

Present:                   Warden Russell Boucher                   Mayor Laurie Boucher  
                              Deputy Warden Owen McCarron       Councillor William Cormier  
                              Councillor Mary MacLellan           Councillor Jack MacPherson  
                              Councillor Donnie MacDonald       Councillor Andrew Murray  
                              Councillor Hugh Stewart           Councillor Mary Farrell  
                              Councillor Vaughan Chisholm       Councillor Diane Roberts  
                              Councillor Rémi Deveau  
                              Councillor Gary Mattie  
                              Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets:                   Councillor John Dunbar                   Councillor Donnie MacInnis

Also present:           Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer (County of Antigonish)  
                              Jeff Lawrence, CAO (Town of Antigonish)  
                              Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk (County of Antigonish)  
                              Ken Proctor, Town Engineer (Town of Antigonish)

Gallery:                   Richard MacKenzie – The Casket

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

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

An amendment was made to switch items 5(b) and 5(c) in the order of new business.

*Moved by Councillor MacPherson and seconded by Councillor Murray that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Warden Boucher called for the approval of the Municipal Council Minutes of January 10, 2017. Mrs. Schumacher noted that an amendment had to been made to the minutes to correct the list of those absent.

*Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Joint Town and County Advisory Committee minutes of January 10, 2017 be approved as amended. Motion carried.*

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Mr. Horne noted that an update on the review of the Antigonish Arena Governance model. Municipal Affairs has reached out to the three recreation centres / arenas that are shared between municipal units to clarify details around their governance structure and composition. They've heard back from one and are setting up meetings to get the qualitative perspective and are working toward a draft report in mid-March. Councillor MacPherson noted that his name was missing in the arena notes because he arrived late.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Update on the Town / Fringe Sewer System Assessment

Mr. Proctor provided members of the Committee with a brief overview of the status of the Environmental Review Assessment (ERA) underway at the Town/Fringe sewer plant. At this time, the process is waiting for the Province to determine whether their guidelines will be amended to be more in line with what is required in New Brunswick and Quebec. Mr. Proctor noted that the report completed by NaTech as part of this process had identified that the current plant was doing well when compared to similarly designed systems in the province.

Members of the Committee asked Mr. Proctor for clarification on matters including sludge use, capacity planning, old line locations, and the benefits of a mechanical plant vs. a lagoon arrangement. A timeline was provided to the Committee, noting that the next planned update on the project is anticipated to take place in July 2017.

### Discussion of an Accessibility Awareness Day

Councillor Mattie provided the Committee with some background on an accessibility awareness exercise that he had been involved in with a group in Halifax. The exercise is intended to provide members of a Council with an awareness of the challenges faced by those who need to use mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, by having them go through their regular daily routine using one.

Having such a challenge in Antigonish, involving the municipalities as well as the University and other groups in the area, is something that Councillor Mattie would like to see happen in the future. Members of the Committee voiced their support and desire to be involved, and a joint Town and County accessibility committee was suggested.

### Discussion of an Off-Leash Dog Park

Councillor Cormier provided an update on the status of discussions regarding a potential off-leash dog park in the Town. A committee has been struck, and a meeting held with representatives from both the Town and County attending. The Town has identified an ideal location for a potential dog park, but is not far enough in the negotiation process to be able to publically share that location.

A question was asked about why the County would be interested in an off-leash dog park, given the rural nature of the municipality. The project was identified as a good opportunity to work together, and residents in the Fringe and travelers through the area may be interested in such a park. Further updates will be provided to the group when they become available.

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

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as a matter that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session.

*Moved by Roberts and seconded by Councillor Cormier that the Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property at 7:02pm. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:09pm. Motion carried.*

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Murray that the Joint Council Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:10pm. Motion carried.*

*FOR* **Warden Russell Boucher**

**Mayor Laurie Boucher**

**Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer  
County of Antigonish**

**Jeff Lawrence, Town of Antigonish CAO**