

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 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 (by Zoom)
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
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 6:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

- In camera item - Contract Negotiations

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of March 8, 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 March 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne provided an update regarding the Municipality's support for Ukraine, and the discussion regarding a joint donation with the Town and St. FX. Where the Federal Government has reached their limit for matching donations, Deputy Warden Stewart has been looking into working with a community group that is fundraising to contribute funds to the Red Cross as well, as a united community donation. Consensus was provided by Council to make a donation through a local group to the Red Cross as part of a community fundraising effort.

Delegations

Antigonish Boat Club and Kayak Group

Stephen Feist and Claire MacDonnell provided a presentation to the Committee on the Antigonish Boat Club Kayak Project. The boat launch at the Boat Club was identified as an opportunity to look at a kayak program. The group has partnered with Ecole Acadienne du Pomquet to obtain a JumpStart grant to purchase a number of new kayaks. Opportunities for additional programming partnerships in the community were reviewed. A tentative budget for the project was provided. A grant of \$15,000 has been received by the Canadian Tire Jump Start Program, and a request of \$7,000 is being made to each of the Town and County Councils. The funds are intended to be used for the purchase of equipment for the program.

The floor was then opened up for questions. Questions were asked about potential numbers and age ranges for participants, both daily and through the season. Several members of Council expressed that they thought that the proposed program is a good idea, and additional locations for sessions were suggested in the community. A question was also asked about plans for allowing for accessible access to the program as well. The Boat Club representatives were thanked for their presentation, and the request for funding will be made as part of the review of their application to the Community Grants Program.

Continuing Business

Debrief of Housing Forum & Discussion of Next Steps

Mr. Horne provided a summary of the housing forum that the County held earlier in the month, where a variety of presenters from community, public sector and private sector provided their thoughts and feedback on housing challenges in the community. Before moving to developing some next steps, members of the Committee were asked for their feedback. Councillors who provided comments mentioned the red tape tied to funding, the quality of the presentations provided, and the opportunities for future projects. Staff was thanked for the work done to put the event together.

Mr. Horne reviewed the next steps that had been identified at the forum. He noted that during the day, opportunities for collaboration between groups to address challenges that have been identified. There appears to be a desire for the municipality to act as a convenor to facilitate discussions between groups as they collaborate. Further, the Municipality can look at opportunities to improve processes within its ability to support affordable housing initiatives.

Update on RCMP Traffic Unit & District Office

Mr. Horne provided an update on the RCMP's intention of looking to relocate the Traffic Unit and District Office to at the Albion Business Park in Stellarton. A letter was provided earlier in the month to Superintendent MacDougall expressing concerns with the proposed relocation. Following-up to that letter, the Town and County have been requested by Superintendent MacDougall to prepare a letter to share with the RCMP and Department of Justice to voice concerns with the possibility of those officers and units moving to Stellarton from Antigonish. A draft letter was provided to the Committee of their review. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to copy both area MPs as well so that they're aware of the concern. Consensus was provided to send the letter as proposed.

New Business

Review of Draft Accessibility Plan

Councillor Mattie introduced the Draft Accessibility Plan that has been prepared by staff and reviewed by the Municipality's Accessibility Committee. The plan has been prepared in response to the Accessibility Act that was passed in 2017. Ms. Feltmate then provided further detail on the draft plan. Once approved, the plan will be formatted by a graphic designer in a manner that makes the document as accessible as possible. The vision and commitment was read for the Committee, and staff highlighted the six areas of focus of the plan as well as the definition of accessibility as found in the Accessibility Act. Ms. Feltmate also noted where the implementation

of the features from the plan were outlined. The Accessibility Committee has made a recommendation for the plan to be approved and forwarded to the Province, and that Committee's report can be added to the Special Council Meeting if Council wishes.

Discussion of Approach to Community Investments Over \$20,000

Mr. Horne noted that there is not a specific intake or process for applications for community investments in excess of \$20,000 in the Community Partnership Grant Process. A question was asked of the Committee whether there is a desire to establish a process for the review and consideration of funding requests of this nature. Concern was raised where existing capital grant stream for the Community Partnership Grant Program caps at 1/3 of a project cost up to a cap of \$20,000, which can pose challenges for larger projects where that amount would represent a smaller percentage of their project budget. A suggestion was made that larger projects be capped at a level closer to \$50,000. Support was expressed to develop a process for evaluating such requests. Discussion followed. Staff was asked to develop some options for consideration by the Committee.

Financial Support for Central Field Light Replacement

Mr. Horne provided some background on a project to replace the lights at the Central Field, which came about when one of the lights fell in 2021 and the lights were identified as all needing to be replaced. The lights have been replaced by the Town, and a contribution by the Municipality is being requested to assist with the cost of the work due to this being a highly, and jointly, used facility by the Town and County. Staff are suggesting a contribution of at least \$50,000 towards the project.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves a \$100,000 contribution to the Central Field Light Replacement Project.

Motion Carried

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4th.

Antigonish Arena Association

The next meeting will be scheduled near the end of the next season.

Antigonish Crime Prevention

A meeting is scheduled for the last week of March to prepare for the upcoming AGM.

Eastern District Planning Commission

The meetings have been rescheduled several times due to not being able to make quorum, and a meeting will be held on March 29th.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

There was no meeting this month.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

There was no meeting this month.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The next Board meeting will be on March 23rd.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

There is no meeting scheduled.

Consolidation Steering Committee

The Steering Committee hasn't met in the last two weeks.

Community Navigation& Physician Retention Services Association

Mr. Horne provided an update on the addition of standing item on the Committee reports and provided an update on work done with the Community Navigator over the past few weeks in crafting a strategic priorities document.

Community Events

The following updates were provided by members of Council.

- Councillor Dunbar noted the following:
 - He attended the Powwow at Paqtnkek on March 20th.
 - Saturday May 14th is the 100th anniversary of 4H in Nova Scotia celebration.
- Councillor McNamara noted the following:
 - He shared that the Cape Jack Beach project received funding from the Federal government for accessible facilities and landscaping.

- A recent vaccine clinic in the Havre Boucher community had excellent turnout, and rapid test kits were distributed.
- Councillor Mattie attended a concert at the Tracadie Hall on March 20th.
- Councillor MacLellan attended the showing of Dawn, her Dad, and the Tractor earlier in the month.
- Warden McCarron attended the housing forum hosted by the Municipality on the 18th. He also attended the the showing of Dawn, her Dad, and the Tractor earlier in the month.

Additions to the Agenda

Councillor Dunbar requested permission to add a streetlight request to the agenda. His request was permitted by consensus.

Streetlight Request - Summerside Road and Bayfield Road

Councillor Dunbar requested a streetlight at the intersection of Summerside Road and Bayfield Road, where an existing streetlight near the intersection is being disconnected due to it being on a private residence.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a streetlight at the Intersection of Summerside Road and Bayfield Road.

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole meeting was suspended at 8:20pm for the purpose of holding the Special Council Meeting. The Committee of the Whole meeting was reconvened at 8:24pm.

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 8:25pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 9:11pm.

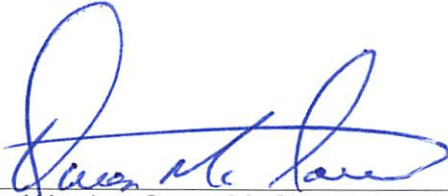
Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:12pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO