

## **Delegation to Town Council – Committee of the Whole Monday, January 5, 2026**

- Good Evening Mr. Mayor, Councillors, Town Staff and Visitors
- For those who do not know me, my name is Brian Putman. My wife and I are permanent residents of Saugeen Shores, having moved over from Owen Sound in 2023 after living in the city for 25 years. Prior to the move, we were seasonal residents of Southampton for over 60 Years and ratepayers for over 30 of those years.
- I am here today to discuss the fairly recent removal of the Committee of the Whole within the governance structure of the Town.

### **The Origin of the Committee of the Whole – early 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

- Intent of the original Committee of the Whole
- Use of the Committee of the Whole by UK House of Parliament (House of Commons & House of Lords)
- Use of the Committee of the Whole by Canadian House of Commons and Senate
- Use of the Committee of the Whole by US House of Representatives

### **Benefits of the Committee of the Whole**

#### **Review of Saugeen Shores Process in Amending Procedural By-Law**

- Striking Committee Minutes of February 6, 2023
- April 23, 2024 Background Report from Staff still reference Committee of the Whole and its use
- August 28, 2024 – amendments to Procedural bylaw introduced at Council meeting omit all references to Committee of the Whole in revised Procedural By-Law
- October 28, 2024 Staff Background Report recommends the revision of the Procedural By-Law that omits all references to the Committee of the Whole. This Background Report is passed by Council at its October 28, 2024 meeting. The Change is to take effect in 2025.
- Final meeting of Committee of the Whole takes place December 9, 2024. There is no mention by Mayor, Councillors or senior staff that it would be the final meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
- At the end of the Council meeting of December 9, 2024, a long list of Committees of the Council for 2025 was read into the minutes and approved by Council. Committee of the Whole was not mentioned, nor was there any discussion of the dissolution of the Committee of the Whole.

#### **What does this mean now?**

- Agendas for Council meetings are posted online on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting, by 4:30 p.m.
- Council meetings take place on the following Monday evening. Council has authority to make decisions on all agenda items with little to no public discussion.

#### **Recommendation**

- Return Committee of the Whole within the Saugeen Shores Governance Structure.  
Encourage public involvement & participation in our municipal government.

On Dec 12, 2025, at 1:54 PM, Morgan McCulloch <[morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Putman,

I am emailing to confirm that you are going to be in attendance on January 5<sup>th</sup> and that you will be providing your delegation materials by Monday at noon. After reviewing the topic, you were to discuss, I noted that it was regarding the Committee of the Whole/Council structure. I apologize, I thought I had sent this email in early November, but it looks like it was sitting in my emails not sent.

Please see below for the response to your inquiry:

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Good morning Mr. Putman,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your interest in the governance changes.

**As Kara Van Myall noted in her earlier response:**

*You are correct that the Town decided to remove the Committee of Whole, two-step approval process. This process, as you noted, was largely from a time when access to information was sourced very differently than it is now. To clarify, Council has not replaced COW with Committee of Adjustment (CofA). CofA is a completely different statutory (required) committee that handles minor variances for the municipality.*

**Chronology of decisions & where they went:**

- On February 6, 2023- a Staff Report went to the **Striking Committee** to recommend updating the Procedural By-law and moving “Planning Committee” business to **Regular Council (Planning)**.
- On April 24, 2023 – a Background Report with the Striking Committee’s **Procedural By-law amendment recommendations** went to **Council** and was **approved**.
- On August 28, 2024- a Staff Report went to the **Striking Committee** outlining updates to the **Council meeting structure** (i.e., the change that removed the Committee of the Whole step).
- On October 28, 2024 - A Background Report with Striking Committee **recommendations** on the meeting structure went to **Council** and was **approved**. Here’s the YouTube video with the discussion Council had on the subject:<https://www.youtube.com/live/gIY8LkWLjng?si=neSeyjEYDt9nCa21&t=13173>

These governance changes were adopted by Council and are not mandated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The supporting staff reports set out the rationale and comparative practices in other Ontario municipalities.

I hope that helps to clarify how the decision was made by Council.

Morgan

**Morgan McCulloch**

Acting- Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk  
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**From:** Morgan McCulloch <[morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca)>  
**Sent:** December 9, 2025 9:28 AM  
**To:** Brian Putman <[bgputman@gmail.com](mailto:bgputman@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Ashlynn Kennedy <[ashlynn.kennedy@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:ashlynn.kennedy@saugeenshores.ca)>  
**Subject:** Delegation -January 5

Hi Brian,

I have that you are going to attend for a delegation on January 5. Due to the Town closures over the holidays, the Agenda for January 5<sup>th</sup> will be published on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please forward to [clerk@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:clerk@saugeenshores.ca) your agenda materials by noon on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,

Morgan

## **Morgan McCulloch**

Acting- Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

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