



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**Saturday, November 21, 2015**  
**Council Chambers**  
**30 Honour House Court, Riverview, NB**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

Ann Seamans	Mayor
Ian Macdonald	Deputy Mayor
Wayne Bennett	Councillor
Cecile Cassista	Councillor
Lana Hansen	Councillor
Russell Hayward	Councillor
Andrew LeBlanc	Councillor
Tom Toner	Councillor

**Staff Present:**

Colin Smith	CAO
Annette Crummey	Town Clerk
Robert Higson	Director of Finance
Tina Smith	Director of Human Resources
Gerry Cole	Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Shane Thomson	Director of Economic Development
Michel Ouellet	Director of Engineering & Public Works
Chief Denis Pleau	Riverview Fire & Rescue
Denyse Richard	Deputy Town Clerk

**PRESS:**

**Times-Transcript**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seamans called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Moved by:** Councillor Hayward

**Seconded by:** Councillor Cassista

*That the agenda be approved.*

**Motion Carried**

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor LeBlanc remarked that he will be declaring a conflict of interest pertaining to the Boys & Girls Club as he is employed by this organization.

## 4. CONTINUATION OF REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2016 BUDGETS

Mr. Higson, the Director of Finance, commenced with a review of the proposed utility rates. He noted that the residential component will be Water - \$435 (representing a \$15 increase) Sewer - \$180 (representing a \$7 increase; and Sewer Treatment - \$210 (representing a \$5 increase). The total figure of water, sewer and sewer treatment is \$825 (as compared to \$798 in 2015) and represents an overall increase of \$27 per year (3.4%) or \$6.25 per quarter or \$2.19 per day.

Mr. Higson indicated that the Town purchases its water from the City of Moncton based on a Water Agreement which expires in 2017. All indications point to a significant increase in the water rates in the new agreement which the Town must make provision for. He also pointed out that the increase in sewerage treatment of \$5 is directly attributed to the increase from the Greater Moncton Waste Water Commission in order to comply with new federal regulations. He noted that this increase is simply a flow through to the residents from the Greater Moncton Waste Water Commission of the additional amount they are now charging the municipalities.

A discussion ensued on the provision of \$65,000 coming from the Utility Operating Reserves (of which currently there is \$100,000) to offset expenditures in order to be able to manage the rate increase. The consensus of Council was to retain the transfer of \$65,000 from the Utility Operating Reserve to the Utility Capital Fund. It was noted that in subsequent years the intent will be to build the Utility Operating Fund Reserve fund back up. It was also pointed out that historically there has been \$100,000 in this fund that the Town has not had occasion to use.

A discussion also ensued regarding the rationale behind the utility operating balloon payment scheduled in 2016 relating to the east/west trunk sewer. The idea is to make the balloon payment in order to pay off existing debt as quickly as possible which, in turn, will free up dollars in future years for borrowing opportunities.

Mr. Higson reiterated that the proposed budget is based on certain assumptions; namely, a 1% increase in assessment growth and the unconditional grant figure. He pointed out that it has just come to our attention that the assessment growth will be closer to 0.5% which results in an additional \$115,000 that the Town needs to come up with in order to retain a zero percent increase in the tax rate.

There were two outstanding issues requiring further debate from Council; namely, service routes/Codiac Transpo and the reduction of \$182,000 from the street patching line item.

After considerable discussion it was the consensus of Council to retain the status quo on the service routes by Codiac Transpo. It was agreed that further input on this subject was required and Council will continue to work with Codiac Transpo, gather information and seek feedback from the residents.

A discussion ensued regarding the reduction to the street patching line item as included in the proposed budget. Given the fact that the number one priority item identified by our residents was streets and roads, some members of Council were not comfortable with the reduction scenario. An explanation was provided for the rationale behind the decision to reduce this particular line item and the fact that \$268,000 still remains in the proposed operating budget to address street patching as well as the projects identified in the Capital Utility budget.

A suggestion was made to reduce some other budget items from various departments totaling \$81,000 (\$25,000 Aquatic Review, \$45,000 Facilities Management and \$11,000 – HR) but the consensus of Council was to retain the status quo on the budget as presented. It was noted that there is considerable amount of road work included in the proposed 2016 budget which may make some of the street patching redundant through the other work being completed. Also it was pointed out that a section of Coverdale Road was resurfaced last year (\$40,000) which was a unique situation and will not need to be addressed again in the near future which will free up dollars in the street patching budget as well.

Mayor Seamans advised the members of Council that it may be necessary to hold another budget session and that Council should keep dates open should the need arise.

Mr. Smith remarked that there are two unknown components to the proposed budget. He noted that when this information is available if staff can make insignificant changes it would be his intention to simply bring forward the changes at the Regular Meeting of Council on December 14<sup>th</sup>. However, if significant changes must be made it would be his intention to bring it back to Council before the 14<sup>th</sup> of December in order for Council to be brought up to speed and weigh in on the options being presented by staff.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by:** Councillor Hayward

**Seconded by:** Councillor Cassista

*That the meeting be adjourned at 12:00 p.m.*

**Motion Carried**