

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 24, 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 (by Zoom)  
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

Also Present: Anne-Marie Long  
Ajay Pilania, Highway 7 Ultramar Owner

### **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 6:25pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Discussion about the Town Council meeting last week

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Approval of May 10, 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 May 10, 2022 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor McNamara followed up on the status of the RCMP letter, the federal riding written response, and the responses to Ms. Anne Marie Long's questions raised during her presentation. Councillor MacLellan asked for further clarification regarding the RCMP highway department's proposed move.

### **Delegations**

There were no scheduled delegations.

### **Continuing Business**

#### **Review of Community Partnership Grants**

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with an overview of the grant applications that were received as part of the Community Partnership Grants program. A detailed review of each grant request was conducted, providing the Committee with the chance to ask any questions and make any adjustments. A discussion was held regarding the request from the Antigonish Fuel Fund, and whether the changes in fuel prices might impact the demand on their program. Consensus was given to amend the recommendations as follows:

- to increase the VON grant to the full amount requested
- to provide a \$16,500 capital grant to the Keppoch for their proposed accessible bathroom upgrades.
- to provide the Arisaig Community Development Association.

For the St. Joseph's Community Centre request, it was felt that the additional funding requested would not be provided until the project planning was further along.

Mr. Horne noted that the list of grant requests that have been provided preliminary approval will be incorporated into the overall budget for final approval by Council at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Horne expressed his thanks to staff who supported the intake and review of the grants process, including Alisha Bowie, Shirlyn Donovan, and Allison Duggan.

Coady International Institute Fundraising Request

Mr. Horne referred to a request received from the Coady Institute for a scholarship and bursary campaign funding contribution. The proposal for the Committee's consideration is a \$5,000 contribution for five years, to establish a scholarship named after former Warden Russell Boucher. The request in November made by the Coady was deferred to the current budget deliberations process. Several councillors expressed their support for the scholarship and having it named after former Warden Boucher. Consensus was provided to support the request, and Mr. Horne added it to the list of multi-year commitments being captured for the final budget approval.

**New Business**

Trunk 7 Ultramar Request for Assistance

The proprietor of the Ultramar on Trunk 7 spoke to the Committee, outlining that he is looking for assistance with grants to assist with the removal and cleanup of a collapsed underground tank at the gas station. The fuel was removed from the site immediately after the request, but a Phase 3 Environmental Assessment is required by the Department of Environment. Mr. Horne referenced the restriction in the Municipal Government Act on municipalities providing grants to private businesses, but noted that Council could consider waiving tipping fees for materials cleared to be accepted at the landfill. Councillors and staff will make further enquiries to the Department of Environment and will continue to follow-up with the Provincial government for disaster relief and support information.

North Nova SPCA Request for Financial Support

A request has been received from the SPCA for support for the construction of a new facility in Stellarton, which will serve a catchment area that includes Antigonish County. At this time, there is not a SPCA facility in Antigonish. The proposed shelter would include facilities to support animals being surrendered. A total request of \$100,000 over five years (\$20,000 a year) is being made of municipality. Stellarton has donated the land where the proposed facility will be located. A total of ten municipal units fall in the new building's catchment area. Discussion followed regarding what other units were contributing, as well as the general shortage of access to veterinarians in the area, particularly for large animals such as livestock.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a contribution of \$100,000.00, spread over five years (\$20,000 a year), to the SPCA for the construction of a new facility in Stellarton.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions**

#### Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

There is no update from the Board.

#### Antigonish Arena Association

A Board meeting is upcoming. Recruitment for the new arena manager is underway, and advertisements have been run thanking Bud for his service as arena manager.

#### Antigonish Crime Prevention

There was no update.

#### Eastern District Planning Commission

The EDPC Board meeting is scheduled for May 26th.

#### Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

The ERSWM meeting is scheduled for May 26th.

#### Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

There is no update.

#### RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The Board held a meeting held with the Province to discuss the new addition at the facility.

#### County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

There is no update.

#### Consolidation Steering Committee

No committee meetings were held in May. One is scheduled next week.

#### Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

The Annual General Meeting of the association scheduled for June 23rd in Council Chambers.

### **Community Events**

The following updates and information were shared with the Committee:

- Councillor Brophy shared that Harry and Jason Van der Lind were named Master Breeder in Nova Scotia and would like to invite them to an upcoming Council meeting.



- Councillor MacDonald shared that the Mini Trails Community Centre Father's Day Lobster Supper coming up.
- Councillor MacLellan provided an update on the Arisaig Social for planned for June 11th. The Mural will also be revealed at that event as well.
- Councillor Mattie shared that there will be a Bluegrass Festival at the Tracadie Hall on May 28th
- Councillor McNamara shared that work is starting on the bathrooms at the Cape Jack Beach. There is a dance taking place on May 21st in Havre Boucher.
- Councillor Dunbar noted that on Sunday June 12th there is a lobster dinner (take-out) taking place in Bayfield.
- Warden McCarron shared that he and several members of Council attended the 4H 100th anniversary event in Heatherton. He noted that it was a well-attended event, and the organizers and volunteers did an excellent job of showcasing the activities of 4H in the community.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

#### **Discussion About the Town Council Meeting Last Week**

Councillor McNamara raised a concern with comments attributed to the Deputy Mayor made at the Town Council meeting last week about the community engagement session in Havre Boucher, with further concern that the Mayor didn't call the comments out of order. Councillor McNamara asked that a formal apology be requested. Discussion followed. Those councillors who attended the Havre Boucher session voiced how well the session went. Warden McCarron offered to reach out to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to raise the concern brought forward by Councillor McNamara.

### **In Camera Items**

There were no in-camera items.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Horne noted that he had just received word that the funding announcement being planned for May 25th is being postponed and will be rescheduled for a future date.

Moved

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:26pm.*

**Motion Carried**



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Warden Owen McCarron



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Glenn Horne, CAO