

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron, Chair
 Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Neil Corbett
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Regrets: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:40pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Request for waiver of property tax interest
- Streetlight Concern

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warden McCarron called three times for any errors or omissions in the November 14th Committee of the Whole minutes.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 14th be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND EASTERN SHORE AREA GUIDE ADVERTISING REQUEST

Members of Council were provided with copies of the previous edition of the Northumberland and Eastern Shore Area Guide, and a copy of the advertising request was a part of the agenda package. Discussion followed.

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council deny the request to purchase an advertisement in the 2018 edition of the Northumberland & Eastern Shore Area Guide. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF A COMMUNITY SIGNAGE INITIATIVE

Ms. Donovan provided the committee with an overview of the Request for Direction report included in the agenda package. Discussion followed about the cost of the program, the distribution of signage, and logistics. The Committee provided staff with direction to look at the expense of installing smaller County signs on secondary highways into the community (7, 245, 316, 16), and a status quo approach will be taken regarding smaller community signs.

FOLLOW-UP – COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Further to previous discussion, the Committee was asked to review the list of proposed changes to Councillor appointments to Municipality Advisory Committees and Inter-Municipal/Legislated Boards.

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart, seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the changes to Councillor appointments to Municipal Advisory Committees and Inter-Municipal/Legislated Boards, as discussed. Motion carried.

COUNCIL STIPEND REVIEW

Mr. Horne reviewed the Memo for Decision report included in the agenda package, which provided background information about the comparison of Councillors stipends and benefits. This memo included options for the Committee to consider. Members of the Committee were in agreement that Option 2, which sets stipends at the average of comparator municipalities, was the best option to pursue. Discussion followed.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Council Remuneration Policy be amended to reflect Option #2 in the staff report. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Council Remuneration Policy (Policy #14) be amended by adding the following clause:

“3.8 Municipal Council remuneration shall be reviewed in conjunction with the market assessment conducted for municipal staff.”

Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne reviewed the staff reports section of the meeting memo, and made particular note of an upcoming review of Municipal Policy #5 (Human Resources Manual for Employees) to provide some updates on topics that were “pending” when the document was approved in 2016. Further, Mr. Horne noted a note from the Recreation Department regarding a request that had been received from the student Gaelic trip for a Recreation Grant, which did not meet the criteria for that particular program.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PROPERTY TAX INTEREST

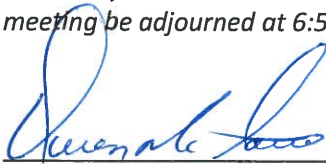
Councillor Dunbar brought forward a request from a resident, who is looking for a waiver of property tax interest. Mr. Horne asked Councillor Dunbar to forward the request to the Finance Team, who will look into the circumstances of that situation and provide a follow-up.

STREETLIGHT CONCERN

Councillor Deveau brought up a concern regarding the streetlight that was left at the location of the old intersection when TIR realigned the intersection of Highway 104 and the Dagger Woods Road. Staff was asked to look into this further.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:59pm. Motion carried.



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer