: WELKUM PARK RFP

Being duly moved and seconded, be it resolved that Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne award the Welkum Park Capital Upgrades to Increase Accessibility RFP to Wolkins Custom Carpentry & Electrical Ltd at a cost of \$17,000 plus HST.

- **MOTION CARRIED**

8. **OTHER:**

- (a) June Monthly Building Report
- (b) Letter of thanks from Shelburne Regional High School
- (c) Port of Entry Update

8(a) Council reviewed the June Monthly Building Report.

8(b) Council reviewed the Letter of thanks from Shelburne Regional High School

8(c) Council reviewed the Port of Entry Update.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

10. **COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES:**

- (a) Audit and Control Committee Fiscal Year-to-Date Update

10(a) Council reviewed the Audit and Control Committee Fiscal Year-to-Date Update noting this was discussed thoroughly in the Financial Statements presentation given by Grant Thornton this evening.

Deputy Warden Roscoe informed Council that he, the CAO, and the Warden held a meeting with Minister Delorey, Minister of Health, on July 7, 2020. The Minister had thanked the CAO and Warden Smith for the document they had prepared stating the issues and solutions for Healthcare in Shelburne.

Warden Penny Smith stated that the CAO would be circulating minutes from the NSFM meetings that take place every Wednesday.

Warden Smith mentioned that the CAO had a meeting on July 9, 2020 with Public Health and Stakeholders pertaining to COVID-19 and a possible second wave. Public Health reached out to a number of organizations and wanted to create a plan for a possible second wave of COVID-19 and how to prepare for it. Conversation was held around how to establish help for residents pertaining to food, transportation, communications, and accommodations for quarantining. There will need to be more coordination. CAO will circulate minutes of the meeting to Council once completed.

10. **IN CAMERA:**

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Alicia Flowers
Recording Secretary

Date

Penny Smith, Warden

Erin Hartley, Director of Corporate Services

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