
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 28, 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 John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
John Bain, Director - Eastern District Planning Commission

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 6:46 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

- Letters of congratulations to Chief PJ Prosper and Interim Chief Tma Francis
- Tourism Book
- Club 60
- Internet Service

- Crosswalk Request in St. Andrew's

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of September 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes

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

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 8, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor MacDonald asked for follow-up regarding the concerns with Fairmont Road. There was no further business arising from the minutes.

5. Delegations

a. Rooming Houses Discussion, EDPC Director John Bain

Mr. Bain provided members of the Committee with an overview of the recent developments in the Florence Circle and Alex Terrace area. The uses permitted by the current zoning on the properties, enforcement, landscaping, and the by-law amendment done earlier in the year were all reviewed. Mr. Bain also spoke to the concerns raised by neighbours, some of which can be addressed through zoning, such as parking.

Councillor Chisholm shared some of the concerns brought forward by residents in the area who are being woken-up by loud parties and fights in the middle of the night. Questions were raised about parking, fire inspections, and the layout in each of the different buildings in the area.

A suggestion was made to remove Boarding Houses as a permitted use in the zone, which could be reviewed at the next Planning Advisory Committee meeting. Another suggestion provided was to look at enacting a licensing by-law similar to that used by the Town. The Town licensing by-law is enforced by the Town's By-law Enforcement Officer, and not EDPC staff.

Questions followed regarding enforcement of Land Use By-law violations, which are addressed on a complaint-driven basis, and parking violations, which are enforced by the RCMP.

6. Continuing Business

a. Approval of the Antigonish County Active Transportation Corridor Study

Ms. Melanson spoke to the Active Transportation Corridor Study that was reviewed in detail with the consultants earlier in the month at the Joint Council meeting. There were no questions about the plan.

Moved By Councillor MacFarlane

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that That Municipal council endorse the Antigonish Active Transportation Corridors - Final Report, March 9, 2020, prepared by WSP Canada Inc.

Motion Carried

7. New Business

a. Church Land in Tracadie - Tax Exemption Policy Request

Councillor Mattie spoke to the request to add the Msgr. Donnelly Hall parking area to the list of properties that are provided with a tax exemption under the Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy. Discussion followed regarding the further request to write off the outstanding taxes from the 2019/2020 tax year. Staff's recommendation is to follow the practice of not writing off taxes for a previous tax year. Councillor Mattie brought up that where the tax bill for the property went to the church in Havre Boucher, the Tracadie church was not aware of the outstanding amount and they did not have the opportunity to address it.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor Mattie

That the Committee approve adding AAN#03392783, for the Msgr. Donnelly Hall parking area, to the list of properties provided with a tax exemption under the Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy, and write off the tax amount owing for the current (2020/2021) tax year (\$244.92).

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Mattie

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee approve write off the tax amount owing for the 2019/2020 tax year for account AAN#03392783, being the Msgr. Donnelly Hall parking area.

Motion Carried

b. Streetlight Requests

7.b.1 Frankville Road and Exit 38 Off-ramp

Councillor Corbett spoke to his request for a streetlight at the end of the exit ramp at Havre Boucher, where drivers in the past have failed to realize that there is an intersection there and gone over the bank at the 3-way intersection. Councillor Chisholm asked if there was a power source in the area. Discussion about the history of the intersection followed.

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Frankville Road and the Exit 38 off-ramp.

Motion Carried

7.b.2 Chisholm Road at Summerside Road

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a request for a streetlight at the intersection of Chisholm Road and Summerside Road.

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

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

Motion Carried

c. Discussion about Trick or Treating for Hallowe'en 2020

Councillor Chisholm received a call from a resident who was concerned about trick or treaters coming to their home and was requesting that the County not permit trick or treating. While municipalities can regulate curfew, nearly all are deferring to Dr. Strang for guidance regarding trick or treating and Hallowe'en celebrations for the year. The Committee felt that it would be wise to see what Dr. Strang recommended.

d. **Consideration of Terms of Reference for StFX and Local Stakeholders Leadership Group**

Mr. Horne reviewed the Terms of Reference that have been prepared for a Stakeholders Leadership Group, with representation from the University administration, student body, Town and County elected officials, the RCMP, the Landlords' Association, and the local medical community.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Terms of Reference for the StFX and Local Stakeholders Leadership Group (SLG).

Motion Carried

e. **Fire Damage Letter Request**

Mrs. Schumacher spoke to a request to write-off taxes for a home that was destroyed by fire and reassessed by PVSC.

Moved By Councillor Chisholm

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

THAT the Committee recommend that Municipal Council write-off the taxes for AAN 01916246, which was destroyed by fire, in the amount of \$911.55.

Motion Carried

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

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

- The museum building is now open.

b. **Antigonish Arena Association**

- Updates on the building re-opening were provided
- Return to play protocols are being reviewed to ensure proper enforcement

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

- 300 emergency kits prepared and distributed to seniors, seniors' complexes, and Paqtnkek seniors
- Presentations made at the Maples
- Talking with Sean Fraser's office - possibility of additional funding for seniors.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

- Board meeting held earlier in the month
- Main priority to review and approve the operating budget for 20/21

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

- October 19-25 Waste Reduction Week - would like a proclamation to go to Council in October
- Retail/shopping bag ban comes into effect on October 31st

f. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

- Programs are back up and running, with gradual increases in attendance

g. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

- Review of the changes in operations as the Province relaxes restrictions on visitors and residents leaving the building.
- Lights of Love fundraiser proceeding, but no tree lighting celebration will be held.

9. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Letter of Congratulations to Chief PJ Prosper and Interim Chief Tma Francis**

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a suggestion to send letters of congratulations to Chief Prosper and Interim Chief Francis, following Chief Prosper's appointment to the AFN Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Regional Chief position.

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send letters of congratulations to Chief Prosper and Interim Chief Francis.

Motion Carried

b. **Tourism Book Support Request**

Denise Davies is producing a book highlighting the community, which could be used for tourism purposes as well as a gift to newcomers or visitors. Mr. Horne noted that similar requests made from private enterprises looking to publish books in the past have been denied. A suggestion was also made for the County to look at purchasing books to use as gifts for visitors and presenters in the future.

c. **Club 60 Parking Concern**

Concern has been raised by members of the public about dog park users taking up all the Club 60 parking. Staff will touch base with staff at the Town about signage.

d. **Internet Concerns**

Residents in District 9 are receiving letters from a company looking to source locations for siting cellular towers. Mr. Horne provided clarification based on his understanding that Bell is contacting landowners to see if they would be interested in having a tower placed on their property.

e. **Crosswalk Request**

Warden McCarron brought forward a request for a new crosswalk in St. Andrew's. Further to the discussion with DTIR representatives earlier in the evening about installation and maintenance fees, a motion was suggested to confirm agreement with those expenses. Councillors MacFarlane requested that the South River Road crosswalk request that was discussed earlier in the month be included in the motion as well.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council requests the Department of Transportation's consideration of crosswalks on South River Rd and in St. Andrew's, and agree to the cost of their installation (\$500) and annual maintenance (\$300).


Motion Carried

11. **Adjournment**

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO