

History of CBRM Committee Governance Structure

CBRM Council Workshop

January 19, 2021

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Current Committee Structure

- The General Committee governance structure was approved by motion of Council on February 19, 2013 following a pilot “Committee of the Whole” system.
- Membership includes all of Council, chaired by the Mayor.
- The terms of reference for the General Committee is in the RC4 Committees Policy – the empowerment to delegate authority is in Sec. 23(1)(c) of MGA



Committee Structure Background

- 1995-2000:
- There were 21 Councillors + the Mayor
- Four main Standing Committees (6 Council Members on ea.):
 1. Corporate Services Committee
 2. Public Services (& Water Utility)
 3. Protective Services (& Police Commission)
 4. Planning Advisory Committee
- Initially Weekly/Bi-Weekly meetings were held re: transitional work from the former 8 units (i.e. policy & bylaw development)
- Delegated powers were in the RC4 Committees Policy



Committee Structure Background (cont'd)

- 2000-2010:
- Council size reduced to 16 Councillors + Mayor (2000)
- Committee size changed from 6 to 8 Council members
- Frequency of meetings decreased to monthly due to low volume of issues once policies and bylaws put in place
- Jan. 2010 – Council request for issue paper on Committee of the Whole system (reasoning: all Council could be part of all decision-making, esp. given financial situation of CBRM at the time)
- Sept. 2010– Council embarked on Committee of the Whole pilot project, but Council retained all decision-making power



Committee Structure Background (cont'd)

- 2012-2014:
- Council size reduced to 12 Councillors + Mayor
- Council felt it was easier to reach consensus with smaller group & each member participate in all matters before Committee, thus in Feb. 2013 General Committee replaced the Committee of the Whole pilot (eliminating the 4 main standing committees)
- Certain decision-making authority delegated to General Committee (noted above)



Committee Structure Background (cont'd)

- General Committee not intended to dilute the ultimate power of Council (i.e. “rubber stamp” perception) – nor repeat debate at Council
- Bernie White did point out that an alternative to General Committee was to hold two Council meetings per month – but they opted for General Committee format
- June 2013 Council discontinued appointment of elected officials to most external agencies (see page 38 of package)
- Relevant Issue Papers included in package



Fire & Emergency Services Committee

- Council created the Fire & Emergency Services Committee in August 2014
- Terms of Reference included in RC4 Committees Policy
- Prior to the General Committee, Fire Services Department reported to Protective Services



Economic Development Committee

- January 2017 – Nominating Committee requested staff Issue Paper on new Economic Development Committee
- May 2, 2017 - General Committee direction to proceed with comprehensive review of the MPS, using the framework of separate meetings of General Committee devoted to planning and economic development. First meeting of the *General Committee on Planning and Economic Development* was May 8, 2017



Economic Development Committee (cont'd)

- They have not met since December 2018; but in early 2019 Director Malcolm Gillis advised that with temporary staff shortages and Economic Development Manager position vacant, he didn't anticipate any meetings in the coming months.
- Director Gillis retired in May 2019 – replaced by Michael Ruus
- Sept. 2019 Mayor Clarke advised Director Ruus working with staff to assess planning & development matters
- April 2020 – Council approved RFP for comprehensive review of MPS and other planning documents
- Council can consider Committee requirements once review completed



Other Committees:

- Since 2017, Council created the following Committees (all resourced by Clerk's Dept.):
 - Appeals Standing Committee in June 2017 (prior to that DUP Appeals heard at Protective Services/General Committee)
 - Charter Ad Hoc Committee *
 - Viability Study Steering Committee *
(*mandate completed August 2019*)
 - Liaison and Oversight Committee (REN)
- Council will soon be required to strike an Accessibility Committee (per NS Accessibility Act)

* *Special Purpose Committees*



Mandated Committees:

- As per Provincial Legislation, Council shall appoint members to:
 - Board of Police Commissioners
 - Audit Committee
 - Heritage Advisory Committee
 - Fences Arbitration Committee
- Council also appoints citizens to the Diversity Committee in accordance with the CBRM Diversity Committee Governance Policy (formerly Affirmative Action Committee)

(Note: Copies of Committee Policies & Bylaws in package)

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Special Notes:

- Original staff recommendation in February 2013 was that the General Committee meet over 2 days (with issues separated by category, i.e. Corporate Services & Protective Services one day; Public Services and Planning issues the next day) in order to permit the focusing of agendas, and efficient & effective use of Council's time
- Under the “4 main committees” structure, once the budget was approved, issues requiring Council/Committee consideration were reduced, resulting in a decreased need to meet.



Thank You!

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