

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, April 19th, 2016 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 Angus Bowie
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Shirlyn Donovan, Interim Deputy Clerk
 Adam Rodgers, Solicitor – Boudrot Rodgers Law Firm
 Holly Glassford, RCMP Staff Sergeant

Regrets: Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Rémi Deveau

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Fishing in Antigonish Harbour
- Evolve Music Festival
- Municipal Budget Timelines

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee of the Whole minutes March 15th, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor MacLellan brought up the previous minutes when the Department of Transportation was in. She was promised a guard rail that she would like mentioned in the minutes.

STAFF SGT HOLLY GLASSFORD RCMP PRESENTATION

Staff Sergeant Holly Glassford presented to the Committee a summary of the Fiscal Year. Staff Sergeant Glassford reviewed the 4 priorities the RCMP had for the past fiscal year.

1. Enhanced Road Safety which included:
 - Provincial Summary Offence Tickets
 - Checkpoints

- Impaired Driving Charges
 - Public Impaired Driving Education Sessions
2. Cybercrime. They had 20 members trained in cybercrime investigating techniques and held 14 awareness and education sessions to the public.
 3. Contribution to community safety
 4. Contribute to safer and healthier Aboriginal communities.

Staff Sergeant Glassford reviewed their resources including:

- Outgoing transfers = Incoming transfers
- Paternity leave
- New Sgt. – Operations NCO
- County Clp. Position
- Policing costs for Municipalities

Staff Sergeant Glassford asked if the Committee has any questions, ideas or input in terms of community priorities. If so they can forward them onto her at any time.

Councillor MacDonald asked what types of coverage we have throughout the County. Morning shifts start at 8am and run until 6pm and then evening shift starts at 5pm and runs until 3am. In the summer members are on shift until 4am and then on call from 4am-8am.

Councillor MacFarlane asked if the County putting up speed signs would have any benefit for them. Staff Sergeant Glassford said the data would be very useful. They can't issue tickets based on the signs but it is great for data collection to find out the speeds and then set up radar in areas which are needed.

Warden Boucher thanked Staff Sergeant Glassford for her presentation.

RCMP MONTHLY REPORTS – FEBRUARY & MARCH

The Committee was provided with the RCMP monthly reports for February & March.

RECREATION SUMMER STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recreation Director, Marlene Melanson was on hand to present the recommendations for the hiring of summer staff.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Boucher that Municipal Council approve the hiring of recreation summer staff as presented. Motion carried.

STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE ASSOC. REQUEST FOR TAX EXEMPTION

The County received a request from Tony Sampson asking that the County tax exempt assessment number #01143557 because the land/building is being utilized for Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue purposes. The County had exempt the previous property that the Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue was using but they had subsequently moved and are requesting an exemption on the current location. The property taxes are approximately \$1,900.00 annually.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Boucher that Municipal Council exempt the property belonging to Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Association from property taxes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT TO POLICY #35

Staff asked for the Committees approval of amendments to Policy #35 – Tax Exemption Policy for Non Profit Organizations. The amendments are as follows:

- Pomquet Parish Seniors Club, Hall – deleted (building is now privately owned).
- Strait Area Ground Search & Rescue Association, Land – deleted (no longer assessed to Ground Search & Rescue, now privately owned).
- Strait Area Ground Search & Rescue Association, Account #01143557 should be added as exempt.
- Account #33922848 should be #03392848 – Property Description is Land, Soccer Field.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that Municipal Council approve the amendments to Policy #35. Motion carried.

RINKS TO LINKS SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

We have received a request for sponsorship from the Bonvie-MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic. Our previous sponsorships have been the “Tournament Friend” Sponsorship for \$1500 and gives entry for one team at the Celebrity Golf Classic as well as 4 tickets to the Gala Dinner & Auction.

Moved by Councillor Bowie and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that Municipal Council approve the Rinks to Links sponsorship in the amount of \$1500. Motion carried.

MAYFEST SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

We have received a request from the St. Martha’s Regional Hospital Auxiliary for Mayfest sponsorship. In the past we have been a bronze sponsor with a cost of \$250.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that Municipal Council approve the Mayfest sponsorship in the amount of \$250. Motion carried.

CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Horne reviewed the preliminary capital projects for Fiscal 2016/17 budget consideration.

Councillor MacFarlane asked Mr. Horne to check out the timeline on ordering speed signs.

Mr. Horne reviewed the curb and gutter estimates for Mount Cameron and Applesed Drive along with the costs structures for repayment over 5 years and 10 years. Council agreed based on the Local Improvements By-law to ask 1/3 of the cost from residents and with a payback over 10 years for both projects.

Mr. Horne reviewed the list of preliminary capital projects for fiscal 2016/17 Budget Consideration.

Deputy Warden McCarron asked if there is any information available on how much more energy efficient vinyl windows are over aluminum. Mr. Horne said staff would look into this.

The committee suggested to keep the windows and painting in for now and we will see how the budget looks.

Staff will get a quote on painting lines on the roads.

Mr. Horne reviewed the preliminary assessments for capital investment. The first one reviewed was a North Grant Sewer Extension. The total project cost would be about \$2,390,000 and there would be 28 lots serviced.

The next was Gaspereaux Lake Water System Expansion in which there was no estimate.

There would be 31 lots serviced. The next was Somers Road Water Extension with an estimated cost of \$594,000 with 34 serviced lots. Councillor Chisholm would like to staff to investigate more into the cost of the Somers Road waterline extension.

The last assessment was South Side Harbour Sewer Extension with a cost of \$1,320,800 servicing 28 lots.

Staff will continue to work on the Somers Road Water Extension and park the other three for now.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:33pm and will reconvene after Municipal Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole meeting be reconvened at 8:03pm. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

Mr. Horne provided an update of the progress made towards the Municipal Strategic Priorities. Presentation is available with agenda package.

FISHING IN ANTIGONISH HARBOUR

Councillor MacFarlane says about 10 years ago live bait fishing in Antigonish Harbour was shut down and he has heard concerns from residents would like to see it be allowed again. Councillor MacFarlane will get the Nova Scotia Fishing Guide and bring back more information.

EVOLVE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mr. Coulter has asked for an extension until April 29 to provide the medical plan. Dr. Beau Blois was just brought on this week and he requires 2 weeks to develop the plan. Mr. Horne said he would take it to Municipal Council.

Deputy Warden McCarron said that April 21st was the date that was given as the final date to provide the medical plan and he doesn't think Council should extend that. Council agrees that April 21st is the absolute final deadline for the medical plan.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET TIMELINES

Mr. Horne will send out a timeline for budget deliberations.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:46. Motion carried.

Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer