

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, May 16th, 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
 Adam Rogers, Municipal Solicitor (arrived at 7pm)
 Jamie MacDonald, Antigonish Downtown Business Association

Regrets: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:35pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Eastern Strait Region Waste Management Waste Truck Discussion
- École acadienne de Pomquet scholarship / bursary
- Police Week
- Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic
- Andrew Chisholm Water Concerns

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 2nd, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the table compiled by staff summarizing the community grant requests received. This year, there were 53 application and \$590,000 in requests; this amount includes the Special District Grants. Staff reviewed each application for compliance with the Community Partnership Grants Policy (Policy 36), and has made recommendations for the Committee and Council to consider based on the requirements of Policy 36 and the Committee's previously indicated desire to keep the total amount the grant monies being awarded to 3.2% of tax revenue.

Each of the grant requests were reviewed with the Committee, and opportunities for questions or further clarification of recommendations were given. Situations where applications were incomplete, missing information, or requested ineligible expenses be considered were identified. For groups that had not yet submitted financial statements, any grants awarded would be condition upon the Municipality's receipt of a Treasurer's Report or Financial Statement to satisfy the policy requirements. Minor modifications were made to the list of recommendations, and the Committee approved by consensus an amount of \$337,950.00 to proceed to Council as part of the overall Operating Budget review process.

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION REQUEST

Mrs. Schumacher informed the Committee that a request was received by a resident for property tax relief of 30%. This resident has provided documentation indicating their income level being below the Municipality's regular low-income tax exemption threshold, and has received a property tax reduction of 30% for the past several years. Based on last year's tax rate, this 30% reduction translated into \$182.31.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a 30% tax bill reduction for AAN09707956. Motion carried.

BRIERLY BROOK ROAD

Councillor Chisholm brought forward to the Committee a request from a group of Briery Brook Road residents for a letter of support from the Municipality to the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) regarding their request to have a portion of Briery Brook Road paved. Councillor Chisholm noted that during the highway twinning construction, up to 58 trucks each hour (500 trucks a day) were running from the highway to a local quarry, resulting in significant degradation of road conditions and a great deal of dust. With the announcement of further highway twinning work in the area, residents are concerns that road conditions with deteriorate further unless the road is paved.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council prepare a letter noting support for the resident request to NSTIR pave a portion of Briery Brook Road. Motion carried.

EAST ANTIGONISH SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST

Mr. Horne noted that the East Antigonish Education Centre has requested a contribution for their scholarship / bursary program. In past years, the Municipality has contributed \$200 to this program.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a scholarship / bursary contribution of \$200 to the East Antigonish Education Centre. Motion carried.

RIVERSIDE CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL REQUEST

Mr. Horne reviewed for the Committee the corporate sponsorship request that was received from the Riverside International Speedway. The Municipality has purchased the gold package for this sponsorship in years past. This year, there is a slight increase in the cost of this package bringing the total cost to \$2875, including HST.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the purchase of a gold-level sponsorship package from Riverside International Speedway at a cost of \$2875 (incl. HST). Motion carried.

ECONOMIC FORUM STREET PARTY FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Horne read aloud an email from representatives of the Antigonish Downtown Business Association (ADBA) requesting consideration of a contribution towards a street party that the group was planning to hold during an Economic Forum taking place at St. FX University in early June. Mr. Jamie MacDonald, representing ADBA, was on hand to answer any questions of the Committee. He noted that the group was looking for about \$750 to help with expenses for this initiative, and that the project had come about after the deadline for community grants earlier this year.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a \$750 contribution to the Antigonish Downtown Business Association Street Party, taking place during the St. FX Economic Forum. Motion carried.

EASTERN STRAIT REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT WASTE TRUCK UPDATE

Councillor MacDonald provided the Committee with an update from Eastern Strait Regional Waste Management (ESRWM) regarding their intended purchase of a truck for their compliance officer, to assist with his duties attending to and addressing illegal dumping complaints. ESRWM is looking to use funds from their reserve to purchase the truck, and will replenish the reserve over the next few years in the amount of the depreciation of the truck in order to have the funds available to purchase a new truck at the end of soon-to-be-purchased vehicle's lifespan.

ÉCOLE ACADIENNE DE POMQUET

Councillor Deveau brought forward a request for a scholarship / bursary program contribution for École acadienne de Pomquet. In past years, the Municipality has contributed \$200 to this program.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a scholarship / bursary contribution of \$200 to École acadienne de Pomquet. Motion carried.

POLICE WEEK

Councillor Deveau informed the Committee that the local police detachment was going to be holding a BBQ on Thursday, May the 18th.

BONVIE-MACDONALD RINKS TO LINKS GOLF CLASSIC

Councillor Deveau brought forward a request for the Municipality to sponsor a team for the Bonvie-MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic. This tournament raises money that goes back into the community through assistance for children's hockey registration fees, as well as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Antigonish Early Childhood Intervention, Tim Hortons Children's Foundation, the Jordan Myles Foundation, and St. Martha's Hospital Pediatric Department. A question was asked regarding how a family can access the funding assistance; staff was directed to follow-up with the organizers for an answer.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council sponsor a team for the Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic tournament 2017. Motion carried.

ANDREW CHISHOLM WATER CONCERNS

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward a concern from a constituent in the Williams Point area of his district regarding water pressure and backflow into the household damaging the hot water heaters when there is a water main break in Williams Point or Greenwold. The resident has asked that if there is a water main break, that the local hydrant be flushed so that the amount of dirt in the backflow into his system is reduced. Public Works staff was requested to look into the matter further.

IN-CAMERA: LEGAL ADVICE ELIGIBLE FOR SOLICITOR-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (WRIGHT'S RIVER AQUIFER)

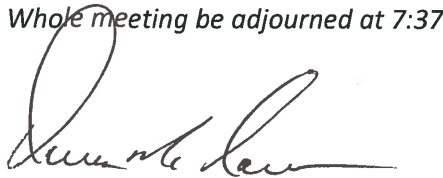
These subject matters fall within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as matters that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session at 7:00 pm to discuss Legal Advice Eligible for Solicitor-Client Privilege. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:36pm. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:37pm. Motion carried.



Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
for Warden Russell Boucher



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer