

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, June 6th, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, Chair
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
Adam Rogers, Municipal Solicitor (arrived at 7:15pm)

Jamie Chisholm, TIR
Robert (Gussie) MacInnis, TIR
Doug Cameron, TIR
Archie Huntley, Resident, Big Marsh Road
Cecil Angeline, Resident, Glebe Road

Corey LeBlanc (arrived at 7:10)

Regrets: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Deputy Warden McCarron, at 5:34pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A request was made to add the following to the agenda:

- Town Canada Day Celebration

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 16th, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor MacFarlane requested an update on the Dangerous and Unightly file open in West River. Mr. Horne noted that the timeline given in the cleanup notice had expired, and that the D&U Administrator was in the process of gathering bids on the cleanup of the property to better determine the cost. Once these bids have been collected, the D&U Administrator will return to Council and the property owner to determine whether a cleanup of the site, as opposed to demolition, is the possible.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SEMI-ANNUAL UPDATE

Mr. Jamie Chisholm, Area Manager for Antigonish and Guysborough with NSTIR, was joined by Gussie MacInnis and Doug Cameron, and provided an overview of the road maintenance work that was anticipated to take place during the summer and fall seasons in the County. This was followed by a question and answer period with members of the Committee.

Councillor Stewart asked the TIR team whether there was a maintenance schedule set for grading roads in the County, or if work was done on roads as complaints regarding their conditions were received. TIR staff noted that they were looking to get more grading staff, so that roads could be done on a more regular basis, but that a set schedule for maintenance would be difficult to maintain because of variables including weather. The focus of TIR staff is to improve the quality of the grading work, to extend the length of time before the road must be graded again.

Councillor Stewart noted that he had seen an improvement in the quality of the grading done this year. Councillor Stewart then asked whether chip seal was still being used. TIR staff noted that they were not sure where chip seal installation stands with the capital program, but that nothing was planned for this year. This led to further discussion about funding for the capital program vs. what is provided for maintenance of roads in the area.

Councillor MacLellan stated that in the past year, the number of calls being received by Municipal Councillors regarding road conditions seems to have increased, perhaps because the public was uncomfortable with calling the call centre in Sydney. Councillor MacLellan then asked whether the priority lists that Councillors complete each year and provide to the local MLA (Randy Delorey) is still used in consultation with TIR. Mr. Chisholm responded that he does receive copies of those priority lists when he meets with Mr. Delorey, and sometimes he is able to line up requests with the TIR planned work.

Councillor MacLellan then asked for some clarification on the wharf road in Arisaig, which the County owns but TIR maintains, and whether it could be graded or graveled due to poor conditions. Discussion followed.

Councillor MacDonald asked about the gravel roads fund announced provincially, and what that would translate to for roads in the County. Mr. Chisholm wasn't sure, and would have to follow-up with those figures. Councillor MacDonald then asked for a status update regarding Fairmont Road; Mr. Chisholm noted that estimates are being done for that work now.

Councillor Deveau asked questions regarding the process for calls when they are received by the call centre in Sydney, and how the tickets that are generated for each call are addressed. He noted that he has been receiving calls from residents when they do not see the problem that they are reporting being addressed after two weeks or more. TIR staff noted that the centralized call centre and ticketing system has been very helpful for staff in terms of time and workload management and

seems to be working well. They are currently working on developing an app that will allow staff to receive and update tickets in the field to further improve function.

Councillor Deveau asked further questions regarding patching on the Pomquet Monks Head Road (will take place), and the flashing amber light at Dagger Woods Road and Highway 104 (waiting on NS Power, but will be obsolete soon because left-turn lane coming).

Councillor MacFarlane had questions regarding the signage on Trunk 4, where different speeds are posted on either direction on the road (TIR staff will look into this). Councillor MacFarlane asked whether anything was being done regarding the lights at Highway 7 and Trunk 4. Mr. Chisholm stated that they don't have an update regarding this intersection right now, but that nothing was planned for this year. Councillor MacFarlane asked for an update regarding the paving of Ponderosa and Heritage Drives; estimates for this work have been done and the project may have already gone to tender (or will be soon).

Councillor Chisholm identified an area in Addington Forks where the guardrail and shoulder erosion is a concern, particularly for cyclists. TIR staff has flagged this as a priority to look into.

Councillor Dunbar noted concern with very little of the work identified in the initial update being within District 7, with the exception of some repair work on a culvert in Summerside. He asked how roads in the area could get some ditching work done, particularly on the New France Road / Fraser's Grant Road / Bailey Road area. Mr. Chisholm noted that a grader had been working in that area over the past few weeks, and he would look into this request further. Councillor Dunbar asked for some additional details regarding how much of the \$10mil provincial gravel roads funding might trickle down to the County roads. Mr. Chisholm noted that the Antigonish Region's share of this fund might be about \$600k, which could build about 5km of road. Finally, Councillor Dunbar requested clarification on the location of the culvert in Summerside pending repair; TIR staff provided a general location, and noted that in the last 2-3 years Chisholm Road and Ferry Road have also been graveled, and that the condition of these roads will improve once they have been graded for the season.

Councillor Mattie asked for some patching work to be done on Linwood Road, as the size (width and depth) of some potholes there were a concern to motorcyclists, particularly if travelling in the dark. While this area is flagged for work to be done later in the summer, and TIR normally doesn't patch roads that will be worked on later, staff identified that they will look at this road due to the specific concern to try to address the worst spots. Councillor Mattie also pointed out an area where there are trees that have fallen on a guardrail that were cut back, but remain a safety concern. TIR staff will look at this site. Finally, Councillor Mattie asked whether West Arm would be paved this year following culvert work last year; TIR staff confirmed that this would be the case.

Councillor Stewart asked whether the Ohio East Road would be getting the final top coat expected for this year. Mr. Chisholm noted that this work has been pushed off for this year, and may be done next.

Mr. Chisholm and his team were thanked for appearing before the Committee for this question and answer period.

BIG MARSH ROAD / GLEBE ROAD RESIDENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Archie Huntley of Big Marsh Road thanked the Committee for permitting him the opportunity to voice his concerns regarding the maintenance of the Big Marsh Road. Mr. Huntley provided a brief background of his communications with TIR dating back to 2014, outlining his efforts to report his concerns and request maintenance work on the road. This elevated to the point of Mr. Huntley making a complaint to the Provincial Ombudsman. The response back from the Ombudsman had noted that communication with TIR appeared to be a concern, and that TIR has standards for road maintenance and that it appeared the local office was not receiving enough funds to keep roads in a condition that met those standards.

Mr. Huntley noted that this road has had access issues in the past that affected the ability for emergency vehicles to access parts of the road in a timely manner; conditions on the road have again reached these levels and Mr. Huntley has reached out to Fire, EMS and the local school board to ask for their input on conditions and impacts to access and response times.

Mr. Huntley felt that the conditions were a concern for both life safety and property safety, and noted that any evaluation done to the road needed to consider the entire length of the road, and not just certain sections. He shared a recollection of someone choosing to build elsewhere because of the condition of the road.

Mr. Cecil Angeline of Glebe Road stood to provide the Committee with a few words regarding the condition of his road, echoing many of the concerns noted in Mr. Huntley's presentation and asking that it be brought up to standard. Councillor MacLellan noted that she had gone for a tour of the roads in question with Mr. Huntley, and that the conditions on those roads are pretty poor. Discussion then followed with TIR representatives and Councillor regarding the gravel roads program and what funding might be available for road work in the County.

MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward a request to the Committee to consider a health and wellness program for staff and Councillors, particularly with respect to physical health, work/life balance, and training. Mr. Horne noted that staff currently has some coverage to an Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) through their benefits, which offers features such as counselling and massage therapy. One of the ideas for consideration might be an equipment fund, or an amount that can be used by staff and Council to promote healthy living.

Members of the Committee were in agreement to explore what options might be available, with Councillor MacDonald citing that this could be an issue look at from an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) perspective. Mr. Horne noted that staff would look at the options available through the benefits package and what could be available to Council and report back at a future meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL AND ONE-TIME GRANT REQUESTS

Mr. Horne quickly reviewed the staff memo that was provided to the Committee (attached), along with the grant applications for the Antigonish Heritage Museum, the Antigonish Community Transit Society (ACTS), the Antigonish Senior Safety Coordinator, Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores (DEANS), and the Strait Area Search and Rescue Association. Mr. Horne noted that the memo also included information about one-time grant requests received by Council over the past fiscal year, including the request from the District of Guysborough (Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex),

the CACL / Royal Canadian Legion Arras Branch 59 purchase and renovation of the former Philatelic Centre, and the St. Martha's *The Time is Now!* Campaign. These groups and projects represent ongoing funding commitments and indirect municipal services that are to be budgeted for outside of the Community Partnership Grants process.

A brief review was held of each individual request, and the item was moved forward by consensus. Councillor MacLellan asked whether ACALA should be a grant considered as indirect municipal services in a future year; Mr. Horne indicated that the Committee/ Council may wish to consider such a request in a future year. The Committee asked Mr. Horne for more information regarding the Chedabucto Lifestyle Centre request in advance of making a decision on the matter. Council had previously approved the contribution to the St. Martha's *The Time is Now!* Campaign.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve annual and one-time grant requests as proposed by the Antigonish Heritage Museum (conditional on being matched by the Town of Antigonish), Antigonish Community Transit Society, Senior Safety Coordinator, Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores, Strait Area Search and Rescue Association, and the CACL/Royal Canadian Legion Arras Branch 59. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF TENDERS

Mr. Horne noted that staff has prepared tenders for three projects: the Antigonish County Court House exterior repairs, the Somers Road Waterline Extension, and the Antigonish Municipal Office roof replacement and exterior painting. Staff is requesting the Committee's permission to advertise these tenders publically.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council permit the advertisement of tenders for bids on work to be done on the County Court House and Municipal Office, and for the Somers Road waterline extension. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 7:25pm. Motion carried.

Warden McCarron called the Committee of the Whole meeting back to order at 8:00pm.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOCATION OF A GRANT TO THE HAVRE BOUCHER COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr. Horne noted that, at the end of the last fiscal year when each Councillor identified priorities for any carry-over balance in their Special District Grant, the late Warden Boucher had identified that he had intended to use his carryover for a donation towards the Havre Boucher Community Centre. Members of the Committee were asked whether they were in agreement to still provide these funds as the late Warden Boucher had intended, leaving the 2017/2018 fund amount at the disposal of whoever becomes the new District 9 Councillor.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a donation of the March 31, 2017 balance of the District 9 Special District Grant to the Havre Boucher Community Centre. Motion carried.

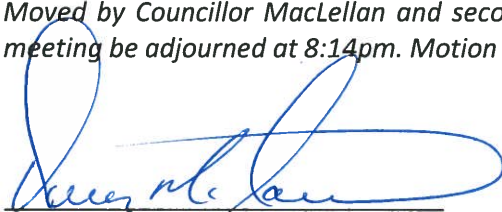
TOWN CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

Mr. Horne noted that he and Warden McCarron had just met with Councillor Murray from the Town, and had been provided with a copy of the budget for the Town's Canada Day Celebrations at that time. While the County has been providing funds to cover ½ of the fireworks budget for the past few years, the Town has requested that the County increase their contribution to assist with the increased expenses associated with the scale of this year's event due to it being the 150th anniversary of confederation.

Members of the Committee requested further details regarding the Recreation Department's budget for the County's Canada Day celebration. The item was deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting to permit staff the opportunity to collect the requested information.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:14pm. Motion carried.



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer