

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016 at 5:30pm 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 Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Angus Bowie
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Shirlyn Donovan, Interim Deputy Clerk
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Regrets: Deputy Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:18pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property (In-Camera)
- Reimbursement of Legal Expenses
- RCMP
- Evolve

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole minutes February 16th, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as a matter 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 to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that Municipal Council agree to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Renewable Energy Project. Motion carried.

ACQUISITION, SALE, LEASE AND SECURITY OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as a matter that a committee may discuss in a closed session.

Moved by Councillor Boucher and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:28pm. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROCEDURE

Through its 2014 Priority Setting exercise, Municipal Council identified the development of a Capital Investment Strategy as one of its immediate priorities. Staff have been working on developing such a strategy since the fall. The Committee was provided with a draft Capital Investment Procedure that seeks to outline those strategic and administrative principles that will allow Municipal Council to make informed decisions on capital investment. Staff is looking for a resolution from Council to adopt this procedure.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that Municipal Council adopt the Capital Investment Procedure. Motion carried.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF 2016/17 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

The Committee was provided with a preliminary list of capital investments identified by municipal council and staff. Council was asked to identify further capital investments for consideration as staff develop the capital budget.

Mr. Horne reviewed the consolidated infrastructure inventory with the Committee. Mr. Horne then reviewed the preliminary capital projects list for fiscal 2016/17 budget consideration.

Councillor MacDonald asked Municipal Council to consider the North Grant Water and Sewer extension, Councillor Deveau would also like to see a sewer line extension to South Side Harbour, Councillor Chisholm would like to see a water line extension to Somers Road, Councillor Stewart would be interested in a Gaspereaux Lake Water Utility Expansion. Mr. Horne will take these projects back and develop a business case for each.

COUNCIL REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES POLICY

The Committee was provided with a draft Policy for consideration for Council Member Reimbursement for Meetings and Conferences. Staff recommended that this Policy be approved. An amendment will be made to section 3.5 to make it grammatically correct.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Stewart that Municipal Council approve the Council Reimbursement for Meetings and Conferences Policy. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROJECT: PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Horne reviewed a presentation from Patrick Hartling with SPL Development Services Inc to serve as a progress report for the project. Mr. Horne complimented staff on their engagement through the process. Staff have been very involved and have provided a great deal of feedback.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Municipality has started to make steps toward implementing a Records Management model. Ms. Donovan provided an update to the Committee.

BURMAC CUP

A continuation of the discussion initiated at the Joint Council meeting. Staff will ask representatives from the university and the BURMAC organizers to come and speak to Council.

EXHIBITION USAGE OF THE ANTIGONISH ARENA

Warden Boucher provided an update from the meeting held with the Federation of Agriculture and Exhibition Committee. There was a suggestion that the ENSE change dates, they said they would look into it. It was suggested that ENSE should be paying for some of the cost to remove and replace the ice. Council would like to ask the ENSE for their financial statements.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Horne reviewed some of the items included in the staff report.

Mr. Horne and Daryl Myers met with Stephen Feist and Ken Proctor to further consider our request from July. We received the cost estimate of the desludging of the sewer treatment plant and it came in below budget. They discussed joint planning of water and sewer assets. A sewer update will be given in mid April.

Mr. Horne and Daryl Myers met with Stu Hargraves and Adam Smith, they are moving ahead with an 80 unit senior's housing development in the Mount Cameron area.

REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL EXPENSES

Councillor Stewart declared conflict. Councillor Stewart has incurred legal expenses regarding defamatory comments made in the Casket. A letter to the editor was published with comments which were defamatory and false. Councillor Stewart hired a lawyer to have the statements

retracted. The statements have since been retracted. Councilor Stewart was acting in his capacity as a Councillor and asked that the legal fees which are the range of about \$2000 be reimbursed.

Moved by Councillor Deveau seconded by Councillor Chisholm that Municipal Council cover the cost of legal expenses incurred. Motion carried.

RCMP

Councillor Stewart provided an update from Leanne MacDonald.

EVOLVE

Councillor MacFarlane expressed some serious concerns around the Evolve Festival and there are serious liabilities to the tax payers. He requested to see in writing that the County would not be liable if anything were to happen during the Festival. Mr. Horne said he would get the information from County Solicitor.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:35pm. Motion carried.

Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer