

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron, Chair
 Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm (left at 7:45)
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Neil Corbett
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
Meaghan MacNeil, Physical Activity Coordinator

Representatives from the Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue

Regrets: Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Rémi Deveau

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Loan Guarantee for the Aulds Cove Fire Department
- Bank Erosion on the West River

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warden McCarron called three times for any errors or omissions in the March 20th, Committee of the Whole minutes.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor Corbett that the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 20th be approved. Motion carried.

DELEGATIONS

Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue

Representatives from the Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue provided members of the Committee with a brief overview of the history of their operations, and their recent renovations to their facility in Monastery, including the installation of heat pumps, and increases in their membership over the past year. Their plans for additional renovations to the building, as well as their anticipated future equipment needs were also reviewed. Funding currently available to the organization was discussed, and the GS&R representatives noted that they intended to seek funding via a levy via each participating municipality, as opposed to annually applying for grants, and would be making this request to the Mayors & Wardens Committee. Discussion followed. The presenters were thanked, and Warden McCarron noted that their current grant funding request would be considered as part of the budget deliberations.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

AT Priority Setting Update and Recommendations

Ms. Melanson reviewed the staff report that was provided to the Committee. The chart, outlining how the AT Advisory Committee ranked priorities and projects for action this year was discussed. Questions were asked regarding coordination with TIR and timing for requests for widening of roads to include bike lanes, particularly out to the Keppoch where there is a lot of on-road bike traffic now. A question was also raised regarding the definition of Active Transportation; the Advisory Committee will be reviewing this in the future.

Consideration of a Response to MODG Regarding the NS Onshore Petroleum Atlas

The Committee was asked how they would like to approach the request from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough regarding the NS Onshore Petroleum Atlas. Discussion followed regarding options. The Committee decided not to issue a response at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Update

Mrs. Duggan provided the Committee with a brief summary of the PVSC Capped Assessment Comparison (F16/17 vs. F17/18), and assessment information for the 2018/2019 Budget. Discussion about trends, implications, and the notice about increased education costs followed.

Communities in Bloom

Mrs. Schumacher noted that information had been received from Communities in Bloom regarding their annual challenge. Councillors were requested to contact staff if they were interested in further information for their communities.

Discussion Regarding Volunteer Fire Departments

Councillor Corbett enquired whether Council has ever looked at or asked for the guiding policy documents for Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Horne noted the Municipality's financial relationship with these organizations via the role that the Municipality plays in collecting levys on their behalf; as part of this, the Municipality requests their financial statements.

UNSM Request to Include Discussion of UNSM Priorities on Council Agendas

Correspondence attached to the agenda package was reviewed. The Committee identified that cellular and broadband coverage was not included in the list of priorities. Committee members were asked to forward any additional comments that they have to staff.

FCM Conference 2018

The Committee discussed who would be interested in attending the FCM 2018 Conference, which is taking place in Halifax. Warden McCarron and Deputy Warden Stewart indicated that they would like to go. Staff will follow-up with Councillors MacDonald and Chisholm, who were absent for the discussion.

REPORTS FROM INTER-MUNICIPAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

- a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board: Councillor Corbett provided an update on last meeting. Councillor Corbett also provided a summary of the Affordable Housing Workshop that he attended.
- b. Antigonish Arena Commission: this month's meeting is in the process of being rescheduled
- c. Antigonish Crime Prevention: this month's report was included in the agenda package
- d. Eastern District Planning Commission: Councillor MacFarlane provided a brief overview of the last EDPC meeting
- e. Eastern Region Solid Waste Management: an update would be provided at the next CoW meeting
- f. Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network: Mr. Horne provided an overview of the Liaison Oversight Committee on March 29th. St. Mary's and Port Hawkesbury provided notice, in addition to Guysborough and the County. Additional meetings will be held in the upcoming weeks.
- g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library: Councillor MacLellan noted that the next meeting was scheduled for April 12th.
- h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home: Joint Councils will be meeting with the CEO next week.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

It was noted that Bruce Matheson would be presenting at the Antigonish Legion on Friday April 6th at 7pm about Passchendaele.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Horne noted that staff reports were provided in the agenda package.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Loan Guarantee for the Aulds Cove Volunteer Fire Department

The Municipality has been asked to provide a guarantee for a loan sought by the Aulds Cove Volunteer Fire Department, as they look to replace/upgrade some of their fleet.

Moved the Councillor Corbett and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a \$40,000 loan guarantee for the Aulds Cove Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

Bank Erosion on the West River

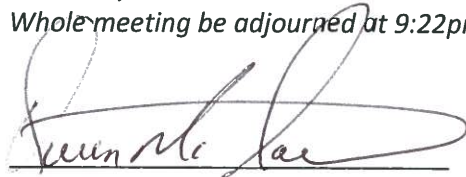
Councillor MacFarlane brought forward an ongoing concern regarding the extent of the bank erosion along the West River near the bridge on the Sunrise Trail/St. Andrew's Street in Greenwold. Discussion

followed. A request was made to send a letter to the local MLA, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Department of Transportation.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Hon. Randy Delory, MLA Antigonish, as well as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Department of Transportation, noting concern with the ongoing erosion of the bank of the West River at the Bridge on the Sunrise Trail in Greenwold. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:22pm. Motion carried.



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer