

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2020, 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 Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

1. **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 6:12 pm

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of April 27, 2020 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 27, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Update on NSFM Initiatives and Weekly Video Conference**

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with a summary of the weekly NSFM video conference and the initiatives that they are working on in response to COVID-19.

b. **Special District Grant Cut-Off Date Confirmation**

Mr. Horne provided a reminder that the cut-off date for the submission of Special District Grant requests by Councillors is June 8, 2020 at 4:30pm.

c. **Summer Programming Changes Related to COVID-19**

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with an update on the summer programming that is likely to be impacted by COVID-19. Canada Day celebrations, summer day camps, and the learn to swim program will all not be able to take place. This will also mean that summer student positions will not be filled this year. Discussion followed about what information was known about what the Province may do about the beaches in the community. Formal communication will be provided to the community now that the Committee has been updated.

7. **New Business**

a. **Introduction of a Property Tax Financing Policy**

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with some background about why work was done to look at options to assist those who may have difficulties with paying property taxes due to the closures required in response to COVID-19. Following extensive consultations with municipalities, the Province introduced a loan program to municipalities to give them the ability to assist taxpayers who have experienced a loss of income. Staff has prepared a program that has been outlined in a policy, which Mr. Horne reviewed in detail.

Extensive discussion took place, and questions followed. No decision was expected from the Committee tonight.

b. Nova Scotia One Garbage Bag Challenge

Councillor MacDonald noted the correspondence that was included for the Committee's information.

c. Streetlight Request - Myette Branch Road

Councillor Mattie spoke to a streetlight request in his district, at the intersection of Myette Road and the Myette Branch Road.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Myette Road and Myette Branch Road.

Motion Carried

d. Riverside Speedway Sponsorship Request

Warden McCarron spoke to a request received from Riverside Speedway for sponsorship of their 2020 season.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve renewing the Municipality's corporate sponsorship for Riverside International Speedway for the 2020 year at the Gold level, provided the facility is able to open for the season.

Motion Carried

e. Municipal Election Voters' List

Mrs. Schumacher noted that, as an alternative to sending enumerators into the community in advance of the municipal election, the Municipality could utilize the list of electors from a previous Provincial or Federal election as a preliminary list. This has been done in previous years. Deputy Warden Stewart brought forward concerns with the accuracy of the voter's list when this was done in the past.

A question was asked about whether Councillors might be able to help the Returning Officer update the list of their districts; staff will look into whether this is allowed. A suggestion was also made to utilize more advertising as the election date approaches to ensure public awareness of the importance of contacting the Returning Officer to check on the voter's list and the challenges posed by social distancing restrictions.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council use the list of electors from the most recent provincial or federal election for preparation of the preliminary list of electors.

Motion Carried

8. Community Events

- Councillor Corbett shared that a 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated in Havre Boucher, and a parade of 75 cars was held to acknowledge that milestone.
- Councillor Deveau attended a concert on YouTube where a tribute to a resident of Pomquet who passed away a few weeks ago was held
- Deputy Warden Stewart noted that over 170 vehicles attended a procession in recognition of a young resident who passed away last week.
- Warden McCarron noted that a drive-by memorial procession was held in St. Andrews in memory of Kevin Landry last week.
- Councillor MacFarlane passed along best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. Hamish MacGillivray, who is currently in hospital.
- Councillor Mattie noted a drive-by tribute that was held in memory of the late Jacob Bowie earlier in the month

9. Staff Reports

Members of the Committee discussed the positive public feedback that has been received in response to the latest issue of the County Connect.

10. Additions to the Agenda

a. Care Packages for Seniors

Councillor Deveau received an email from the Senior Safety Coordinator, who has received some funding from the United Way and is putting together care packages for seniors in the community. Councillors are asked to contact the Senior Safety Coordinator to identify vulnerable seniors in their districts who may benefit from these care packages.

11. In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session Public Safety and Personnel Matters at 7:27 pm.

Motion Carried

Councillor John Dunbar joined the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Moved and Seconded

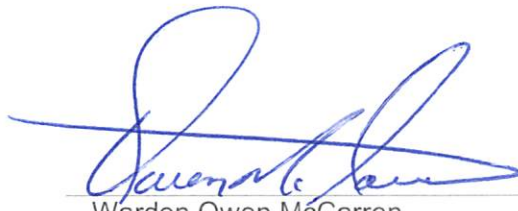
That the in-camera session be adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Motion Carried

12. Adjournment

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:36pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal
Clerk/Treasurer