

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Russell Boucher, Chair
 Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Regrets: None

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:55pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND YEAR-TO-DATE UPDATE

Mrs. Duggan provided members of the Committee with a broad review of the Municipality's financial position for the fiscal year to date, noting that many items in the budget were at, or track to be on budget for the year. Mrs. Duggan provided explanations for any items where the figures to date appeared to differ from the budgeted amounts for the year. A review of the financial indicators, set by the Province, was also provided by Mrs. Duggan and the County continued to fare well when measured by those benchmarks.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO REFUND TAXES

Prior to this item being discussed, Warden Boucher identified a conflict of interest, relinquished the position of meeting chair to Deputy Warden McCarron, and left the room.

Mr. Horne reviewed an exchange by letters between himself and Mr. Ben Boucher of Monastery regarding an assessment of property that had been successfully appealed to PVSC. Mr. Boucher was requesting that the Municipality retro-actively adjust his tax account to reflect the reduced assessment. Mr. Horne noted that, while PVSC had adjusted the assessment for this year, they had not adjusted the assessments of previous years. He also noted the precedent of how the Municipality has handled such requests in the past, being that accounts are not credited retro-actively when an assessment is changed

by PVSC. The Committee agreed by consensus to uphold this precedent, and not refund previous tax bills.

COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM UPDATE

Prior to this item being discussed, Warden Boucher returned and assumed the position of meeting chair from Deputy Warden McCarron

Ms. Feltmate provided the Committee with a brief overview of the summary included in the agenda package, noting that staff is looking for direction to keep going with the solar energy project. A discussion followed regarding the solar installations on the Municipal Office, net metering vs. on-site energy storage, and the details known to date about the Province's funding program. Ms. Feltmate noted that she would continue to watch for details about the program and pass those along when they become available.

REQUEST OF SUPPORT FOR SALTSCAPES EXPO 2017

Ms. Feltmate provided some background regarding the County's past involvement in the Saltscapes Expo, and the current funding request received from the Visitor Information Centre for \$1500.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a request from the Antigonish Visitor Information Centre for support in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Saltscapes East Coast Expo 2017. Motion carried.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the list of Councillors who had identified an interest in serving as the Chair/Vice-Chair/Co-Chair of the Municipality's advisory committees. A vacancy was identified for the position of Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Communities Advisory Committee; Councillor MacDonald volunteered to fill this position.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Advisory Committee Appointments, as amended. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mr. Horne noted that the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Planning Advisory Committee, and Sustainable Communities Advisory Committee had been reviewed with members at the orientation session held at the end of January, and were before the Committee for approval.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Planning Advisory Committee, and Sustainable Communities Advisory Committee. Motion Carried.

STREETLIGHT REQUEST

Councillor MacLellan outlined a request that she had received from a constituent, who lives and runs a business in the McArras Brook area of District 1. This business brings a lot of vehicular traffic to the area, and the owner has requested that a streetlight be installed at the intersection of their driveway

and the highway for safety reasons. While this request does not meet the Municipality's policy, exceptions have been made in the past, and Councillor MacLellan feels that the request is justified.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Municipality having a streetlight installed on Dunmaglass Road at civic address 111. Motion carried.

KILTIED SKATING PARTY

Mr. Horne reviewed the details of the sponsorship request, and the Committee was in agreement that a team be sponsored this year.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the sponsorship of a team for the Festival Antigonish Professional Theatre Kiltied Skating Party fundraiser, at a cost of \$400. Motion carried.

THEO FLEURY TALK – ANTIGONISH RCMP/NAOMI SOCIETY

Mr. Horne reviewed the invitation for the breakfast talk with Theo Fleury titled "Raising Awareness on Sexual Abuse", taking place on February 16th at 7:30am at the Keating Centre. The Committee agreed that purchasing a table of tickets to support the event would be appropriate.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the purchase a table of ten (10) tickets at a cost of \$250 for the breakfast talk on February 16th with Theo Fleury hosted by the Antigonish RCMP and Naomi Society. Motion carried.

ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL FCM CONFERENCE

Mr. Horne requested that any members of the Committee who were interested in attending this year's FCM conference in Ottawa, from June 1-4, 2017, to let him know at their earliest opportunity.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the staff reports contained within the memo that accompanied the meeting agenda. An update on the municipal Tax Sale was also provided; Mr. Horne noted that it was scheduled to take place on Wednesday February 22nd, 2017 at 11am. This year, bidders are being requested to pre-register.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:13pm. Motion carried.


Warden Russell Boucher


Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

