

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 11, 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  
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  
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation (by Zoom)

Also Present: Gallery (in person and by Zoom)

**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 5:30pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

- An item regarding a discussion about illegal dumping and streetlight request was added to the agenda

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of October 4, 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 September 27, 2022 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacLellan stated that she had received a request from residents in her district regarding the Oyster Farm letter of support that was discussed at the October 4, 2022 meeting.

**In Camera Items**

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property at 5:32pm.*

**Motion Carried**

Moved and Seconded

*That the In-Camera session adjourns at 5:44pm.*

**Motion Carried**

**Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**Continuing Business**

**Strategic Priorities Update**

Mr. Horne reviewed the revisions to the Strategic Priorities summary based on the discussions that had taken place at the October 4, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting. Discussion followed, with specific focus on the item regarding liaising with the Department of Public Works (Transportation) team and the impact of the post-Fiona cleanup on the roadways and rights-of-ways.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council amends the Municipal Council Strategic Priorities, 2020 – 2024 as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

Net-Zero Community Buildings Project Manager

Ms. Feltmate reviewed a memo that has been prepared for the Committee providing an overview of the proposals that were received in response to the Request for Proposals that was advertised earlier in the fall. Shortening the five-year timeline, if possible, will be discussed with the Project Manager and the Province once the Project Manager comes online.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council support the retention of Strait Engineering Ltd., as Project Manager for the ICIP Net Zero Community Building Project for the proposed cost of \$134,100.00 + HST.*

**Motion Carried**

Discussion of Consolidation

Mr. Horne introduced the memos that were included in the agenda package and spoke to each memo.

Establishing Electoral Boundaries

Following Mr. Horne's review of the memo, a comment was made that the memo was well done, and the community and Council input was important and well-covered. A question was asked about when the memos can be shared with the public; a suggestion was made to post it on the website, and printed copies can be made available as well.

Financial Capacity

Following Mr. Horne's review of this memo, questions were asked, and answers provided related to the handling of debt and reserves, tax rates, and the Town Utility in a consolidated municipality. Questions were also raised concerning the development of pro forma statements, which are not being developed at this time, and whether a budget will be developed for the consolidated municipality before it came into existence, which it will.

Mr. Horne noted that projections would be developed for consideration by the consolidated council following the regular process and timeline for budget preparation on an annual basis. Councillor Dunbar asked for a copy of the KPMG

report that was prepared in 2006 and whether it would be available for review. Mr. Horne noted that it would be available.

#### Community Identity

Following Mr. Horne's review of the memo, Councillor McNamara asked about what would happen with the Town Fire Department, where it is part of the Town and in the County are volunteer and independent. Mr. Horne responded that volunteer fire departments are not being looked at in the process of consolidation, as discussed at previous sessions with the Fire Chiefs and at every opportunity since. Councillor McNamara also asked about the special district grants, and whether they would continue, particularly where those used by the Town are smaller. Mr. Horne provided a background on special district grants and noted that how those are managed would be the decision of a future council. Councillor MacLellan noted that the special district grants were something that she was concerned about as well and wanted to see kept. Councillor Mattie asked if the Town would be divided into districts. Mr. Horne noted that the entire consolidated municipality would be divided into districts but would have a mayor elected at large.

#### Decision Making Process -

Following Mr. Horne's review of the memo, Councillor MacLellan noted that she wished that these memos had been available earlier in the process and asked whether the Town Councillors have had access to the same information. Mr. Horne noted that the Town has been provided with the same information at the same time.

#### Plebiscite Information

After Mr. Horne presented the memo, Councillor McNamara clarified that he did not ask for a vote but wanted to make a motion to discuss the petition that was received and presented last week. Mr. Horne clarified that the petition in question has been referred to legal counsel for their review and direction. Councillor Dunbar asked whether electronic voting could be omitted given the expense. Mr. Horne noted that it could and clarified that the estimate was based on the quote provided for the general municipal elections in 2020 as part of a province-wide standing offer, and that the company that had provided the quote had not been contacted again for an updated estimate. Councillor Mattie noted that he had a number of residents in his district who want to be able to vote on the subject. Councillor McNamara asked whether the documents before Council were available for the public. Mr. Horne noted that they were.

## **New Business**

### **Request to Defer Community Partnership Grant**

Councillor Deveau spoke to a request from the Pomquet Development Association requesting a carry-over of their Community Partnership Grant to the next fiscal year, given the cancellation of their planned event due to Tropical Storm Fiona.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council allow the community partnership grant for the Pomquet Development Association to be carried over to the next fiscal year.*

**Motion Carried**

## **Community Events**

- Councillor MacLellan noted that the Arisaig Christmas Bazaar would not be taking place this year.
- Councillor McNamara noted that the Havre Boucher Veterans Association will be doing a full Remembrance Day event, and the planning stages for the community Christmas events are underway.
- Councillor Dunbar noted that on Sat Oct 22nd the Heatherton Activity Centre will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Councillors have received invitations by email.
- Councillor MacDonald noted that on Oct 23rd the Mini Trails Hallowe'en Market and Craft Sale will be taking place.
- Warden McCarron noted that the St. Andrews Harvest Festival is planned for Sunday October 15th

## **Staff Reports**

Mr. Horne noted that updates on Building Permits and from the RCMP were included in the agenda package.

## **Additions to the Agenda**

### **Illegal Dumping and Streetlight Request**

Councillor Dunbar has received a request from a resident at the end of Farm Road who is having issues with illegal dumping. A request came forward for any signage to help to deter illegal dumping, and a streetlight to help to illuminate the location to help deter the activity. Discussion followed regarding ways to deal with illegal dumping.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a streetlight at the intersection of the Heatherton Village Road and the MacLellan Farm Road.*

**Motion Carried**

**Adjournment**

Moved

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:09pm.*

**Motion Carried**



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Warden Owen McCarron



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Glenn Horne, CAO