

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Special Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, July 26th, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Russell Boucher, Chair
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

Regrets: Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Angus Bowie

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 6:06pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff requested to add as item 11(f) on the agenda a summary prepared by staff regarding the Highway Twinning Feasibility Study, released by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal on July 14, 2016.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Staff indicated that an error in the June 21st minutes had been located and corrected; an incorrect description had been used as a header for a paragraph regarding fire hydrant access.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole minutes for June 21st, 2016 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor MacFarlane asked whether there was anything further to report regarding his question about fire hydrant access on Riverview Lane. Mr. Horne noted that he did not have an update available at this time.

A general update was provided regarding the status of the grant cheque for Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue. The cheque was cut, and was anticipated to be available by the end of the week.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (IN-CAMERA)

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as matters that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session at 6:12pm to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried.

MOVED by Councillor Stewart, SECONDED by Councillor MacFarlane, that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council:

1. *Postpone the Card Lake Wind Project and move forward with Phase One of the Wind Project at Ellershouse subject to:*
 - a. *An Expression of Interest from AREA respecting the purchase of power at the generation rate proposed; and,*
 - b. *A Letter of Offer being obtained from Enercon for the purchase and installation of the wind turbines.*
2. *Authorize the expenditure of funds required for Phase One equal to its share of \$240,000.00 less funds to be transferred from Card Lake Phase One, up to a deposit of \$33,333.00 to NSPI and up to a cash expenditure of \$29,667.00; and,*
3. *Authorize the negotiation of a Power Purchase Agreement or other acceptable contractual arrangement with AREA as per the terms presented in-camera.*

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the In-Camera session be adjourned 6:38pm. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL POLICY REVISIONS

Mr. Horne provided a brief introduction to the revisions made to the Municipal Employee Policy, citing the summary included in the agenda package outlining the policies that were new or revised from the current Policy 5 Employee Handbook. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Horne commended staff for the work that had gone into the collaborative effort to update the personnel policy, with particular mention to Shirlyn Donovan for her work with project coordination and document editing.

MOVED by Councillor MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Deveau, that Municipal Council adopt the Municipal Employee Policy as proposed, and repeal Policy 5 Employee Handbook. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF A WATER METER POLICY

Mrs. Schumacher provided a brief background regarding the intent of the proposed Water Meter Policy as outlined in the Committee of the Whole Memo, and handouts were provided to Council with information on the status of water meter installations with figures from July 25th. Mr. Horne provided some clarification on the term "soft refusal" to be customers that had not responded to the contact attempts made to date.

Councillor Deveau requested clarification regarding how many meters were being installed on a property if it were to have multiple residences (e.g. a house with a tenant unit in the basement). Mr. Horne answered that properties that had one municipal connection for water were being provided with one meter to measure that service, and that landlords could look at their own metering to measure tenant water use if they chose to do so.

Councillor MacFarlane noted that he has heard from constituents that the broadness of a four-hour appointment window has been a concern. Mr. Horne noted that this concern has been brought up with Neptune, and they have noted the challenge with predicting how long an appointment might take because plumbing circumstances could differ from house to house.

A question was asked regarding the number of hard refusals received to date. Mr. Horne noted that none were known of yet, but that Neptune usually encountered an average of 1.5% to 2% with similar projects.

MOVED by Councillor MacDonald, SECONDED by Councillor Deveau, that Municipal Council adopt the Water Meter Policy as proposed. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF A FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE ANTIGONISH SPECIAL HAZARDS RESPONSE UNIT (ASHRU)

Mr. Horne noted that a decision was needed for the long-term funding request made by ASHRU earlier this year. Council decided by consensus that the request would be denied.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TOWN OF ANTIGONISH VFD TANKER TRUCK

Mr. Horne noted that, at a recent joint meeting of Town and County Municipal Councils, the Town of Antigonish gave the Municipality notice that it will be soliciting a contribution for the purchase of a new tanker truck. A formal request and business case are expected. Discussion followed with questions regarding the levies being applied to different districts for fire protection, and what caps exist in different departments. Staff was requested to find out the cap in place and number of County residents for the area of Lochaber served by the Goshen VFD.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF CANADA DAY 150 EVENT PLANNING

Mr. Horne noted that staff has already begun the planning process for the municipal Canada Day celebration for 2017, in part due to the funding deadlines in place for special Canada 150 grant sources and programs. Council was asked to brainstorm ideas for projects that could be done by the County to commemorate the occasion for residents.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Horne read through the Committee of the Whole memo, providing a brief overview of the status of the solar PV system installation, an update on the plan to address the NSE inspection report of the Beech Hill Solid Waste Resource Management Facility, the twelve month notice letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and an update on the status of the sale of the

former correctional facility. Mrs. Schumacher provided a brief update on the status of the funding applications for the Courthouse repairs and tender status.

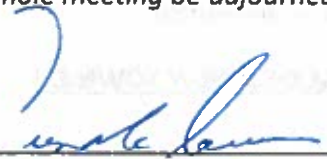
A brief discussion was then held regarding the results of the local improvements letters for proposed curb and gutter work. The summary of responses provide by staff noted that there were no responses of the eight (8) letters that were sent to property owners on Applesed Drive, and of the eleven (11) property owners contacted on Harbour View Drive / Mount Cameron Circle, six (6) responses were in favour, three (3) were against, and two (2) were non-responses, which was short of the 2/3rds approval rate necessary for the project to continue.

Councillor MacDonald expressed concern that some residents may have misplaced the response sheet or may have wanted to submit a response but had not yet had a chance, and requested an extension. The Committee agreed by consensus to provide a two week extension for responses to the letters regarding the proposed local improvements.

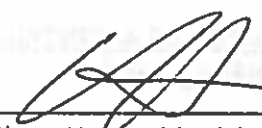
Mrs. Schumacher provided a brief overview of the summary prepared by staff regarding the Highway Twinning Feasibility Study, released by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal on July 14, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Boucher and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:30 pm. Motion carried.



Warden Russell Boucher



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer