

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were:           Warden Russell Boucher  
                              Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, Chair  
                              Councillor Angus Bowie  
                              Councillor Mary MacLellan  
                              Councillor Vaughan Chisholm  
                              Councillor Rémi Deveau  
                              Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
                              Councillor Donnie MacDonald  
                              Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer  
                              Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Regrets:                Councillor Hughie Stewart  
                              Councillor Pierre Boucher

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Deputy Warden McCarron, at 5:31pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

4(b) – Contract Negotiations - In camera discussion

10 – Affordable Housing Update

11 – Auld's Cove Lights

*Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (IN CAMERA)

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as a matter that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session.

*Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss contract negotiations at 5:33pm. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 5:51pm. Motion carried.*

### **3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS ABILITY BANQUET**

CACL Antigonish has invited Council to the 3rd Annual Business Ability Banquet on **Thursday November 10th at 6:00 p.m.** at the MacKay Room, StFX, Antigonish. Celebrated Canadian/ Mental Health Advocate Margaret Trudeau, is scheduled as this year's keynote speaker.

*Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council book a table for eight (8) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Ability Banquet. Motion carried.*

### **TOURISM STRATEGY**

Mr. Horne presented a memo prepared by staff, which was included in the agenda package, providing a summary of the Nova Scotia Tourism Strategy and outlining how other municipal units in Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions are involved with the tourism sector. The memo provides some guidance to the Committee on recommended parameters for any next steps. Staff is looking for feedback from the Committee on how to proceed with this project.

Further, copies of the Crown Corporation Business Plans (2016-2017) for Tourism Nova Scotia and the Tourism Nova Scotia Strategy Summary (April 2016) were also attached for the Committee's reference. A summary of the organizational structure and the services provided by DEANS was also provided to the Committee for reference.

A general discussion was held, covering the topics of jurisdiction of responsibility (local vs. provincial), the provincial strategy for tourism and how it doesn't appear to support small components/operations, and options available such a room levies and how it might be received based on past experiences. There was also some discussion regarding the role and success of DEANS to date, where the REN might fit into this topic, and what the Municipality's role might be. Consensus was to park this memo for now, and revisit the topic in the future.

### **CONSIDERATION OF POLICY FOR COUNCIL AND STAFF PARTICIPATION ON EXTERNAL COMMUNITY BOARDS**

Mr. Horne introduced a proposed policy addressing the participation of members of Council and staff on external community boards. Mr. Horne noted that this policy had been created following questions regarding insurance coverage for members of Council serving on external boards, led to a bigger question of what are we involved with now, and what should we be involved with?

Examples of policies from elsewhere in Nova Scotia and other provinces were consulted for reference. The effect of the policy is to spell out a number of criteria that must be satisfied in order for a municipal official to serve on a board that is external to the organization of the Municipality. Exceptions to this policy are noted, primarily being boards that the Municipality is obliged to supply

representation for through legislation. Nothing in this policy precludes municipal officials from serving on external boards as private citizens.

The Committee asked that staff do a full evaluation of the current list of Boards (appended to the proposed policy), as there may be some organizations that appear to be disqualified by this policy that could satisfy the criteria. Clarification was provided to the Committee, noting that organizations could be added to the list in the future if that organization was able to satisfy the criteria noted in the policy.

Councillor Bowie suggested an implementation date, and the date of November 1, 2016 was agreed upon. Councillor MacDonald asked whether letters would be provided to the external boards that currently have Council representation, notifying them of the policy and criteria for participation. Mr. Horne indicated that this would happen.

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proposed policy for Council and Staff Participation on External Community Boards, with an effective date of November 1, 2016. Motion carried.*

### **1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ANTIGONISH HALLOWE'EN HARVEST BASH**

Mr. Horne provided a brief summary of a written request received from the organizers of an event similar to a community fair to celebrate Hallowe'en and the farm harvest season on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9pm in the Commercial Building on the Fairgrounds behind the arena. The group organizing this event is looking for a donation from the County to assist with the expenses of running the event. There was some discussion regarding events held in previous years, including last year's event with Crime Prevention.

Mr. Horne explained that normal grant request procedure, taking place in the winter for the fiscal year ahead, did not work for this particular request, which is why it was before the Committee. There was a question regarding what the expenses for the event might be, as no breakdown was provided. There was also a question as to whether the same request for funding had been made of the Town. Consensus of the Committee was to match whatever funding is provided to the event by the Town.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE**

Councillor MacDonald provided an update regarding the status of the tender awarded for the first phase of the affordable housing project known as Riverside Estates. Three bids were received for this four-unit phase, with the tender being awarded to Robert Archibald General Contracting and DeCoste Electrical at \$416,258 + HST. Construction is expected to take 14 weeks, and work on the project has already started.

Councillor Deveau mentioned that he had been contacted by a developer from Arichat, looking for land to construct 12 affordable housing units in or around Antigonish.

### **AULD'S COVE LIGHTS**

Warden Boucher brought forward a letter and petition from residents of Auld's Cove regarding the intensity of the new LED lights that have been installed on the hydro towers crossing the Strait of Canso. The residents have asked that Municipal Council send a letter to Nova Scotia power

expressing this concern, and requesting that this lighting type be modified or changed sooner than the 2017 timeline indicated by Nova Scotia Power.

*Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council write a letter to Nova Scotia Power articulating community concerns with the brightness of the lights on the transmission line crossing the **Cano Causeway**. Motion carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:58pm. Motion carried.*

  
Warden Russell Boucher

  
Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer