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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Monday, June 29, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting

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  
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

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 7:21 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Signage on Post Road (addition to the agenda)
- Strategic Priorities Update and Council Term Highlights (deletion from the agenda)

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of June 22, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 22, 2020 be approved as presented*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacDonald asked if there was a date yet for the public hearing for the water study. Mr. Horne provided further information about the anticipated timeline for the UARB submission and hearing process.

5. **Continuing Business**

a. **Connectivity and Broadband Update and Discussion**

Mrs. Donovan provided an update on the Provincial funding program that is underway for improvements to broadband infrastructure in the province. She noted that she is expecting to hear back about results for this latest round of funding in late August, which has a goal completion date for projects in 2022. Updates were provided for the milestones of the projects that were a part of the first round of funding from the Province, which have an anticipated completion date of the end of March 2021. An update was also given regarding discussions with cellular providers.

Councillor John Dunbar joined the meeting at 7:25 pm.

b. **Scheduling a Public Hearing for Land Donation to Antigonish Affordable Housing**

Mrs. Schumacher provided an overview of the request from Antigonish Affordable Housing for the parcel of municipal land on Appleseed Drive. A Statutory Public Hearing is required by the MGA for the donation; the Committee was requested to provide a motion to Council for one to be set.

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council set a Public Hearing date for the donation of land on Appleseed Drive to the Antigonish Affordable Housing Association.*

**Motion Carried**

6. **New Business**

a. **Somers Road Local Improvement**

Mr. Horne provided a summary of an opportunity that has come up for cost-sharing with the Province for the paving of Somers Road. Mr. Horne reviewed the estimated costs for the project and reviewed how those might be broken down between the Province, Municipality and the residents on the roadway through the Local Improvement By-law. Upon approval of a motion, staff will send out letters to the affected residents as per the Local Improvements By-law to gauge interest.

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council proceed with J-class Road cost-sharing with the Province for the paving of Somers Road, subject to the Local Improvement By-law.*

**Motion Carried**

b. **Seabright Road, Town Point**

Mr. Horne brought forward a concern raised by residents in the Town Point area, who have concerns about an application made by a property owner on either side of Seabright Road who is looking to buy the right-of-way from the Province. Their concern is that the sale of the right-of-way will cut off public access to the beach and harbour in the area. Discussion followed. The proximity of the Antigonish Boat Club, which provides access to the waterfront as well, to this location was noted. A suggestion was made to have members of Council and staff meet with the local MLAs to discuss the community concerns that have been raised regarding the potential sale. Staff was directed to make arrangements for this meeting.

Councillor Neil Corbett joined the meeting at 7:48 pm.

c. **Discussion about Future of the Antigonish Casket**

Mr. Horne provided an update of information received regarding permanent layoffs affecting The Casket. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to write a letter to Saltwire to enquire what will happen with the publication, and to express concern about the potential loss of the local news source and its value to the community.

7. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Signage on Post Road**

Councillor Chisholm brought forward a concern with the condition of abandoned signs along Post Road. Discussion followed regarding logistics of removing abandoned and unsightly signs. Staff will follow-up to have the situation remedied.

8. **In-Camera Items**

There were no in-camera items.


9. **Adjournment**

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:25pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal  
Clerk/Treasurer