

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

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

Monday, June 22, 2020, 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 Donnie MacDonald  
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm  
Councillor Remi Deveau  
Councillor John Dunbar  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Neil Corbett  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Mary MacLellan

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

Others Present: Gerry Isenor  
Blaine Rooney

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 6:21 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Dust suppression on gravel roads in the County.
- Relocation of a bus shelter in District 9.
- Accessibility at Bayfield Beach.
- Funding request for a family in Morristown.
- In-Camera - Personnel Matters

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

**3. Approval of June 8, 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 June 8, 2020 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Delegations**

**a. Gerry Isenor & Blaine Rooney - Presentation of Antigonish County Water Rate Study**

Mr. Horne introduced Gerry Isenor and Blaine Rooney, who presented the Committee with the results of a Water Rate Study, which looks at combining the Fringe and Lower South River water utilities into a single utility in the County. Mr. Isenor reviewed the study in detail for the Committee. Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Isenor and Rooney were thanked for their presentation.

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee recommends that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to Amalgamate the two existing water utilities (Fringe Area and Lower South River and Area) into the Antigonish County Water Utility and to apply for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and changes to its rules and regulations for customers served by the Antigonish County water utility, as set out in the water rate study prepared by G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Limited.*

**Motion Carried.**

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Municipal Election 2020 - Electronic Voting Decision**

The Committee was provided with the opportunity to discuss voting methods to be used during the Municipal Election in October. Members of the Committee felt that continuing with a traditional paper ballot was the most economical option, and with proper preparation, could meet requirements for social distancing. Staff was directed to proceed with paper ballots.

b. **Heritage Museum Operating Grant**

Mr. Horne provided an update on the expected reopening plans for the Heritage Museum, and the different options for the operating grant that that Municipality may expect to provide to the museum. Staff is looking for direction on which option should be followed for the operating grant to the museum. Questions and discussion followed. Consensus of the Committee is to pro-rate the operating grant based on when the museum re-opens.

7. **New Business**

There was no new business.

8. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Dust Control in the County**

Councillor Deveau asked members of Council whether they have seen or heard of any dust control provided in the County. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made that Council send a letter to the Minister regarding the calcium shortage in the community.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to the Minister of Transportation noting concerns with the delay in the application of dust control on gravel roads in the County.*

**Motion Carried**

b. **Relocation of a bus shelter in District 9**

A request has been received to move a bus shelter in East Havre Boucher to Frankville. Councillor Corbett will send details to staff.

c. **Accessibility at Bayfield Beach**

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with an update on efforts that have been made to try to make Bayfield Beach more accessible. Staff has been working with provincial staff to explore opportunities to utilize mobi-mats and make other improvements to the beach and parking area. Suggestions were made for staff to



coordinate a site meeting, and to send a letter for provincial and federal elected members to flag this project for future accessibility funding.

d. **Boyd Family Fundraiser**

Councillor MacDonald brought to the Committee's attention a situation in the community where a family in the community suddenly lost a parent, Melissa Boyd, on June 13<sup>th</sup>, leaving behind three young children. A suggestion was put forward that the Municipality make a contribution to a fundraiser being held for the family. Mr. Horne reviewed the options available to the Committee to do this. Consensus was given by the Committee to make a contribution of \$1000 to the fundraiser being held for the Boyd family.

9. **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions**

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

Nothing to report.

b. **Antigonish Arena Association**

Nothing to report.

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

Senior support bags were given out and were appreciated. A meeting is expected later in the week.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

Nothing to report.

e. **Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**

Nothing to report.

f. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

Nothing to report.

g. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

Nothing to report. The RK is now doing family visits, with social distancing protocols in place. The Municipality is lending some of the event tents to help to facilitate these visits.

h. **County Paqtnekek Joint Steering Committee**

No committee update, but Warden McCarron noted that the gas station at the Bayfield Travel Centre opened today.

10. **Community Events**

Warden McCarron provided some background to the flooding mitigation advice that was included in the tax bill mail outs.

11. **Staff Reports**

Mr. Horne referenced the staff reports that were attached for the Committee's information.

12. **In Camera Items**

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Personnel Matters at 7:39 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee adjourn to open session at 7:56 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council move from the Clerk-Council to the CAO-Council model of municipal governance and appoint Glenn Horne as Chief Administrative Officer.*

**Motion Carried**

13. **Adjournment**

Moved

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

  
Warden Owen McCarron  
Glenn Horne, Municipal  
Clerk/Treasurer