

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, March 7th, 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
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

Regrets: Deputy Warden Owen McCarron

Gallery: Casey Van de Sande, Casey's Vegetables (Antigonish Farmer's Market)
 John Quinn, Quinn Farm (Antigonish Farmer's Market)
 Margaret Cornect, Cornect Family Farm (Antigonish Farmer's Market)
 André Lafrenière, Antigonish Farmer's Market

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:24pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Horne noted that item 10 on the agenda was to be removed, and noted an addition to be inserted as item 8(b). Councillor Deveau requested that an item be added; it was placed as item 8(c).

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 21, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. ANTIGONISH FARMER'S MARKET PRESENTATION

Members of the Antigonish Farmer's Market provided members of the Committee with some preliminary building elevations and a site plan of a proposed year-round market building, as a means of

bringing the Municipality into the loop of efforts by the group to develop a year-round structure. The group gave a brief history of the Antigonish Farmer's Market, and a summary of the efforts to date in the design of the permanent market structure. It was noted that the preliminary plans provided today will be used to develop tender documents that will further inform the project budget, and depending on those figures and the availability of funding, the Market is hoping to have the building started in the next year.

Questions were received from the Committee regarding timelines, funding partners and the anticipated funding mix, what arrangements were to be made regarding Exhibition Week, and Market Vendors (where from, memberships). The group from the Farmer's Market was thanked for their presentation.

6. UPDATE ON CANADA 150 CELEBRATION

Mrs. Melanson provided the Committee with a handout memo and gave a brief summary on staff efforts to date regarding the planning and budgeting of the Municipality's Canada Day celebrations. Further, an update was provided regarding the proposed "legacy" project to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. A list of funding applications, both completed and available for such a project was reviewed with the Committee. Mrs. Melanson also gave an update on the potential timing of a legacy project, noting that the timing of the funding availability makes it more likely that an announcement of a legacy project would happen on Canada Day, as opposed to an unveiling. Details will need to be worked out with the School Board regarding ownership, maintenance and liability if the proposed legacy structure project were to proceed. Mrs. Melanson will provide another update with a staff recommendation at the next Committee meeting.

7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Horne reviewed draft letters for the proposed Somers Road and North Grant water projects, as well as the responses from a survey of other Municipal units that were included in the agenda package. With respect to the survey, Mr. Horne summarized the responses received from the Municipalities of Cumberland, Inverness, Kings and Pictou regarding their Capital Improvements By-laws and experiences. Mr. Horne explained that the draft letters presented were similar to those utilized for past Capital Improvement projects, with the exception of these letters being sent to every "property" in the subject area, as opposed to "residents".

Questions were received from the Committee regarding the timing of the distribution of these letters how future subdivisions would be addressed, the timing of when capital improvement fees are applied when land is subdivided, and how the fees are handled if a property owner sells their lot during the repayment period. Mr. Horne noted that staff would proceed with the distribution of the letters for the two projects identified.

8. (a) STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the tax sale summary provided in the memo, and Mr. Horne and the Committee commended Vera Rhynold, Assistant to the Director of Finance, for all of her efforts over the past six months in coordinating the Municipality's tax sale.

Mr. Horne noted that, with respect to the Town's water rate application, the UARB Hearing is set for April 19th, and the County has Intervenor status in this hearing. Regarding the Provincial MGA review, Mr. Horne noted that Antigonish County's request to have the policy language regarding the application of a Change in Use Tax was referred to the review committee for consideration. Finally, Mr. Horne

noted that there were no updates regarding the ongoing property standards complaint in West River, but with the March 31st deadline approaching, Mr. Horne would coordinate with EDPC to ensure everyone is ready to act once that deadline comes due.

(b) REQUEST TO COVER COSTS ASSOICATED WITH ROAD D-38 TRANSFER

Further to the e-poll that was circulated to the Committee on March 1st, the Municipality has been requested to cover the survey and sales costs associated with the transfer of the road to the Municipality. Mr. Horne noted that this was not something that would typically be covered by the Municipality in similar circumstances; it would be considered to be the responsibility of the other party, but the request was being brought forward for the Committee's consideration. Members of the Committee noted that if they were to make an exception for this particular case, a precedent could be set. Consensus of the Committee was to proceed in the usual fashion, and not cover the expenses as requested.

(c) PETITION FOR INTERNET SERVICE

Councillor Deveau spoke to a petition that he had received from Chelsea Ash, who resides on Provincial Pomquet Beach Road, on behalf of the residents of that road and surrounding area requesting that an Internet service provider in Antigonish (Eastlink or Bell Aliant) provide a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) on Provincial Pomquet Beach Road. Councillor Deveau read aloud the letter from Ms. Ash that accompanied the petition, and requested that Municipal staff prepare a letter supporting this resident request, to be sent to the service providers mentioned in the petition.

9. ACQUISITION, SALE, LEASE AND SECURITY OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY (IN-CAMERA)

11. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (IN-CAMERA)

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 Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Deveau 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 6:48pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:08pm. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:09pm. Motion carried.


Warden Russell Boucher


Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

