



Committee of the Whole Excerpts
November 12, 2024

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As discussions continue and staff continue to work through a draft policy, questions have been raised regarding funding and where that would come from to support a potential buy out program.

The recommended motion was that Committee of the Whole recommend that ...

COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE PROVINCE OF NS AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FORMALLY REQUESTING FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH THE FUNDING OF A BUYOUT PROGRAM.



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Council

Submitted by: Mayor Abraham Zebian

Date: November 12, 2024

Subject: Buyout Policy Committee and Funding Request

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Council direct staff to create a temporary “Buyout Policy” committee consisting of Districts 10 & 11 Councillors, 4 citizen members, and West Hants staff to complete the draft Buyout Policy for councils' consideration.

Further that

Council direct staff to write a letter to the Province of NS and Federal Government of Canada formally requesting financial support with the funding of a Buyout Program.

BACKGROUND

In recent months, Council has been working through a draft Buyout Policy for it to consider. The process has been good with councillors contributing to different points at every meeting. Recently, residents who would be considered in a potential buyout program reached out wanting to meet with the Councillors in Districts 10 & 11, the CAO, and myself. At the meeting it was suggested that it may help speed up the development of a potential policy, for council consideration, if a committee was formed rather than council working through the policy bit by bit at each passing meeting. With Council being the only decision-making authority, I agreed to put the suggestion forward.

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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DISCUSSION

As Council has continued to work through a draft policy, the question that has been raised, without direction, is the funding of a potential buy out program. I believe it would be advisable for Council to consider the funding source at this time to bring full clarity to our residents and help narrow down timelines.

NEXT STEPS

TBD

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to creating a temporary Buyout Policy Committee or sending a formal request for funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may not approve the motions.

Council may suggest something else.

ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Staff are happy to support a revised process if that is the wishes of Council. Residents continue to express the importance of timing and urgency surrounding the policy as well as increased engagement in the drafting of the policy to reflect their views.

To carry forward the existing draft of the policy I have suggested the new Council revisit the property appraisals and legal mechanisms associated with the delivery of the policy in-camera.

The Mayors report and contents should be discussed in public forum.

Pending Council's review I support the recommendation.

Report Prepared by: Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Report Reviewed by: 
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer