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# MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

## Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 31, 2020, 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 Vaughan Chisholm
- Councillor Remi Deveau
- Councillor John Dunbar
- Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
- Councillor Neil Corbett
- Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present:

- Glenn Horne, CAO
- Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
- Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
- Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

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 5:35 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Bell phone service in the Bayfield Area
- Bell phone service in the Aulds Cove Area
- Community use of schools

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald

**Seconded By** Councillor Deveau

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of June 29, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. A suggestion was made to note that the meeting was held by Zoom instead of in-person.

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 29, 2020 be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Continuing Business**

There was no continuing business.

6. **New Business**

a. **ICIP Applications**

6.a.1 **Antigonish Active Transportation Corridor**

Ms. Melanson provided an overview of the Antigonish Active Transportation Project, where an Active Transportation Corridor along Trunk 4 was identified as a priority. A description of the project was given, with a handout giving visual aid to that description. Financial projections, including the potential funding that could be obtained, was reviewed. A general overview of the results of the community survey was also given. Ms. Melanson noted that staff is looking for the Committee's guidance on whether to submit an application for the entire project (all phases), or look at doing the smaller phases now and seek other funding later for the remaining phases. Consensus was to apply for the entire project.

A suggestion was made by Councillor MacFarlane to reach out to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and send a letter about Active Transportation re: West River Bridge work taking place in the future to see if active transportation infrastructure can be incorporated into the design.

**6.a.2 Community Facilities GHG Reduction and Energy Project**

Ms. Feltmate provided a review of the ICIP application that staff has been working on looking at community facilities through the lens of Energy Efficiency Improvements and Solar PV/Renewable Energy. A list of facilities that were assessed and had energy audits completed were provided to the Committee in a handout, with some preliminary financial details. The overall estimated energy and financial savings to those community facilities was also outlined for the Committee. The facilities that were considered were a variety of community centres, fire halls, and community recreation facilities. Discussion and questions followed.

**Moved By** Councillor Dunbar

**Seconded By** Deputy Warden Stewart

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve two applications for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for 1) Active Transportation corridor, and 2) Community Facilities Green House Gas Reduction and Energy Project.*

**Motion Carried**

**b. Community Navigator Inter-Municipal Agreement**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the circumstances that have led to the County, Town and St. Martha's Foundation to come together to develop a position that could help with physician recruitment efforts in the community. This position would supplement the Health Authority's Recruiter by bringing in the community-building aspects for Antigonish Town & County, as well as retention efforts. The proposal before the Committee is a three-year commitment, at a cost of \$30,000 per partner. If the proposal receives approval from all of the partners, funding will be sought from the Province as well. Questions and discussion followed.

**Moved By** Councillor MacFarlane

**Seconded By** Councillor Chisholm

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council enter into the Community Navigation and Physician Retention Services Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Antigonish, and further that Municipal Council approve entering Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Community Navigation and Physician Retention Services Operating Expenses with the Town of Antigonish and the St. Martha's Regional Hospital Foundation.*

**Motion Carried**



c. **CAO Policy**

Warden McCarron spoke to the policy that has been drafted regarding the CAO role. The floor was opened for questions, and discussion followed. Some suggestions for revisions were made, and the Committee will review the policy again at an upcoming meeting.

7. **Community Events**

- Councillor MacLellan shared how well used the Pickleball Courts are in Arisaig
- A community hike was held in Arisaig
- Councillor Corbett provided an update on the beach project that is underway in Cape Jack
- The Fire Hall is holding a "Treasure Chest" fundraiser, where the prize is estimated to be at approximately \$50,000 right now
- In District 5, a drive-by birthday celebration was held for a resident turning 100+
- Plenty of traffic at Pomquet Beach - road improvements appreciated - and the dedication of the accessibility pad installed in the parking area.

8. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Community Use of Schools**

Warden McCarron brought forward concerns that have been brought to him from parents in the community who are concerned that community groups, such as sports teams and clubs, won't be permitted to utilize the school facilities that they normally use due to COVID-19. A suggestion was made to send a letter to the school board and province to bring up these concerns and find out what their intentions are, following a recent decision made by the Chignecto Region School Board. Ms. Melanson spoke further to the requests being received by the Recreation Department from various community groups and events looking to book space. A question came up about the expected timing of the arena. Ms. Melanson also brought forward a concern raised by a community group concerned about the ongoing pool closure. Discussion followed.

b. **Bell Home Phone Service - Bayfield**

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a concern from a constituent regarding concerns with Bell phone services in the Bayfield community. This resident was told that broken/aged phone lines was the reason for her recent loss of service. This is of concern if there was an emergency and the phone line was not working.

**Moved By** Councillor Dunbar

**Seconded By** Councillor Deveau

*That the Committee provide a letter to Bell Aliant expressing concern with the service disruptions to home phone lines in the community, due to their age and condition, and request that the necessary repairs be done.*

Motion Carried

c. **Bell Home Phone Service - Aulds Cove**

Councillor Corbett shared the frustrations brought forward to him by his constituents in Aulds Cove about phone and Internet service speeds.

10. **In Camera Items**

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Personnel Matters at 8:12 pm.*

Motion Carried

*That the Committee adjourn the In-Camera session at 8:34 pm.*

Motion Carried

11. **Adjournment**

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:34 pm.*

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO