



Minutes

The Blue Mountains

Accountability and Transparency Committee

Date: Friday, December 20, 2024
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting, Teams
Prepared By:
Carrie Fairley, Legislative Coordinator

Members Present: Councillor June Porter, Councillor Paula Hope, Councillor Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, Robert Turner

Staff Present: Town Clerk Corrina Giles, Manager of Human Resources, Sarah Traynor and Director of Operations Alan Pacheco

A. Call to Order

A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement and Moment of Reflection

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

A.2 Committee Member Attendance

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Legislative Coordinator Carrie Fairley noted that all Committee members were present virtually.

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved By: Robert Turner
Seconded By: Gail Ardiel

THAT the Agenda of December 20, 2024, be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda being:

- Review of Accountability and Transparency Committee Report dated November 25, 2024

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

A.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2023-62, Council or Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

A.5 Previous Minutes

Moved By: Connie Craddock

Seconded By: Robert Turner

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee minutes of November 25, 2024, be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

B. Staff Reports and Deputation

B.1 Paul Reale, Resident, re: Public Comment Meeting Policy and its Relationship with the Public Comment Period in the Procedural By-law

Moved By: Robert Turner

Seconded By: Connie Craddock

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee receives the deputation of Paul Reale, resident, regarding public comment meeting policy and its relationship with the public comment period in the Procedural By-law 2023-62.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

C. Public Comment Period

Paul Reale, resident, provided comments regarding decorum during public comment period at Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. Paul also provided comments regarding and the definition of the word “personal” when the public is providing comments.

D. Matters for Discussion

D.1 Attendance of Alan, Pacheco, Director of Operations

Director of Operations, Alan Pacheco and the Committee discussed challenges of the Operations department and the plans moving into 2025.

D.2 Follow-up Direction from Council

D.2.1 Employee Whistleblower Policy, FAF.24.137

Moved By: Robert Turner

Seconded By: Connie Craddock

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee acknowledges that they have provided comments to Sarah Traynor in response to the Employee Whistleblower Policy.

AND THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee requests Council to direct staff to pause work on the Employee Whistleblower Policy until the Staff Code of Conduct Policy has been approved.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

D.2.2 Follow up Report Draft Employee Code of Conduct, FAF.24.136

Moved By: Gail Ardiel

Seconded By: Paula Hope

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee receives staff report FAF.24.136 Draft Employee Code of Conduct Policy for information.

AND that the Accountability and Transparency Committee members provide their comments regarding this draft policy to the Legislative Coordinator who will compile all the comments received and bring forward to the January 16, 2025, committee meeting.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

D.2.3 Lobbyist Registry Update

Chair Porter provided an update regarding the Lobbyist Registry noting that Principals Integrity provided training to Council, the video of the training is published on the Town's website and Council supported this Committee's request for the Communications Department to complete a training video.

D.2.4 Town of The Blue Mountains Procedural By-law 2023-62, Re: Public Comment Meeting Policy and its Relationship with the Public Comment Period in the Procedural By-law

This item is deferred to the January 16, 2025, Committee meeting.

D.2.5 Freedom of Information (FOI)

Town Clerk, Corrina Giles provided an update to the Committee noting that the Communications Department has on their workplan to complete a new page on the website for Freedom of Information requests.

D.3 Provincial Code of Conduct

Moved By: Paula Hope

Seconded By: Gail Ardiel

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee January 16, 2025, agenda will contain the Provincial Code of Conduct and the committee will submit their comments regarding this policy no later than January 9, 2025.

AND THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee requests that Legislative Coordinator compile and circulate to the committee the comments in advance of the January 16, 2025 meeting.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

D.4 Accountability and Transparency Committee 2025 Meeting Schedule

Moved By: Connie Craddock

Seconded By: Robert Turner

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee receives and endorses the 2025 Meeting Schedule, as presented.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

E. Correspondence

None

F. On-going and Continuous Monitoring of Accountability and Transparency Trends and Issues

None

G. Work Plan

None

H. New and Unfinished Business

H.1 Additions to Agenda

H.1.1 Review of Accountability and Transparency Committee Report dated November 25, 2024

H.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Town of The Blue Mountains Procedural By-law 2023-62, Re: Public Comment Meeting Policy and its Relationship with the Public Comment Period in the Procedural By-law
- Provincial Code of Conduct, review of comments from Committee
- Employee Code of Conduct, review of comments from Committee

I. Notice of Meeting Dates

Accountability and Transparency Committee, January 16, 2025, Virtual

Accountability and Transparency Committee, February 13, 2025, Virtual

J. Adjournment

Moved By: Gail Ardiel

Seconded By: Connie Craddock

THAT this Accountability and Transparency Committee Meeting does now adjourn at 11:45 a.m. to meet again January 16, 2025, Virtually, or at the call of the Chair.

Yay (5): June Porter, Paula Hope, Gail Ardiel, Connie Craddock, and Robert Turner

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)