

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 6:00 pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of May 15, 2019 Special Committee of the Whole Minutes
A copy of these minutes will be provided at the meeting.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. New Business
 - a. Budget Deliberations
Staff will begin the process of reviewing the proposed 2019/2020 budget in detail with the Committee. Materials will be provided at the meeting.
6. Additions to the Agenda
7. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 5:30 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 Remi Deveau
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Neil Corbett
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor John Dunbar

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
 Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

1. 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 5:31pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Three items were added to the agenda:

- household hazardous waste update
- notice of upcoming provincial sessions regarding accommodations
- In Camera discussions - contract negotiations

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of May 7th, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

Moved By Councillor Corbett
Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 7th, 2019 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne noted that a meeting has been booked for Councillors to meet with representatives from the railway company to discuss concerns raised at the May 7th meeting.

5. New Business

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the plan to review the budget over the next week.

a. Community Partnership Grants

Mr. Horne provided a run-through of the summary of the Community Partnership Grant applications received. Each application was evaluated by a staff committee for compliance with the criteria outlined in the policy. Recommendations for proposed grant amounts were presented to the Committee. Discussions followed, and some minor adjustments were made to the recommended distribution of grants. Staff will pass along these figures to the Finance Team, who will incorporate them into the budget for approval.

b. Review of Elective Travel Grants

Mrs. Donovan provided an overview of the elective travel grants initiative that was introduced a year ago as part of the grants policy a year ago. Staff felt that the program had worked well; members of the Committee didn't raise any concerns. The Committee agreed to continue with program for another year.

c. Consideration of Low-Income Tax Exemption Thresholds

Mr. Horne reviewed the recommendation from staff to increase the low-income threshold and exemption amount. Calculations were provided for review, including the anticipated impact to the budget as well as a comparison of the thresholds and amounts given by neighbouring municipalities.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald
Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council increase the Low-Income Exemption Threshold to \$150.00 with a maximum combined household income of \$27,000 for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

d. Tax Billing Due Date and Interest Rates

Mr. Horne spoke to the recommended due date and interest rates for Municipal Taxes.

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council set the due date of 2019/2020 municipal taxes for Friday, June 28, 2019, and that Municipal Council approve maintaining the interest rate on unpaid taxes and sewer bills at a calculation of 6% per annum.

Motion Carried

6. Additions to the Agenda

a. Household Hazardous Waste

Mr. Horne spoke to a proposal to set up a household hazardous waste drop-off facility at the existing Beech Hill Landfill, to replace the annual drop-off shared with the Town where the waste was shipping to Guysborough. The estimated cost would be approximately \$15,000, and the expense would be shared proportionally with the Town based on the number of Town residents using the drop-off. Discussion followed. Consensus was provided to continue with the Town for a written agreement, which would then come back to the Committee for approval.

b. Provincial Consultation on Accommodations

Warden McCarron provided a notice of upcoming provincial consultation by the province for regulations for accommodations, such as bed and breakfasts and AirBnBs, in the Province. The consultation is taking place June 7th in Port Hawkesbury, and June 3rd in Truro.

7. In-Camera Items

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor Mattie

That the Committee move into an in-camera session at 7:37 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the in-camera session be adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Motion Carried

8. **Adjournment**

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer