

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2020, 5:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor John Dunbar

Staff Present: Glenn Home, Clerk-Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works

1. **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:32 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of May 25, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 25, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Continuing Business**

a. **Update on NSFM Initiatives and Weekly Video Conference**

Mr. Horne noted that the notes that were included in the agenda package from the NSFM weekly call were for information. There were no questions.

6. **New Business**

a. **Budget Deliberations**

Mrs. Duggan introduced the draft budget that was provided to Council in advance of the meeting. Overall, staff were very conservative with their preparation of the budget considering the uncertainty resulting from COVID-19. No changes are proposed to any of the tax rates or sewer utility rates. There was a drop in fire protection - fire hydrant rates for the Fringe and Lower South River areas. A change is proposed to the low-income exemption threshold, to raise the qualifying combined household income.

Mrs. Duggan then went through each section of the revenue budgeted for 2020/21. The Committee was provided with an opportunity to ask any questions after each page. Expenditures were then reviewed in detail. It was noted that the General Operating Miscellaneous includes the \$100,000 contribution committed to Antigonish Affordable Housing. While this is a contribution over five years, auditing requires it all to be attributed to the first year. A revision was noted on page 8 of the budget as reviewed, where an expense was to be changed between two wastewater treatment sites. The Committee was provided the opportunity the ask questions after each page of figures.

Capital projects and Municipal Finance Corporation debt repayment expenses were reviewed in detail. Internal borrowing and repayment were also reviewed in detail.

The floor was then opened for questions. Clarification questions were asked regarding the education costs in the past and current budgets, given the school closures due to COVID-19. Discussion took place regarding the tax deadline and when tax bills are expected to be distributed. The deadline will be set for July 31, 2020, with an interest rate of 6%/a on overdue accounts. Mrs. Duggan gave an

overview of the account balances to give an idea of what reserves the Municipality holds.

Staff was thanked on several occasions for all of the hard work that went into the preparation of the budget.

9. Adjournment

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal
Clerk/Treasurer