

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 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 John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

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 5:35 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. The following additions were made:

- Exit 34 Trees Near Powerline Concern
- Water Rate Study
- Election Questions

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of September 28, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. Mrs. Schumacher noted some spelling errors in the document that will be corrected.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 28, 2020 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Corbett confirmed that there was a post near the location of the requested streetlight at exit 38. Councillor MacDonald asked for clarification on the traffic offences noted in the RCMP report, with particular interest in how many of those infractions were speeding-related, and what infractions occurred on the main arteries into the community.

5. **Continuing Business**

a. **Consideration of an Amendment to the Physician Navigator IMA**

Mr. Horne reviewed an amendment to the quorum terms in the agreement that had been requested during the process of the agreement partners approving the plan.

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve an amendment to the Physician Navigator IMA, as presented.

Motion Carried

6. **New Business**

a. **Consideration of Amendments to the Local Improvements Bylaw**

Mr. Horne reviewed the amendment to the Local Improvements By-law, to add four projects that are, or will be, finished by the end of the calendar year. He explained that the adjustment would also modify the process to create a way, through policy, to provide a placeholder of the estimated local improvements charge for notification of a pending charge as the process is underway. Questions followed.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

That the Committee recommend that Municipal Council give first reading to By-Law #03-2020 Amending the By-Law Respecting Charges for Local Improvements and schedule a public hearing for November 23, 2020.

Motion Carried

b. Hallowe'en Communications Discussion

Mrs. Donovan brought forward a communications plan that has been developed in conjunction with the Communications team at the Town of Antigonish. The option of a mail-out was reviewed, as well as radio ads, the website, and social media. Discussion followed. Staff will pursue an advertisement with Saltwire, the website and social media, schools and radio ads.

c. Aquaculture Liaison Committee Request

Warden McCarron spoke to a request that has been received for the County to advertise on the Municipal website for an aquaculture liaison committee in the community that is looking for community members. Discussion followed. A majority of the committee felt that it would be better not to place the advertisement for liaison committee members on the Municipal website.

d. Discussion of Potential Wetland Compensation in Antigonish County

Mr. Horne provided background to the discussions that have taken place with the Dexter-Nova Alliance regarding wetland compensation as part of the development of the twinning of Highway 104. A list of ideas was shared with the Committee. Councillor Corbett spoke to the Archie's Pond item that was included on the list, to provide additional context and clarification to that item. Councillor MacFarlane suggested that Antigonish Harbour salt marsh as an item for consideration. Members of the Committee were asked to share any additional thoughts or ideas with staff in the next few days, so that they could be shared with the highway developers.

7. Community Events

Councillor MacLellan shared an update about the protocols being utilized at the Arisaig Community Hall.

8. Staff Reports

It was noted that staff reports are in the agenda package for the Committee's information.

9. Additions to the Agenda

a. Exit 34 Trees Near Power Lines Concern

Councillor MacFarlane raised concerns with trees on the power lines at exit 34. Staff was asked to contact Nova Scotia Power to have that remedied.

b. Water Rate Study

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward a question about whether the base rate / consumption percentages proposed by the consultants is the best breakdown. The water rate hearings are scheduled for next week. Mr. Horne will follow-up with the consultants regarding the question raised by Councillor MacFarlane.

c. Election Questions

Councillor Dunbar brought forward some concerns that were raised by the family member of a constituent who is a senior, and asked that, for the future, the Municipality consider electronic voting and also distribute voter cards to those in contested districts. Discussion followed. The suggestions were taken for information for consideration in preparations for the 2024 election.

10. In Camera Items

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Contract Negotiations at 6:44 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the In-Camera session adjourn at 6:57 pm.

Motion Carried

11. Adjournment

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO