

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 6:00 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

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 5:47pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of April 5, 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 April 5, 2022 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Continuing Business

Revisions to the Vaccination Policy

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the proposed amendments to the vaccine policy to remove the requirement for staff to provide proof of being fully vaccinated, following the province's removal of Proof of Vaccination requirements in February. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the proposed amendments to the Municipal Covid-10 Vaccination Policy.

Motion Carried

Consolidation Engagement Check-In Discussion

Mr. Horne provided the opportunity for members of Municipal Council to provide their feedback on the Consolidation Engagement Sessions that have been held so far in the community. A roundtable was held with each councillor providing their feedback on the sessions, including attendance numbers and what they saw so far. Councillor McNamara held a community meeting in his district, and shared feedback from his residents, highlighting that they are still having difficulties with accessing the survey that is available to residents on the HowSpace platform. Some members of Council were hoping that there would be more residents attending the sessions. Councillors are starting to receive more enquiries, such as phone calls and emails, from their constituents. Many Councillors noted that they are listening to the residents to hear what the community's concerns and questions are.

Councillor McNamara shared a statement that he noted was a point of personal privilege, that read as follows:

I have been advised to put on record of minutes that I have been notified by the CAO of Antigonish County of a potential conflict as my daughter works for the Town of Antigonish and believe the in-camera item labelled "Conflict of Interest on

the Consolidation Motion" is in the public interest and therefore any discussion needs to be discussed in public.

Mr. Horne noted that the advice that was provided as described by Councillor McNamara was provided to Mr. Horne by Mark Dunning of Wickwire Holm on behalf of the municipality as providing client solicitor privilege to the municipality, and because of that, further details would not be provided until the in-camera session.

Warden McCarron shared what he has heard, having attended all of the sessions to date. Topics of discussion include the presentation formats (both in favour and against), and the nature of the discussions held with residents. The Warden also noted that he has received several calls from residents with questions. Deputy Warden Stewart shared that he has talked to several individuals in his district who have not come out to the meetings because they don't have concerns or are in support of the proposal. Discussion followed.

New Business

Discussion About Attendance at the FCM 2022 Conference

Warden McCarron spoke about the upcoming FCM conference in Regina. Future (2023, 2024) conference locations were shared as well, being Toronto and Calgary. Those councillors who weren't interested told staff at the meeting. Those who were unsure were asked to contact staff before the end of the month to confirm whether or not they would like to go this year.

PACRCDA Farm Credit Grant Application

Councillor Deveau spoke to a grant that PACRCDA is looking to apply to, which requires the municipality to administer. Consensus was provided by the Committee to support the grant application by administering the funds on behalf of PACRCDA.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

Councillor Dunbar shared news of Jocelyn's retirement. She was provided with several plaques to thank her for her service. An update of the digitization of the Casket, the Highland Games Parade, and the museum's budget were shared. Warden McCarron shared that he had talked with Fraser Dunn about a video produced about the heritage cemetery with Peter Murphy, and a future idea for additional videos being considered.

Antigonish Arena Association

Mr. Horne will provide an update during the in-camera session.

Antigonish Crime Prevention

A meeting was held three weeks ago, looking at dissolving the association. The group has returned the money provided by the province, and work is being done to look into what to do with the remaining association funds.

Eastern District Planning Commission

A meeting was held earlier in the month. There is plenty of activity, but it does not appear to be as busy as 2021.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

The Committee met on March 31st. Correspondence was received from a Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada and discussed. Concerns with black garbage bags continue, and letters will be written to the MLAs and Minister of Environment. Several stores in town still sell them. Internet connections for ERSWM staff was also discussed, as well as sick day policy and litter cleanup incentive funding. Upcoming Shoreline pickups were discussed, including one in Antigonish at Mahoney's Beach in late June. Next meeting is scheduled for April 28th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

No update was available.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

No update was available.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

No update.

Consolidation Steering Committee

Mr. Horne noted that the steering committee did not have a regular meeting this week or last. The group did meet after the St. Joseph's session to check in about the engagement sessions.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

A meeting is scheduled for April 28th.

Community Events

Councillor Brophy has shared that the Back Road Brierly Brook homeowners' group has requested a container for a community cleanup. Mr. Horne provided some details regarding bin rentals and supplies.

Councillor Dunbar shared that on Saturday May 14th there will be the 100th anniversary celebration of 4H in Heatherton, starting around noon.

Warden McCarron shared that there is a Ham and Bean Supper being hosted by CACL on May 6th. A table has been purchased, and Councillors were asked to contact Alisha if they are interested in attending.

Staff Reports

Building permit and RCMP monthly reports were included in the agenda for information purposes.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no 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 litigation, legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege, and personnel matters at 6:44pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Motion to adjourn to an in-camera session be rescinded.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned to an in-camera session to discuss litigation, legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege, and personnel matters at 6:49pm.

Motion Carried

(9 votes in favour, 1 opposed)

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:32pm

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned, as the regular meeting of Municipal Council was scheduled to begin at 7:30pm. The meeting will resume to discuss the remaining in-camera items after the Council meeting.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourns at 7:33pm.

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 8:55pm.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera session to discuss personnel matters at 8:55pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 9:07pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:07pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO