
Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm
Council Chambers
Town Hall
274 Main Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 2C4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Mayor Laurie Boucher
Councillor Willie Cormier
Councillor Donnie MacInnis
Councillor Jack MacPherson
Councillor Andrew Murray
Deputy Mayor Mary Farrell
Councillor Diane Roberts

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Gary Mattie

Staff Present: Allison Duggan, Acting Municipal Clerk-
Treasurer, County of Antigonish

Jeff Lawrence, CAO, Town of
Antigonish
Dianne Wilson, Deputy Clerk, Town
of Antigonish

Also Present: Gallery

1. **Call to Order – Mayor Laurie Boucher**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mayor L. Boucher, at 6:01 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Boucher asked for any additions to the agenda.

*“It was Moved and Seconded that the agenda be approved as amended.” **Motion carried.***

3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

*“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Town and County Joint Advisory Committee Minutes of December 4, 2019.” **Motion carried.***

4. **Business Arising from the Meeting Notes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Delegations**

a. **Mr. J. Matheson President Presentation: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59**

Mr. J Matheson presented on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59. He began his presentation with an acknowledgment of the stakeholders of the Legion Heritage Preservation. A history of the WWII Arch and a history of the WWI Cenotaph (currently located at Chisholm Park) was made. It was noted the arch was removed due to safety concerns and is currently in storage.

It was noted Chisholm Park is the current location for the WWI cenotaph and the memorial is held there each year. However, it was stated that Columbus Field would provide a much better viewing experience for all spectators, and it would be ideal to have both monuments in the same location.

An elevation of the proposed relocated cenotaph with WWII and Korean Conflict Plaques along with detailed plans were presented.

Mr. J. Matheson provided Councils with an estimated budget and noted it includes a request of \$24,000 each from the Town and County

Timelines for funding applications, tenders, ground-breaking and prep work, and finishing up preparing the WWI Cenotaph for a move were presented, with a planned Remembrance Day ceremony at the new site on November 11th

Mayor L. Boucher thanked J. Matheson for his presentation and questions and answers followed.

At 6:15 PM the presentation concluded, with Mayor L. Boucher noting their request would be considered during budget deliberations.

b. **R. Fuller, J. Khoury and A. Boyd Presentation: Festival Antigonish**

R. Fuller, J. Khoury and A. Boyd were in attendance to provide details on the up and coming season of Festival Antigonish's Summer Theatre. R. Fuller recognized the support received from the Town, County and community and provided the following details regarding Festival Antigonish:

- Rated among the top 5 summer theatres in Canada
- Winner of the 2017 DEANS award for Festivals and Events
- Average of 6,000 patrons each year
- 40% of patrons come from outside a 58km radius of Antigonish
- Contributes over 1.2 million to Nova Scotia's GDP annually

R. Fuller then reviewed the positive local impact to the community as well as how they give back to the community including ticket voucher donations, relaxed performances, an Access to the Arts program through the local library, 'pay what you can' preview shows and staff vouchers for local hotels, restaurants and stores.

Due to technical difficulty, CAO J. Lawrence agreed to circulate the video that was to be presented to both Councils.

Andrea Boyd presented an overview of the 2019 Season Highlights and provided a reviewed in brief. She noted last year they introduced Theatre on the Town, a devised theatre with original mini plays, at locations within town and county, stating it was a one-time project with funding from the province in 2019. It was noted they are seeking to continue this in 2020 and are requesting municipal support

The 2020 Season was unveiled with a brief overview of each of the venues.

Shows for children were presented and briefly reviewed.

Joseph Khoury took to the podium and reviewed their sponsors noting new ones include Gabrielle's and The Westin (Halifax). He then provided a context of their financials.

Councils were presented their operating budget for 2017-18 and J. Khoury noted the ask is \$20,000 from the town and \$12,000 from the county, an increase of \$5,000 each.

J. Khoury provided details on what they accomplish with the support of the Town and County.

At 6:36 PM the presentation concluded, and a question and answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates and noted their request would be considered during budget deliberations.

c. W. Sandler Presentation: Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition

Wyanne Sandler, Chair of the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition, took to the podium to make her presentation. She provided Councils with their makeup, mission and vision.

Accomplishments to date were briefly reviewed including partnerships with Antigonish Food Security, Antigonish Affordable Housing Society, Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund and the Antigonish Community Transit Society.

Details from a series of People Schools on Poverty were presented with the main concerns identified as housing, food security, and transportation, along with others.

W. Sandler presented statistics respecting poverty, food insecurity, and income assistance.

Statistics related to poverty specifically to the Antigonish area were presented, along with Comments received from local individuals.

Comments from Brock Carleton, CEO of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on Municipal Leadership on Poverty Reduction, were presented.

Copies of '10 Really Good Ideas from Cities Reducing Poverty' were presented and distributed.

W. Sandler noted that there is good news in that the Coalition is ready to partner with existing initiatives such as housing, transportation, food security, and affordable energy projects that can be strengthened and expanded.

Councils were advised that Public Health and the Community Health Boards see addressing poverty as a priority.

W. Sandler stated that we have an engaged community ready to do the work.

W. Sandler wrapped up the presentation noting the request was an ask for support, and provided opportunities for Council to meet on the 2nd Monday of the month from 1-3 PM at library, and a community engagement and discussion on April 28th, noting they would like their plans to fit with the upcoming election.

At 6:59 PM W. Sandler concluded her presentation and a question and answer session followed.

6. Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

7. New Business

a. Regional Climate Partnership (Mayor L. Boucher)

Mayor L. Boucher noted she and the Warden received an invitation from interim President of St. FX President, Kevin Wamsly and noted that as a result, Paqtnkek First Nation, the Town, County and St. FX had looked at things they could do collectively regarding climate change. It was noted they attended a session supported by Intact Insurance, regarding how climate change impacts insurance.

Councils were advised that a couple of projects were brought to the table including a proposed regional climate partnership.

Warden Owen McCarron provided details from a presentation by Dr. Blair Feltmate, as part of Climate Democracy Week, who suggested immediate changes including rain gutters away from buildings and the installation of backflow preventers which can have an immediate impact. He noted Dr. Feltmate is willing

to come back to Antigonish and do pilot project in the community to see what can be done to reduce the impact of climate change. The Warden encouraged everyone to seek out Dr. Feltmate on-line. He spoke further on the next 40 years stating that we have an opportunity and responsibility to take actions toward change.

Mayor Boucher noted the point is to make people aware and provided a couple of examples. She noted this is also part of Provincial and Federal mandates.

Various Councillors provided comment to which the Mayor and Warden responded with positive comments on what the Town and County have done to date. Warden McCarron spoke to lobbying other levels of government for things such as new programs along the line of the existing Home Warming program. Mayor L. Boucher provided further comment.

It was noted by Warden McCarron that Dr. Blair Feltmate would be returning in April.

It was generally agreed that each of the Councils go back and get consensus from their respective Council

8. Adjournment

*“It was Moved and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:17 pm.” **Motion carried.***

Warden Owen McCarron

Mayor Laurie Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

Jeff Lawrence, CAO