

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 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 Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane (by Zoom)
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
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Also Present: Gallery

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 5:40pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

- Tax reduction due to fire
- National Day of Mourning
- Discussion on the Farm Road Bridge in Heatherton

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of the June 7, 2022 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 7, 2022 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

Approval of June 28, 2022 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the June 28, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 28, 2022 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of June 7 or June 28, 2022.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Continuing Business

Further Discussion on Exploration of Consolidation with the Town of Antigonish

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the next step in the public consultation process, which will be to provide two weeks following the release of the What We Heard report where the public can provide their feedback on whether the report accurately captures the sentiment of the community regarding the proposal for consolidation. The report is expected to be released on Thursday September 15th, and will be available online as well as at the office and throughout the community, with copies being provided to each Councillor to hand out as well.

Mr. Horne outlined a number of additional reports that are being prepared for Council's information, based on the feedback received during the public consultation process as well as from Council through their discussions over the past year. Councillors had the opportunity to ask questions about the materials that are expected to be available and distributed. No date for making a decision on the question of consolidation has been set, but later in the fall is when a motion is expected to come to Council.

New Business

Notice of a Change in Legal Services

Mr. Horne noted that the local solicitors that have been used by the Municipality have created an independent firm from EMM Law. The Committee can stay with the local solicitors (Meghan MacGillivray Case and Chris Boyd) at their new firm or can look at re-evaluating legal services. The Committee felt that they were happy to remain with Meghan and Chris.

Gas Tank Removal Assistance Request - Trunk 7 Ultramar

Councillor MacFarlane provided further background on the requests for financial assistance that have come from the Ultramar site on Highway/Trunk 7. Deputy Warden Stewart noted the concerns raised by his constituents who have been affected by the closure of the gas station. Discussion followed.

Road Name Change Petition - Fisher Lane

Mrs. Schumacher spoke to a petition that was received by the Civic Addressing Coordinator over the summer regarding a proposal to rename a private lane off of the Summerside Bayfield Road in District 7 to Fisher Lane.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the renaming of a private lane off of the Summerside Bayfield Road to Fisher Lane

Motion Carried

HR Policy Update - Adding Good Friday as a Statutory Holiday, Boxing Day Garbage Collection

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the staff report outlining the proposed amendments to the Human Resources Policy. Staff recommended approval of a correction to note Good Friday as a statutory holiday and an amendment to add Boxing Day as a date when garbage collection does not take place. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the amendments as proposed to the Human Resources Policy.

Motion Carried

Streetlight Request - Blacksmith Valley Road

Warden McCarron requested a streetlight be installed on the Blacksmith Valley Road in a location where there is a sharp curve and a bridge, where the roadway is quite dark, for safety reasons.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the installation of a streetlight at a sharp turn on the Blacksmith Valley Road just after the Dunmore Bridge.

Motion Carried

Petition to NSDPW - Glen Road

Deputy Warden Stewart shared concerns raised by constituents on the Glen Road regarding snow removal on the roadway last winter and general road conditions. A petition has been put forward, and Council has been asked to share the petition and pictures with the local MLA, as well as with representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council forward a petition to Antigonish MLA Michelle Thompson and Nova Scotia Department of Public Works.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Warden McCarron welcomed everyone back from the summer break.
- Councillor MacLellan shared that the building work at the Lobster Interpretive Centre that was supported through community grants by the County is underway
- Councillor McNamara shared that the Friends of Havre Boucher Harbour held a recreational day, with kayaking, paddleboards, and other boats involved. He also shared that the Havre Boucher Park construction has been underway, with volunteers providing the labour to construct the facility.

- Councillor Mattie shared that the Tracadie Fire Hall held their grand opening earlier in the summer, and had a great turnout and barbeque for the public.
- Councillor Deveau shared that Acadian Day celebrations took place in August, and the Pomquet Fire Department held a half chicken barbeque.
- Councillor MacDonald shared that the grand opening of the Appleseed Drive Antigonish Affordable Housing Society site.
- Councillor MacFarlane shared that Canada Day celebrations were held in Williams Point, and a meal was held at Glen Manor.
- Deputy Warden Stewart shared that he attended the bike races at the Keppoch earlier in the month, where there was great turnout and the organization of the event was complimented by those in attendance.
- Councillor Dunbar shared that it was exciting to see events in-person over the summer, including the Highland Games and the ENSE.
- Warden McCarron shared that he attended a number of events, including Canada Day, a presentation of the Hobbit at the Keppoch, ENSE, Cameron's Jewelry's 100th anniversary, the Coady Global Change Leaders farewell event was held in August, the Highland Games had excellent turnout, and the RCMP musical ride at the arena was sold out both nights that it was held at the arena. Warden McCarron also noted that he and Mr. Horne had a chance to meet with the new RCMP detachment commander. Warden McCarron also attended the St. FX Homecoming Reunion where Helen Mattie's service at the university was recognized.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the staffing changes that took place over the summer for a variety of positions. He also shared figures on tax collection, as well as the uptake to date on the low-income tax exemption program. Mr. Horne also noted that the Mount Cameron collector trail is also now open.

Additions to the Agenda

Tax Reduction Due to Fire

Staff reviewed a memo for tax write-off for a property that was destroyed in a fire.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write-off the taxes for AAN 01130307, which was destroyed by fire, in the amount of \$464.87.

Motion Carried

National Day of Mourning

Mr. Horne noted that Monday September 19th, 2022 has been declared as a National Day of Mourning both federally and provincially. As such, the Municipal Offices will be closed as well as all other public offices, schools, and post offices.

Discussion on the Farm Road Bridge in Heatherton

Councillor Dunbar raised concerns with the condition of the bridge in Heatherton providing access to the Farm Road. The bridge is the only point of access for homes on the Farm Road, with farm equipment. Councillor Dunbar is requesting that Council provide a letter to the local MLA and provincial transportation representatives. Consensus was provided to send such a letter.

In Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:49pm.

Motion Carried


Warden Owen McCarron


Glenn Horne, CAO