
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 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 Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor John Dunbar

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

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 5:58 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Food Supply Concerns
- Request to send Antigonish MLA Randy Delorey a letter requesting a meeting with the residents of Brierly Brook Road regarding the paving of that road
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Summer Maintenance discussion

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of the July 27, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of July 27, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Approval of August 31, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of August 31, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr. Horne provided an update on the Community Use of Schools question that was raised at the last meeting. Mr. Horne also provided an update about the list of community facilities for the ICIP application that Ms. Feltmate provided a presentation about last week. The number of facilities included in the application has increased, and this had caused the estimated cost of the project to rise from \$1.1mil to \$1.8mil. Mr. Horne also spoke to the Community Navigator position that was discussed last week.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Strategic Priorities Update**

Mr. Horne reviewed the Strategic Priorities and provided updates on each of the items to inform the Committee on what has happened to date and the next steps that are being pursued for each item. The Broadband item was discussed in detail, considering the recent announcement from Develop Nova Scotia about areas of the County included in the next phase of infrastructure improvements.

b. **Discussion of Community Centre Support**

Mr. Horne opened the discussion to the Committee regarding the circumstances for community centres in light of the impacts of COVID-19 on their operations and fundraising. Several councillors have been contacted by the community centres

in their districts to share their expenses and reduced incomes due to a loss in rental income and fundraising opportunities. Correspondence received was shared as part of the discussion. Going forward, the Warden will talk with the local MPs and the Province to see what support might be available to help the community centres with their fiscal concerns.

c. **Occupational Health & Safety Program Review RFP**

Mr. Horne provided some background to the Occupational Health & Safety Program Review RFP that recently closed. The range of bids was reviewed, and staff is recommending accepting the bid from the Canadian Association of Provincial Safety Councils at a cost of \$13,200 + HST.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council accept the bid from the Canadian Association of Provincial Safety Councils at a cost of \$13,200 + HST.

Motion Carried

d. **CAO Policy**

Mr. Horne reviewed the updates made to the CAO policy following the feedback from the Committee review on August 31st.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the CAO policy.

Motion Carried

7. **New Business**

a. **Fairmont Speed Concerns**

Councillor MacDonald asked if, based on the concerns raised by the resident in her letter, the Committee would send a letter to the various local staff members at the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to see if those concerns could be addressed.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to local officials at the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding concerns with speeding in Fairmont.

Motion Carried

8. **Community Events**

There were no community events to report.

9. **Staff Reports**

Mr. Horne noted that the staff reports were included in the agenda package for the Committee's information.

10. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Food Supply Concerns**

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward concerns raised in the Agriculture community regarding livestock regulations that have been put in place in response to COVID, such as the transport of livestock. A suggestion was made to look at having members from the agriculture community come in to speak to Council, as well as a suggestion to have someone from the Province come in to explain the new regulations to the Committee.

b. **Letter to MLA Randy Delorey on Behalf of Brierly Brook Residents**

A number of residents are looking to meet with MLA Randy Delorey to discuss the paving of their road and haven't been able to connect and get something scheduled to date. A request was brought to Councillor Chisholm to have Council write a letter on their behalf to help with getting a meeting arranged.

Moved By Councillor Chisholm

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Antigonish MLA Randy Delorey requesting a meeting with the residents of Brierly Brook Road regarding the paving of that road.

Motion Carried

c. **Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal**

Councillor Deveau brought forward a concern that the brush cutter was seconded to the RIM project for the summer months and no brush cutting is being done elsewhere in the County. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to have the team from the local Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal office in at the next Asset Management meeting to speak with the Committee.

12. **Adjournment**

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO