

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 6:51pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. One addition was made:

- An additional streetlight at Summerside Road / Bayfield Cross Road Intersection

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of February 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor MacFarlane asked for an update on the West River Bridge construction project. Mr. Horne noted that he had spoken to Paul Colton from the Department of Public Works; a pedestrian option on the temporary bridge is being explored, and snow removal concerns for a long-term pedestrian solution are being looked at. Councillor MacFarlane enquired to the Committee about whether there would be an interest in having staff make contact with the Province to enquire about the long-term plans for the lands that were acquired for the temporary bridge. Direction was provided to staff to make those preliminary enquiries.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

New Business

Municipal Audit Committee Re-Appointment

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the recommendation from staff to re-appoint Mr. Mattie to the Municipal Audit Committee for another one-year term, ending in February 2023.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the re-appointment of Robert Mattie to the Municipal Audit Committee, for a one-year term ending February 2023.

Motion Carried

EDPC Staff Appointments

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the request from the Eastern District Planning Commission to appoint the identified staff members to the serve in the positions noted on behalf of the Municipality.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the annual appointments of Eastern District Planning Commission staff to Municipal positions, as proposed.

Motion Carried

Extension of Community Partnership Grant Funding - St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre

The St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre is requesting to extend grant into the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Deputy Warden Stewart outlined how preliminary work has been done on the project but gathering limits and restrictions have made it difficult for the group to meet.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves carrying over the grant allocation of \$50,000 for the St. Joseph's Community Centre to the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

Streetlight Request - Gorman Road

Councillor Dunbar requested a streetlight on the Gorman Road at the entrance to the ballfield. He noted that this location can be quite dark when those attending games on the field are looking to leave afterwards. The location is close to two other driveways, near the railway tracks.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the installation of a streetlight on the Gorman Road at the driveway entrance to the ballfield.

Motion Carried

Streetlight Request - Summerside Road and Bayfield Cross Road

Councillor Dunbar requested a streetlight at the intersection of Summerside Road and the Bayfield Cross Road.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a streetlight being installed at the intersection of Summerside Road and the Bayfield Cross Road.

Motion Carried

Summerfest Songs and Stories Sponsorship Request

Mr. Horne reviewed a media sponsorship request that has been received by Summerfest for a Songs and Stories series that will be filmed in the community and broadcast later in the year. Staff is recommending that the requested \$2500 media sponsorship be provided.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a \$2500 media sponsorship to Summerfest the Songs and Stories series.

Motion Carried

Volunteer Fire Department Long Service Awards

Mrs. Schumacher provided an overview of the request received from the Tracadie Volunteer Fire Department for the Municipality to purchase medals for those members qualifying for long-service awards. Staff provided information about the CVFSA medals, including membership and medal costs, as well as an overview of programs used by other municipalities in the province. Direction was provided to staff proceed with Option 2, to work with Fire Departments to Administer CVFSA long-service medals. Staff will follow-up with local fire departments and report back to the Committee with program details and a budget.

Review of Proposed NSFM Changes

Mr. Horne spoke to a presentation that was included in the agenda package that outlines the changes that are proposed to be made to the NSFM. Clarification of membership, transitioning to regional representation instead of urban/rural caucuses, and the use of strategic priorities instead of the resolution process for areas of municipal interest are the big changes that were outlined. Formal consultation is expected to take place in the upcoming months, but Mr. Horne invited any discussion or comments that staff would keep track of.

Discussion of Fireworks Bylaw

Warden McCarron has been contacted by a constituent with concerns about the effect of informal community fireworks and the effects that they have on cattle on nearby farms. Members of the committee were invited to provide their thoughts. Examples of random fireworks use in the community were shared, as well as the incidents in the valley on New Years Eve when a horse was injured after fireworks went off. The issue of enforcement was raised. Councillor MacFarlane noted that fireworks are identified in the Noise By-law. Further discussion followed.

Discussion about Bell Aliant Service in the County

Councillor McNamara has had six seniors in his community who have had ongoing issues with their phone services, including one senior whose services was out for weeks until the local MLAs office became involved. Even Councillor McNamara's internet and landline were out for 2.5/3 weeks before it was repaired. The contracting services that are utilized by Bell Aliant are felt to be causing delays to repairs. A request was made to have a discussion about whether it would be worthwhile to write to Bell Aliant to request that the installation of Fibre services to upgrade the voice and internet services in the community not be pushed off any further.

In a roundtable of the committee was held, and similar stories throughout the community were shared. A suggestion was made to send a letter to ask a representative from Bell Aliant be to come to Council to hear the community concerns first-hand.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

No report.

Antigonish Arena Association

The association met on February 10th. Upcoming work will take place when the weather improves. The canteen was not able to be open under the previous public health guidelines, but the vendor who was there before 2020 will be contacted to follow-up on their lease. Further updates on funding, improvements to the facilities, and the impact of Covid restrictions on cancellation hours was presented. A draft budget has been presented and approved by the Board. Concerns that were raised at a previous Committee meeting regarding accessibility at the arena were raised with the Board; parking spaces will be reviewed by the Town Engineer, and the Arena Manager will review opportunities inside.

Antigonish Crime Prevention

No meeting.

Eastern District Planning Commission

The next commission meeting will be in mid-March.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

Met on February 17th. The new coordinator/educator, Tanya Williams, has been hired and Nicole sent her thanks for the letter from Council. Further updates regarding Extended Producer Responsibility for Printed Paper and Packaging, the Clean Intern Application, and recent visits to Teasdale Apothecary were provided. Next meeting is Thursday, March 31st.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

No meeting.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

No update.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

No update.

Consolidation Steering Committee

The Committee has met twice since the last update. Mr. Horne noted that the agendas from those meetings will be circulated in a separate email to the Committee. Warden McCarron noted that the workshop will take place on the 23rd. Councillor McNamara asked to have Warden Vernon Pitts come to speak to the group. A roundtable was held to see whether the group wanted to meet with Warden Pitts. A majority of the committee members felt that situation in Guysborough with Canso differed from the consolidation being explored between the Town and County. Those who want to meet with Warden Pitts were invited to do so if they wished.

Community Events

There were no events to report.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no further additions to the agenda.

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

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 8:00pm.

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:24pm.

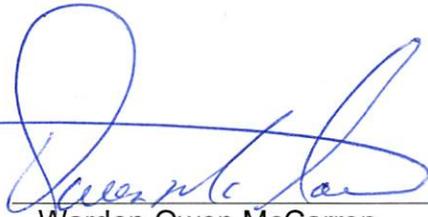
Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:24pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO