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## Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm  
2752 Ohio East Road  
St. Joseph's, NS  
B2G 2K8

Present were: Mayor Laurie Boucher  
Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray  
Councillor Sean Cameron  
Councillor Willie Cormier  
Councillor Mary Farrell  
Councillor Donnie MacInnis  
Councillor Diane Roberts  
Warden Owen McCarron  
Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart  
Councillor Shawn Brophy  
Councillor Remi Deveau  
Councillor John Dunbar  
Councillor Gary Mattie (via Zoom)  
Councillor Harris McNamara  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
Councillor Mary MacLellan

Staff Present: Jeff Lawrence, CAO  
Dianne Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
Kate Gorman, Communications  
Glenn Horne, CAO Mun. of the  
County of Antigonish

Also Present: Delegates  
Media

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mayor L. Boucher, at 6:04 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 September 16, 2020.” Motion carried.*

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

There was no business arising from the meeting notes.

As staff dealt with a communications issue Mayor Laurie Boucher introduced the New Business which had been added to the Agenda.

### 5. **New Business**

African Heritage Month – Mayor Laurie Boucher noted virtual African Heritage events are ongoing and are reaching many more people. She encouraged those present to continue to help celebrate African Heritage Month.

St. FX Update – Mayor L. Boucher advised that she and Warden McCarron had attended a meeting with the University staff and acknowledged what both students and residents have

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accomplished during the Covid pandemic, and the positive work and actions that continue to occur during these trying times.

Mayor Laurie Boucher spoke to remaining vigilant and leading by example, noting the NS Health Authority will be carrying out vaccinations at the University in the near future.

## **6. Delegations**

Prior to each presentation CAO J. Lawrence advised the delegates that each presentation would be limited to 15 minutes with time for questions and answers to follow.

### **a. Fraser Dunn – Graveyard Restoration**

Fr. D. MacGillivray spoke briefly on ongoing restoration projects.

Mr. Mike MacDonald presented to Council on the St. Ninian's Parish Pioneer Cemetery Heritage Project Main Street Site and stated they wish to create a beautiful space to recognize the pioneers buried there who have helped build our community.

A site map was presented of the area. An overview of the area and surroundings was presented. Mr. MacDonald noted the intent is to upgrade the green area and re-stand the headstones. Details on the history of the first Catholic Church the communities, and education were presented. Community stakeholders were recognized.

A concept drawing was presented including trees and greenspaces, with the hope of including kiosks.

Councils were advised that the estimated cost for the project is \$260,000 and that the group is seeking \$10,000/year for three years from both the Town and County. Details on the phasing of the project were presented. An overview of the proposed timeline was presented.

Mayor Laurie Boucher opened the Floor to questions from Councils.

Mayor Laurie Boucher commended F. Dunn for the work he has done on the project.

### **b. Maddona Van Vonderen – Antigonish Community Transit**

Madonna Van Vonderen Executive Director and Rachael MacFarlane Board Member provided a history of Antigonish Community Transit and its Mission.

Details on current staff, drivers and Board of Directors was presented. The delegates noted new Board members are always welcome.

Information on the current fleet of vehicles was provided. It was noted the group has purchased a new 2021 8-passenger accessible van, and the County was recognized for their assistance with the purchase.

Councils were advised that the group was awarded charitable status in February, that the Sister's of St. Martha's has made a 5-year commitment of \$100,000. It was noted that Antigonish Community Transit has registered with Canada Helps (for charitable donations). Funding sources were presented and briefly reviewed. Ridership numbers and revenue details were provided, and it was noted that the 'fixed route' is their biggest challenge.

A question-and-answer session took place.

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**c. Introduction of Hayston Lam, AREMC**

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Mr. Hayston Lam, Antigonish Regional Emergency Measures Coordinator for the Town, County and St. FX University.

Hayston Lam noted that is the first time this has been a full-time position. He provided an overview of the emergency management program, noting he works on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The organizational priorities were presented, and a brief overview provided.

An overview of stakeholder coordination was presented and reviewed including primary responsibilities and areas for opportunity. Councils were provided with next steps for stakeholder coordination. The primary responsibilities and areas of opportunities for comfort centres was presented.

An overview of the existing emergency plan (which is to be overhauled) was provided.

It was noted that the emergency plan is also shared with the CAO's, who also have the ability to access details. A brief review of training and exercising was provided.

Hayston Lam noted that training for Mayor and elected officials will take place on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 PM at 285 Beech Hill Road.

A question-and-answer session followed.

**d. Sarah O'Toole – Antigonish Community Navigator**

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Sarah O'Toole (Community Navigator) and Wayne Ezekiel (Chair, St. Martha's Regional Hospital Foundation) to the meeting.

It was noted the endowment fund has now reached 19 million dollars and is now 1 million dollars away from their goal.

Sarah O'Toole noted a handout was previously distributed. She thanked the Town, County and Foundation for bringing the position to reality, and recognized the support that is available to her. Sarah O'Toole noted she is well on the path to getting everything underway.

Sarah O'Toole noted she has been working closely with those involved to this point and reviewing her next steps. Councils were advised that 8 or 9 positions have been filled in the past year or so. She noted she is trying to determine how the various stakeholders work as well as various pathways that physicians can take in looking to practice in Nova Scotia.

Sarah O'Toole noted she will attend her first board meeting tomorrow.

A question-and-answer session followed.

**e. Reema Fuller – Festival Antigonish**

R. Fuller and A. Boyd were in attendance to present to Council. A PowerPoint was presented including the 2020 pandemic impact. It was noted that the stage remained dark, and that they were unable to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program.

Details were provided on a six-part radio play, pod casts, zoom plays, video concerts workshops and more. A short video was presented on a partnership with Keppoch Mountain featuring Robin Hood, the Great Escape, coming in August 2021.

Andrea Boyd spoke to the action/adventure, cast members and community members. Councils were presented with an outline of opportunities for people to get involved, as well

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as the risks involved. It was noted that due to the pandemic tickets will be limited. Partnerships involved with the program were presented.

It was noted a video release had garnered great response and that media is assisting in spreading the news.

Councils were advised that applications for funding will be submitted to both Town and County with an ask of community partnership of \$15,000 each and transit assistance of \$2,500 each.

A question-and-answer session followed.

**7. Continuing Business**

There was no continuing business.

**8. New Business**

**a. St. FX Update**

Previously discussed.

**b. African Heritage Month**

Previously discussed.

**9. Adjournment**

*"It was Moved and Seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 pm." **Motion carried.***

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Mayor Laurie Boucher

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Warden Owen McCarron

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Jeff Lawrence, CAO

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Glenn Horne, CAO