
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 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 Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Gary Mattie

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

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 5:32pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. The following additions were made:

- Sponsorship Request
- Resident Water Lead Testing Concerns

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of October 29, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 29, 2019 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacFarlane spoke to an article in the Casket regarding the physician recruitment efforts. Warden McCarron provided an overview of community physician recruitment efforts.

Mr. Horne spoke to an item from a previous meeting regarding the development of a unified water utility; an update was provided on efforts to date and staff will report back as soon as they have everything prepared.

5. **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Strategic Priorities Update**

Mr. Horne spoke to the Strategic Priorities process that has happened to date. An update was provided in the agenda package and Mr. Horne provided an overview of each category that document. Discussion followed.

b. **Retirement Award Discussion**

Mr. Horne spoke to a proposed amendment to the Human Resources Policy, to include a clause regarding retirement awards for staff members whose term of employment commenced before January 1, 1997. Discussion followed.

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendment to the Human Resources Policy.

Motion Carried

7. **New Business**

a. **Establishing an Audit Committee**

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the draft Terms of Reference that have been prepared for establishing an Audit Committee. The mandate, composition, frequency of meetings, and staff support were reviewed. Discussion and questions followed.

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proposed Terms of Reference for establishing an Audit Committee.

Motion Carried

b. **Municipal Election 2020 - E-Vote Information Memo**

Mrs. Schumacher provided an overview of the information memo that was provided regarding electronic voting options for the 2020 municipal election. Discussion followed. Staff will report back with further information when it is available.

c. **CTV Christmas Daddies Telethon Donation Request**

The request was considered; a contribution will not be made in favour of local holiday fundraising campaigns.

d. **RK MacDonald Lights of Love Campaign**

The request from the RK Nursing Home Foundation was presented to Council. This year, the campaign is fundraising for dining room and service improvements. In past years, a contribution of \$1000 has been given.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council make a \$1000 contribution to the Lights of Love Campaign.

Motion Carried

e. **Monsignor Hugh Macpherson Knights of Columbus Toy Drive Request**

Mr. Horne reviewed the request received by both the Town and County, to contribute financially to the Toy Drive in the amount of \$200 each.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council make a \$200 contribution to the Monsignor Hugh MacPherson Nights of Columbus Toy Drive

Motion Carried

f. **Streetlight Request - Tracadie Volunteer Fire Department**

Mr. Horne spoke to a concern that has been raised regarding how dark the roadway is at the curve on Highway 4 near the entrance to the new Tracadie Volunteer Fire Department hall, and brought forward a request from that district for a streetlight.

Moved By Councillor MacFarlane

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a streetlight on Highway 4 at the curve in front of Tracadie Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion Carried

8. **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions**

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

No report.

b. **Antigonish Arena Association**

The Arena Board will be notifying summer users of their intent to remove the ice at the arena during the summer months. Opportunities will be made for those summer users to use the ice surfaces across the road at the St. FX auxiliary rink. Opportunities for alternative non-ice activities over the summer months will be explored. A suggestion was made for the Board to consider looking at the safety of the stairs, and suggestions to help improve visibility and slow traffic flow past the arena entrance to improve pedestrian safety.

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

The Board will be meeting later in the week.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

The Board will be meeting later in the week.

e. **Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**

The Committee meeting will be taking place later in the month.

f. **County – Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee**

Band elections will be taking place later in the week.

g. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

Contributions from funding members have allowed the library to be able to provide their staff with a cost of living increase. Updates from the LBANS conference were shared with the Committee regarding the proposed provincial funding formula.

h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The Board meeting will be held later in the week.

9. Community Events

The following community events were highlighted:

- Fri Nov 29 Heatherton Group Home Christmas Concert
- Christmas Parade November 23rd, 6pm
- December 1 Pomquet Seniors Christmas Dinner (ages 60+, residents of District 5)
- December 17 Pomquet Fire Services Children's Christmas Party (Districts 5 and 7)
- December 10 Warden Tour in St. Andrews

10. Staff Reports

Staff reports were reviewed with the Committee.

11. Additions to the Agenda

a. Trade Show Sponsorship Request

A request was brought forward which was received from a number of County businesses who are looking at going in together to highlight the area at the Atlantic Outdoor Sport and RV show. They have requested assistance with some of the cost of the booth, as they are looking to promote the County as well as their businesses.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a sponsorship in the amount of \$1450 towards the cost of a booth at the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV show for a group of Antigonish County representatives.

Motion Carried

b. Water Lead Testing Concerns

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a concern from a District 7 resident regarding their results of a metal test of their private well that indicated high levels of lead. Those residents requested consideration of providing education or information about the importance of testing private wells. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made for the County to share Health Canada resources through the quarterly newsletter and on social media.

12. **In Camera Items**

Moved By Councillor Deveau
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 and Contract Negotiations at 7:14

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Dunbar
Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the in-camera session be adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Motion Carried

13. **Adjournment**

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer