

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 6:30 pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Approval of the November 20, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes
 4. Delegations

There are no delegations.

5. Continuing Business

- a. Broadband and Cellular Advocacy Updates

Staff will provide an update on the efforts made over the last several months regarding cell and broadband service levels and coverage in the community.

6. New Business

- a. NS 55+ Games Society Co-Chair Appointment

The NS 55+ Games Antigonish Society is requesting Councillor Vaughan Chisholm be names Co-Chair with Town Councillor Diane Roberts. The event will take place in Antigonish July 31-August 3 2019.

7. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

- a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
- b. Antigonish Arena Association
- c. Antigonish Crime Prevention
- d. Eastern District Planning Commission
- e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
- f. Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network
- g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library
- h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

8. Community Events

This item provides Councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.

9. Additions to the Agenda
10. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 6:30 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 John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Remi Deveau

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

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 5:57 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Horne requested to move the in-camera items to the beginning of the agenda.

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of November 13, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of November 13, 2018.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 13, 2018 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

In Camera Items

Moved By Councillor Chisholm

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property at 5:59 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the Committee defer all remaining unfinished business on the agenda to the next meeting

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:29pm

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FROM: SHIRLYN DONOVAN
SUBJECT: ***BROADBAND AND CELLULAR UPDATE***
DATE: December 4, 2018

BROADBAND SUMMARY

In December 2017, Municipal Council identified Broadband and Cellular among the top priorities. In March 2018, the province of Nova Scotia announced it planned to spend \$120M to improve internet service for Nova Scotians. This money was placed in a trust which is at an arm's length from government. It has now grown to \$193 million and will be administered by Develop Nova Scotia. Develop Nova Scotia is formally the Halifax Waterfront Development Corporation and is now responsible for leading sustainable development of high potential property and infrastructure across Nova Scotia – all with the view to drive inclusive economic growth in our province. The new mission is to support the creation of sustainable places right across Nova Scotia that attract and inspire people and investment.

Connectivity and accessibility – including Internet connectivity – are important factors in building places where businesses and people flourish. That's why one of the first new projects the Province of Nova Scotia has asked Develop Nova Scotia to take on is designing and managing the implementation strategy for Rural High Speed Internet across the province in connection with the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust.

Their job is to ensure they design and execute an implementation strategy that enables creative problem solving, competitive bids and, ultimately, reliable, high quality, sustainable service levels with maximum coverage. And they want to achieve this while minimizing public investment. They will develop the strategy through meaningful engagement with industry and communities, a transparent and competitive bid process and ongoing public communication, and diligent management of projects.

Throughout the past 6 months Develop Nova Scotia has held 2 stakeholder sessions, one here in Antigonish in August and one in Truro in October. The next session they are hosting is in Guysborough on Friday, December 7th. At this meeting they plan to provide a recap on the feedback and input to date, and lay out their strategy moving forward as they get set to launch the competitive process.

On November 22nd, ESREN organized a meeting with Eastlink here the Municipal Office. Eastlink officials Andy Arseneault and Claudine White review their current coverage in Antigonish and Guysborough County and assured us they are working closely with Develop Nova Scotia to identify solutions in our area. ESREN is trying to coordinate meetings with Bell and Seaside Communications as well.

The CTCRC has also announced \$750 Million in funding to roll out over the next 10 years as part of their Broadband for Rural Internet Access. They will start accepting applications in 2019.

Here are some FAQ's from Develop Nova Scotia's website which help detail the project and give you an idea of expectations:

Frequently Asked Questions

What technologies will be used for Rural High-Speed Internet for Nova Scotia?

We believe a focus on results, not technologies, will facilitate successful rural high-speed Internet roll-out for Nova Scotians. We expect project proponents will suggest technologies and solutions needed to reach comprehensive speed and reliability performance targets, as well as to best facilitate ongoing evolution and upgrade of technologies. The competitive bid process will be finalized based on community engagement and feedback and we expect it will be in market by late fall 2018.

How will you ensure funding recipients deliver what they promise?

We're developing an implementation plan that focuses on outcomes. Past experience by other projects has shown that using iron-clad contracts and service level agreements can ensure results are being delivered by project proponents, now & over lifetime of the contracts. These elements of the process are currently being developed and will be further informed by stakeholder engagement sessions.

How will projects secure funds?

We are developing a competitive bid process to receive proposals which we aim to release late this fall. Our engagement with industry, municipalities and RENOs will inform the design of the competitive process. Successful proponents to this competitive process will be recommended for funding by Develop Nova Scotia to the Trust.

The Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust has a commitment from the province of approximately \$120 million, but the cost to build has been estimated at between \$300-\$500 million?

Nova Scotia has committed approximately \$120 million into the Trust – the largest per capita investment in Canada in rural Internet deployment – it's an important first step. It's important to remember the \$300M – \$500M figure is an estimate of what all parties – private sector, federal government, provincial government and municipalities – will contribute. Financial assembly will be a critical piece of this project – leveraging funding from all possible sources, and we will begin the competitive bid process as soon as possible, which will give us a much better idea of the actual cost of build. At the same time, we'll be looking for additional sources of funding, as will the Province of Nova Scotia.

What are your coverage and speed targets?

We expect high-speed internet to cover in excess of 95% of rural households. We anticipate that we can connect a minimum of 95% of rural households to fibre, cable or fixed wireless service. Most of the rest of rural households will be connected via satellite service. Speed targets are: speeds of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload for wirelines last-mile services; and at least up to 25 Mbps download for wireless last-mile and satellite services.

How will you ensure technology remains current?

We will put in place measures to ensure that networks are built so they can evolve to meet future technology demands.

CELLULAR SUMMARY

Work still continues trying to find avenues to get funding or find alternative solutions for cellular coverage. Although the Rural Internet Trust does not have funds specifically for cellular coverage, bringing fibre into a community can certainly reduce the costs to also providing cellular service. A cellular tower requires a fibre cable to be connected to it so if fibre is run to more places in Antigonish County it should make a better business case for cellular as well.

To date, there are still no funds specifically tied available for cellular projects at the Provincial or Federal level. There are still conversations going on every opportunity we get to reiterate the importance of cellular service in Antigonish County. It is a common theme at the broadband meetings, that where the broadband service is low, so too is the cellular service. Staff have met with provincial officials and have made it clear that cellular service is a major concern in our County for Public Safety, Economic Development and Resident Recruitment.