

*Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Special Council Meeting – Minutes*

**Thursday,
October 13, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Via Video Conference**

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall called the meeting to order.

Present: Mayor Amanda M. McDougall
Councillor Gordon MacDonald
Deputy Mayor Earlene MacMullin
Councillor Cyril MacDonald
Councillor Steve Gillespie
Councillor Eldon MacDonald
Councillor Steve Parsons
Councillor James Edwards
Councillor Ken Tracey
Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger
Councillor Darren O’Quinn
Councillor Lorne Green

Staff: Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer
John MacKinnon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk
Michael Ruus, Director of Planning & Development
Kirk Durning, Director of Recreation, Parks and Grounds, Buildings and Facilities
Karen Neville, Senior Planner
Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant
Tanya Nicholson, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Glenn Paruch (Regrets)

Summary of Decisions

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

1. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the October 13, 2022, Special Council agenda as presented. **Carried.**

2. CBRM Governance and Boundary Review – Council Size Report:

Motion to approve the recommendation by Stantec to take the six and twelve district scenarios to the public for consideration in Phase 2 of the Governance and Boundary Review, and to also present the eight-district scenario to give community members the opportunity to consider an intermediate reduction in Council membership. **Carried.**

Adjournment

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

1. Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to approve the October 13, 2022, Special Council Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. CBRM Governance and Boundary Review – Council Size Report:

John Heseltine, Stantec, reviewed the CBRM Governance and Boundary Review – Council Size Report that is included in the agenda package and highlighted the following:

- Project Context
- Our Methodology
- Phase 1 Council Size
- Public Consultation Plan
- Past Governance Reviews
- CBRM Council Members
- Benchmarking and Comparisons to other Nova Scotia Municipalities
- Population Projection
- Survey Results
- Recommendation 5 (Viability Study)
- Phase 2 Boundary Review
- Boundary Criteria
- Current Twelve Districts
- Electoral District Public Consultation
- Proposed Six Districts
- Proposed Eight Districts
- Proposed Twelve Districts
- Alternate Approaches
- Remaining Steps

Continued...

CBRM Governance and Boundary Review – Council Size Report (Cont'd):

Following the presentation, the following motion was put forward.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Green, to approve the recommendation by Stantec to take the six and twelve district scenarios to the public for consideration in Phase 2 of the Governance and Boundary Review, and to also present the eight-district scenario to give community members the opportunity to consider an intermediate reduction in Council membership.

Discussion:

During debate, Councillor Eldon MacDonald raised a *Point of Order* that further discussion should be limited to the motion on the floor.

Mayor McDougall acknowledged the Point of Order, and Council discussion included:

- Increased remuneration and compensation for Councillors, with the suggestion that they be full-time positions which may require additional staff, since they will be representing more constituents in larger districts;
- Possible impact on rural and suburban representation with larger districts;
- Concern regarding the response rate for the online survey and that it did not reach all residents, with the suggestion that the public sessions for Phase 2 should be held in all 12 districts;
- Paper copies of the survey should be available at the upcoming in-person public consultation meetings.

Following Council discussion, the Mayor called for the vote.

Motion Carried.

In response to a question from Councillor Steve Gillespie, John Heseltine advised that given the allocated budget and timeframe for the study, a meeting in each district was not feasible.

Michael Ruus, Director of Planning & Development, advised that his department could help promote the Electoral Boundary Options Survey and the Public Meetings for Municipal Electoral Boundaries through social media, radio, and newspaper.

Mayor McDougall noted CBRM is mandated to go through the District Boundary review process and is required to submit an application to the NSUARB by the end of the year. Mayor McDougall thanked John Heseltine for his presentation.

Adjournment at 3:31 p.m.

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall

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Deborah Campbell Ryan
Municipal Clerk