

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were:           Warden Russell Boucher, Chair  
                              Deputy Warden Owen McCarron  
                              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  
                              Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Regrets:                 Councillor Mary MacLellan

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:53pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The following modifications were made to the agenda:

Removal of item 6 – Williams Point Memorial Park water bill

Addition of item – New Year's Levy

*Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 1, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENTS**

Mr. Horne introduced his presentation, noting that it was to “set the table” for the process of kicking off the development of a three-year capital plan. The presentation provided a brief summary of some of the capital assets that the Municipality holds, and gave an overview of the current process of planning for capital spending. Mrs. Duggan spoke to the slides in the presentation addressing liabilities and depreciation, giving members of the Committee a brief

explanation of depreciation and how it is represented and accommodated for in the budgeting process.

Further explanation and discussion took place regarding liabilities; what they entail, and how they are funded. Mrs. Duggan noted that this year, the Municipality is retiring over \$300,000 of internal debt and over \$400,000 in Municipal Finance Corporation (MFC) debt. The current practice of the Municipality is to apply any budget surpluses that may be realized against its internal debt in order to pay that down faster.

The discussion then turned to the capital indicators, provided by the Province, to review trends within our organization, and when we are compared to other similar-sized rural units. The indicators show that we are doing well, considering that while we are a rural municipality, we operate with town-like expenses due to the capital assets that we have.

Councillor MacFarlane asked whether any capital projects had been funded by the process outlined in the Local Improvements By-law. Mr. Horne noted that of the three projects that had been proposed to do so, only one (the repaving of Alex Terrace) had successfully garnered the support needed by the impacted residents. Staff is looking to change the approach to Local Improvements, by soliciting the required resident support for a project before budgeting for the expense, so as not to budget and "not spend" the funds for these types of projects.

Councillor MacFarlane expressed a concern with the local improvements process, feeling that it hinders development in that it can exceed affordability for some residents, and the improvements made are raising assessments anyways. Staff was asked to determine the average increase in a property's assessed value if water service was provided. Mr. Horne noted that staff can do some background work on options regarding local improvements, and bring that information back to the Committee for further discussion.

Mr. Horne reviewed the proposed timeline for the project, and the stages when information is expected to come back to the Committee for their information and consideration.

### **NEW YEAR'S LEVY**

Mr. Horne read aloud a message received from St. Ninian's inviting Council to consider holding the New Year's Levy at their meeting hall this year. Councillor MacFarlane noted that it was the Legion that started the annual levy, and that he wouldn't want to see us change the location to move that away from them. Deputy Warden McCarron asked whether the invitation was to source a potential rental income, or if it was a goodwill gesture. Mr. Horne re-read the correspondence but an answer was not explicitly clear in the wording used in the letter and follow-up would be required. Warden Boucher noted that the Town had received the same invitation, but was thinking of staying with the Legion. Councillor Chisholm suggested that someone touch base with the Legion to check on their plans. The Committee indicated a preference to remain at the Legion location. A response would need to be sent to St. Ninian's.

### **STREET LIGHT REQUESTS**

Streetlights have been requested for installation at three (3) intersections in the County, and the Councillors requesting the lights feel that they meet the criteria for installation. The intersection in question are:

- a. Hwy 4 & Melong Road
- b. Fairmont Road & D. Cameron Road
- c. Hwy 337 & Jimtown Road

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of streetlights at the intersections of: Highway 4 and Melong Road; Fairmont Road and D. Cameron Road; and, Highway 337 and Jimtown Road. Motion carried.*

#### **CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

Mr. Horne provided a summary of the remaining boards and committees that require representation from members of the Committee. The remaining openings were filled following some discussion and encouragement.

*Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Committee and Board Appointments for members of Council, as amended. Motion carried.*

#### **CLERK'S MEMO**

Mr. Horne provided a brief overview of the items listed in the Clerk's memo section found in the agenda package.

#### **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 Councillor MacFarlane 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 at 7:18pm. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a purchase and sale agreement for Lot 5A in the Municipal Industrial Park. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:23pm. Motion carried.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:24pm. Motion carried.*

  
Warden Russell Boucher

  
Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer