

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, June 7th, 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 Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau (left meeting at 6:40pm)
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Angus Bowie

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:41pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- East Antigonish Bursary Request
- Discussion Regarding Expenses

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Boucher and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee of the Whole minutes May 24th, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

PERSONNEL MATTERS, LEGAL ADVICE ELIGIBLE FOR SOLICITOR-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (IN-CAMERA)

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 MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session at 5:43pm to discuss personnel matters, legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege, and contract negotiations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the In-Camera session be adjourned 6:16pm. Motion carried.

TOURISM

Mr. Horne provided a brief overview of tourism-related efforts that had been taken since the Municipality identified economic development – specifically tourism – as a strategic priority in 2014. To-date, three meetings have been held in co-operation with DEANs to engage local tourism stakeholders to facilitate an Antigonish community conversation about the role of the municipality’s role in local tourism planning. Attendance has varied by numbers and attendees at these meetings, although municipal officials have been present at each meeting.

A discussion followed regarding the experience and involvement of Councillors with respect to events and conversation regarding the municipality’s role with local tourism. Overall, Council felt that the efforts by DEANs were not to be ignored, but wondered what the municipality could do to assist their efforts. Part of the challenge could be the Province’s change in approach from promoting “destinations” to a focus on “world class” amenities/features/events.

Staff was left with direction to explore approaches to developing strategies undertaken by communities outside of the area (outside of province and country). Council requested a summary of the provincial tourism budget. Staff suggested exploring options for collecting local analytics, such as Trip Advisor and Google search summaries, to create a baseline to measure future efforts against, and to identify any potential needs or opportunities.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ABOUT ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mr. Horne introduced the staff memo and provincial summary regarding asset management, noting that this was something that staff was looking into. Any opportunities for inter-municipal cost sharing for systems would be explored. Discussion followed.

FATHER KEHOE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Municipality has received a request to enter a team into the Father Kehoe Golf Tournament on Friday, July 15, 2016 at a cost of \$500/team. A general discussion followed regarding the number of tournaments the municipality is invited to participate in each year, and Council felt that they should limit their participation to three per year. Municipal Council decided to forgo participating in the Father Kehoe tournament for 2016. Staff was requested to compile a list of the local tournaments held each year for Council’s information.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST

Councillor Boucher brought forward a request to use funds from his special district grant to pay for a street light at the fire pond on Monastery Road in Monastery for the Tracadie & District Fire Department. Municipal Council was in consensus for this request.

ÉCOLE ACADIENNE DE POMQUET BURSARY

A request was made to Municipal Council to provide a bursary to École Acadienne de Pomquet, as has been done in previous years. A letter had also been received from the East Antigonish Educational Centre with a similar request.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve bursaries in the amount of \$200 each to École Acadienne de Pomquet and the East Antigonish Education Centre. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION REGARDING EXPENSES POLICY

Mr. Horne provided a timeline of the FOIPOP requests that had been received by the County over the last several months that resulted in a series of radio and print articles at the end of May about Councillor expense claims while at conferences. Mr. Horne noted that the municipality's expense policy had been slated for review in advance of the FOIPOP requests, and that the timing of the update (March 2016) was a coincidence with the timing of the information requests. A general discussion regarding the new policy followed.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:17pm. Motion carried.

Warden Russel Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer