

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, April 4th, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Russell Boucher, Chair
 Deputy Warden Owen McCarron (left at 7:35)
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Rémi Deveau

Gallery: Irene MacLeod, Strait Region Society for Children, Youth and Families

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Horne noted that item 10 on the agenda was to be moved to follow item 3. The following additions were also made:

- Antigonish Affordable Housing Update
- CoW agenda item
- Cape Jack Pond

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

VITAL SIGNS PRESENTATION

Mrs. Irene MacLeod, on behalf of the Strait Region Society for Children, Youth and Families, provided the members of the Committee with a brief overview of the society's services and their proposal to participate in a Vital Signs project in 2017 with the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. The Vital Signs project creates a single summary document for the community, compiling statistics and information from Statistics Canada and other service providers in the community. This summary document can then be used to inform other projects, including planning and the provision/distribution of services in the community. There is also an opportunity to build a "community fund" to help pay for projects or initiatives identified in the report.

The Strait Region Society for Children, Youth and Families is looking for partners in this project, both in terms of funding and information gathering, and would like the Municipality to consider being a supporting partner and funding partner, with a member of Council sitting on the Committee that is being put together for the project. Additional information will be available when a provincial representative makes a presentation to interested community groups at the library in the next few weeks. General questions about the Strait Region Society for Children, Youth and Families followed. Mrs. MacLeod was thanked for her presentation.

IN-CAMERA: ACQUISITION, SALE, LEASE, AND SECURITY OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY (COUNTY COURT HOUSE; EXHIBITION GROUNDS)

These subject matters fall 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 Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property at 6:05pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the signing of a contribution agreement with Parks Canada's National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places for the funding of a project pertaining to the Antigonish County Court House National Historic Site of Canada. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:49pm. Motion carried.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GRANT BALANCE UPDATES

Mr. Horne reviewed the summaries provided of the distributions of the Special District Grants for 2016/2017, and noted the amounts and priorities that they were being held for in the upcoming year, which were as follows:

District	Balance Remaining	Priority/Priorities
1	\$0	n/a
2	\$8,466	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mini Trail Community Centre • Peak Experiences Antigonish
3	\$0	n/a
4	\$16,844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravelling Somers Road
5	\$1,844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pomquet Community Centre
6	\$11,754	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Andrews 4H • St. Andrews Softball • Highland Curling • St. Andrew's Community Centre • LSR Recreation

7	\$8,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heatherton Community Centre (maintenance, repair, activities), • Heatherton Activity Centre and Group Home (maintenance, repair, activities), • Bayfield Harbour Authority (Coastal Trail)
8	\$8.22	n/a
9	\$19,878	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Havre Boucher Sidewalks
10	\$26,344	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development

Concern was raised regarding the inclusion of the detailed fund summaries online, due to the sensitive nature of some of the items, and this concern was identified as the "CoW agenda item" addition to the agenda. Discussion followed.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Special District Grants balance carry-overs for priorities as identified by each Councillor. Motion carried.

REPORT ON THE WEST RIVER DANGEROUS & UNSIGHTLY FILE

Mr. Horne reviewed an update that had been provided by Sean Donovan regarding the status of the clean-up order at 5417 Highway 7, West River. Mr. Donovan spoke with the exterminator, who verified that efforts to control the rat activity outside of the house were ongoing. A meeting with Mr. Donovan, the exterminator, and the property owner is being coordinated to permit an assessment of the interior of the building. Mr. Donovan is recommending that the clean-up order be extended, with the thirty-day clock beginning once the exterminator has provided staff with a report stating that the dwelling is safe to enter.

DANGEROUS & UNSIGHTLY PREMISES ENFORCEMENT

A conversation was held regarding the Dangerous and Unsightly (D&U) Premises Policy and its requirement for a complaint from a resident to enforce the D&U provisions of the MGA. Staffing considerations, anonymous complaints, and the length of time for issues to be addressed were discussed. Staff will continue to discuss with the EDPC staff that act as the Municipality's D&U administrators.

REPORT ON UNSM ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY WORKSHOP

Warden Boucher provided a brief overview of two presentations that were made at the UNSM's Accountability and Transparency workshop that was held on February 24, 2017. The workshop allowed representatives from various municipal units to discuss the upcoming legislative changes regarding expenses, and to compare how various units throughout the province addressed the reporting of expenses by policy. Discussion followed.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF UNDERTAKING A CORPORATE PLAN

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Horne briefly reviewed several of the updates provided by staff in the agenda memo, including a reminder of the next CEDI workshop, the Saltscapes exhibition happening later in April, an update on the Black River Music Festival permit process, and PCAP funding availability.

Mr. Horne also asked the Committee for a decision regarding the request to purchase advertising space in the Northumberland and Eastern Shore Area Guide. Discussion followed.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan, and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council purchase an advertisement at a cost of \$389 in the 2017 Northumberland and Eastern Shore Area Guide. Motion Carried.

ANTIGONISH AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

Councillor MacDonald provided the Committee with an update regarding the first phase of the Riverside Estates project. The grand opening was held on March 25th and was well attended. Four units were part of the first phase, and all are occupied. The four residents were chosen from 27 applications. The project was on-budget, and utilized local contractors wherever possible. The next phase of the project is in discussion.

CAPE JACK POND

Warden Boucher reviewed an ongoing concern in his district regarding the flooding of properties and the local rink adjacent to the Cape Jack Pond. He has been in meeting with the Department of Environment, and in discussions with other groups, regarding the size of the outlet opening into the Bay and siltation that has blocked overflow from the pond. Warden Boucher noted that a request may come to Council in the near future for an engineering study for the redesign of this outlet, to reduce flooding risk from the pond and to improve the long-term maintenance of the outlet.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:20pm. Motion carried.


Warden Russell Boucher


Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer