

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 5:30 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 Shawn Brophy
 Councillor Remi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Harris McNamara
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Also Present: Mike MacDonald, Pioneer Cemetery

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 5:32pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Two additions were made:

- Nova Scotia Public Works Discussion
- Fire Letter

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of February 22, 2022 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 22, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne provided an update regarding follow-up that has been done regarding the West River Bridge discussion held at the last meeting. The response provided by the NS Department of Public Works was shared with the Committee and discussion followed. A suggestion was made to forward the ideas for creating an access point to the river to Recreation staff for input and suggestions.

An update was also requested regarding the letter to Bell Aliant to discuss phone and Internet concerns and to invite a representative to come to a future Council meeting. Staff will follow-up on the status of that correspondence.

Delegations

Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Committee

Mr. Mike MacDonald provided members of the Committee with an overview of the restoration project that is taking place at the pioneer cemetery. Partnerships, work done to date, and plans for future stages were reviewed. To date, 704 hours of volunteer work has been undertaken. The project budget and fundraising goals were shared with the Committee. A thank-you to those who have been helping with the Committee and the project was provided by Mr. MacDonald. Warden McCarron then opened the floor for questions and comments. Councillor MacFarlane shared his thanks to Mr. MacDonald and the other volunteers and committee members for all of the work that is being done on the project.

Continuing Business

Debrief of Consolidation Joint Council Workshop

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the information sheets that have been developed in preparation for the upcoming public consultation stage. The fact sheets will be available on the website as well as at the planned open houses. The content from the fact sheets will also be included in the next edition of the County Connect. A draft of the updated Guiding Principles was provided for review as well. Discussion followed.

Councillor McNamara shared his plans to post information on his website and was asked to direct those asking questions or looking for information to the Antigonish.ca website as well so that their feedback is going directly to the consultants facilitating the public consultation as well.

Councillor Dunbar expressed that he wished that the session could have been longer to allow for more discussion amongst the group. Councillor McNamara shared some information from some further reading he had done regarding the Queens consolidation.

New Business

Road Name Change Petition - Homestead Lane

Mr. Horne reviewed the proposed renaming of an unnamed private road to Homestead Lane.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves renaming a private road to Homestead Lane.

Motion Carried

Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links

Councillor Deveau spoke to the sponsorship information found in the agenda package regarding the Bonvie-MacDonald Rinks to Links 2022 tournament. A list of the charities supported by the event was reviewed. In the past, the Municipality has supported the event as a Tournament Friend.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the Municipality providing sponsorship as a Tournament Friend (\$1800) to the 2022 Bonvie-MacDonald Rinks to Links golf tournament.

Motion Carried

Discussion of Support for Ukraine

Warden McCarron provided a review of discussions he has had with the Town and St. FX University to provide support to the Canadian Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Appeal Fund. Consensus was provided by Council to continue discussions with those groups to organize making a joint donation to the appeal fund.

Warden McCarron also reviewed a letter received earlier in the day, outlining how several community groups are looking to organize a drive to collect clothing and medical supplies to send to those in need in Ukraine or who have evacuated from Ukraine. Deputy Warden Stewart volunteered to attend the organizing meeting on behalf of Council.

Community Events

- Councillor McNamara shared that the community centre is giving out rapid tests later in the week, and a vaccine clinic is being planned in Havre Boucher on the 14th of March.
- Councillor Dunbar shared that on May 14th there will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of 4H in Heatherton - tickets are for sale at the Heritage Museum for a fundraiser quilt.
- Councillor Brophy shared that he had heard that the Highland Games are planned to proceed this year.
- Councillor Mattie shared some information about an upcoming local talent concert in an Irish stew dinner on March 13 at the Tracadie Hall starts at 2 o'clock to 430 for the concert from 430 to 6 o'clock for the supper. Tickets are \$10 for the concert, \$12 for supper.
- Warden McCarron shared his attendance at flag raisings for African Heritage Month and to express support for Ukraine.
- This weekend screenings will be taking place of Dawn, her Dad, and the Tractor at the Schwartz Centre. The Friday show is sold out so far. Discussion followed about where in the community scenes of the movie were filmed.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne provided some highlights from the staff reports. The upcoming retirement of Vera Rhynold, Assistant to the Director of Finance, was shared with the Committee. Details about the upcoming Housing Forum, scheduled for Friday, March 11th was also shared. Mr. Horne noted upcoming changes that are expected to take place to reflect the changes anticipated to come into effect on March 21st when the province moves to the next stage of reopening. Councillor McNamara requested an update on IT staffing support, and Councillor MacDonald asked for an update regarding the re-staffing process for the EMC position.

Additions to the Agenda

Department of Public Works Discussion

Councillor Dunbar brought forward some concerns raised by his constituents regarding the condition of roads in his district. He has been in touch with the NS Department of Public Works as well as with the staff from the local MLA. The direction provided through that chain of discussion is to encourage that Councillors and residents with concerns continue to contact the Operations Contact Centre to ensure that there is a paper trail for any concerns. Discussion followed. A question was asked regarding how to find out what budget monies are allocated to the area for roads works. Further discussion took place, and staff were asked to write a letter to the Department to request local budget information.

Councillor MacFarlane left the meeting at 6:39pm.

Fire Letter

Mr. Horne reviewed a fire letter received from PVSC regarding a property that was destroyed on Walsh Post Road. A write-off of \$25.01 is being recommended based on the correspondence from PVSC.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a write-off in the amount of \$25.01 for AAN 07142145, Walsh Post Road, Fairmont.

Motion Carried

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 6:47pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session be adjourned at 6:54pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the proposed contract with Colchester County for Recyclable Materials.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:55pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO