

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 @ 5:30 pm

Municipal Administration Centre

- 1) Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
- 2) Approval of Agenda
- 3) Approval of June 6th, 2017 Committee of the Whole Minutes
- 4) Approval of June 12th, 2017 Committee of the Whole Minutes
- 5) Business Arising from the Minutes
 - a. Questions arising from Budget Deliberations
- 6) Further Discussion of Proposed C&D Changes
- 7) Sarah O'Toole / Fenn Martin – Art Council, Antigonish Culture Alive
- 8) Consideration of an approach to the Disposal of Dead Whales
- 9) Discussion of a Memorial Initiative for Warden Boucher
- 10) Arena Commission Appointment
- 11) In-Camera: Personnel Matters
 - a. Appointment of Returning Officer
 - b. Appointment of Financial Analyst
 - c. Appointment of Term Receptionist
- 12) In-Camera: Contract Negotiations
- 13) Staff Reports
- 14) Adjournment

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: ***COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEMO***
DATE: JUNE 20TH, 2017

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED C&D CHANGES

Director of Public Works, Daryl Myers, will be on hand to address any questions from the Committee concerning the proposal to develop a new C&D disposal cell. Funds have been identified in the operating budget for required equipment and materials.

ART COUNCIL, ANTIGONISH CULTURE ALIVE PRESENTATION

Sarah O'Toole and Fenn Martin will be presenting on behalf of the Art Council and Antigonish Culture Alive.

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPROACH TO THE DISPOSAL OF DEAD WHALES (*For Discussion*)

Staff has prepared a memo, attached, soliciting discussion and direction from Municipal Council on how they would like situations where whale carcasses wash up on beaches in the Municipality handled.

DISCUSSION OF A MEMORIAL INITIATIVE FOR WARDEN BOUCHER (*For Discussion*)

This will be an opportunity for the Committee to have a discussion regarding options and ideas that they may have for a memorial initiative.

ARENA COMMISSION APPOINTMENT (*For Decision*)

The Committee is requested to choose a new member to sit on the Antigonish Building for Youth Commission (Arena Commission), to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Warden Boucher to ensure a full complement of County representation during the governance review process. The process of filling any vacancies on other municipal and external boards will take place in the fall, following the by-election in District 9.

IN-CAMERA: PERSONNEL MATTERS (APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER, FINANCIAL ANALYST, TERM RECEPTIONIST)

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as that which a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session. Materials will follow.

IN-CAMERA: CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as that which a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session. Materials will follow.

STAFF REPORTS (For Information)

Finance

- Finance staff continues to support Council in the preparation of the 2017/18 operating budget. Preparations in the tax office to print and distribute more than 15,000 tax bills are underway.

Recreation

- Copies of the latest edition of the County Quarterly are arriving in mailboxes now.
- Registration for the Multi-Sport Program initiative opens on June 21st.
- Summer programming and camp registrations are underway and filling up quickly.
- Summer coordinator staff is now operating full-time in the office. Summer leaders will start on June 26th.
- The Recreation Department has added a new bike to the accessible equipment loan program.
- The 55+ Antigonish Games were held on June 9th & 10th and were an awesome success.

Administration

- On Monday, June 19th, the Accessibility Challenge is on from 9am-4pm. This event is about raising awareness and increasing both knowledge and understanding of accessibility issues in Antigonish. There are 18 confirmed participants, who will receive a challenge package that includes: a wheelchair, a t shirt, a challenge and directions and a reflection page, to be delivered between Friday June 16 and Monday June 19.
- On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, Mr. Horne, Mrs. Duggan and Mr. Myers took part in a webinar hosted by the Department of Municipal Affairs concerning Asset Management. For those who are unfamiliar with Asset Management, this short video is very informative:
<http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/municipal-asset-management-program/why-invest-in-asset-management.htm>.

Additional information and a proposed municipal approach to Asset Management will be a topic of discussion for Municipal Council in the coming months.

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 Unsightly 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

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Monday, June 12th, 2017 at 4:30pm 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 Bill MacFarlane

 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
 John Beaton, ESREN

Regrets: Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 4:40pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Horne noted that a discussion regarding the request made by the District of Guysborough for the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex would be included as a sub-item under agenda item 3.

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

TOWN OF ANTIGONISH CANADA DAY REQUEST

Mr. Horne re-introduced the request received last week from the Town of Antigonish regarding the County's contribution to their Canada Day Celebration. The Town has asked that the County increase their contribution from \$4000 to \$8000, and a copy of the Town's event budget has been circulated to the Committee for information. Staff has also provided the Committee with a copy of the County's budget for the County's Canada Day activities; the County's expense for this event is \$10,850 of a \$28,500 budget, with the difference in the funding coming from grants. The Town is requesting that the County contribute \$8000 towards their \$35,000 event. Mr. Horne noted that the Town has confirmed that they will be contributing the requested \$24,500 towards the Capital Legacy project (the pavilion) proposed by the County. The Committee agreed to the one-time

expense increase, and noted that the expectation is that next year the County's expected contribution would return to the \$4,000 provided in previous years. The Committee suggested that a request be made to the Town that the professional photographer covers both the Town and County events.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a contribution of an additional \$4,000 to the Town of Antigonish Canada Day Celebrations, for a total contribution of \$8,000. Motion carried.

GUYSBOROUGH CHEDABUCTO LIFESTYLE COMPLEX

Mr. Horne reviewed the request that had been discussed at the June 6th Committee of the Whole meeting, noting that he had gone back to confirm that the District of Guysborough had made the same pledge to the St. Martha's Foundation campaign as the County, had not contributed to the Central Sports Turf Fields (but were not asked), and when Mr. Horne asked neighbouring units that had been solicited, they indicated that they have not contributed to the Lifestyle Complex (Mulgrave, Town of Antigonish, and St. Mary's).

Councillor Deveau asked for clarification regarding the contribution that the County made to the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre; \$100,000 was the contribution from the County for that project. Councillor MacLellan asked what was being offered to the County in exchange for the contribution. Mr. Horne indicated that the facility will be offering running track, outdoor skating facility, FOAL will have an office in this complex, and primarily this complex will provide outdoor recreation facilities. Of question is whether this facility will be of any benefit to Antigonish County residents; the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre is considered to be a facility that serves residents living in the east and that was the reason for the County's contribution to that project. Councillor Mattie indicated that a number of residents in his district were likely to utilize this facility instead of driving into Town or to Port Hawkesbury. Discussion followed.

Staff was directed to look further into numbers, and ask the District of Guysborough what their expectation for a contribution would be, for further discussion at the June 20th Committee of the Whole meeting.

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Mrs. Duggan, Director of Finance, introduced the first draft of the budget that was before the Committee for consideration. As presented, there is no proposed rate increase in this budget. Property tax rates remain the same; while streetlight expenses for those on NS Power accounts are decreasing, expenses for those streetlights on the Town of Antigonish Electric Utility have increased. One cent on the residential tax rate represents \$93,637 in revenue, while one cent on the commercial rate is \$8,742 in revenue. Sewer rates were also reviewed.

Mrs. Duggan noted that the low-income tax relief has increased, as then reviewed the impact of the water rate studies on the fire protection rates in terms of how the calculation is done. While there is a desire of a consolidated approach to charging these fees, the amount going to the local Fire Department (the levies) would remain unchanged. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Duggan then went through the revenue and expenditures noted in the budget in detail for the Committee. Explanation was provided where the organization of the budget has changed for ease of interpretation, although the final figures remain the same. Detailed discussion was held regarding the

RCMP expense increase, expenses for waste collection and transportation, the Havre Boucher Village Commission, the Arena Commission, and the library.

Councillor MacFarlane asked about the internal principal repayment; garbage principal debt repayment, and the library debt being retired. Mrs. Duggan noted that staff looked to target the largest debts that impact the most County residents to the greatest extent when there are any funds at the end of a fiscal year. This lead to an explanation of the benefits of the Municipality borrowing from itself utilizing reserves that are built for operating and capital expenditures instead of utilizing the Municipal Finance Corporation.

Members of the Committee were asked to submit any further questions to Mr. Horne and Mrs. Duggan by Friday, June 16th to permit circulation and a staff response in advance of the meetings on June 20th. Staff was thanked for the work done to date on the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

MEMO FOR DIRECTION

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: GLENN HORNE, MUNICIPAL CLERK TREASURER
SUBJECT: ***DEAD WHALE DISPOSAL***
DATE: MAY 15, 2017

BACKGROUND

With the arrival of spring and coastal waters warming, various species of whale begin to migrate along Nova Scotia's coasts. Inevitably, a few of the less lucky cetaceans will end up on beaches throughout Antigonish County.

In 2016 the Municipality was notified by residents of washed up and rotting whales in Cape Jack (2), Tracadie, Bayfield, Lakevale and Doctor's Brook. In two instances at Cape Jack, the Municipality contracted to have the whale buried on-site. The instance in Tracadie is well documented, with the Minister of Natural Resources intervening to see that Department dispose of the whale after the Municipality's request to traverse the protected beach and remove the whale was denied. In Bayfield, DNR was again involved and allowed the carcass to rot in place. In both Lakevale and Doctor's Brook nature was permitted to take its course.

The Municipality does not have a formal approach to dealing with this inevitable situation; each is addressed as it arises. This memo is soliciting discussion and direction from Municipal Council on how they would like these situations handled.

CONSIDERATIONS

This is a challenge that faces all coastal municipalities. In Nova Scotia, the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture (Fisheries) is responsible up to the high water mark; the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible beyond that point in coastal areas. However, no provincial department is formally responsible for a dead mammal on the beach. Responsibility can be placed on the property owner if a mammal washes up on private property. In the case of the whale that was left to rot near the Canso Causeway for weeks, the Minister of Natural Resources of the day pointed to Fisheries and Oceans Canada as the responsible authority.

In May 2012, the attached letter was sent from the UNSM President to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Natural Resources requesting the Province formally take responsibility for these instances.

When a dead whale is reported it is often to either Fisheries or DNR. Officials in these departments either deny responsibility or redirect the request to the Municipality. This same deflection occurs across the province and in the past ten years has resulted in a number of high-profile stand-offs between authorities in Inverness, Digby, Kings, Shelburne, Guysborough and of course, Tracadie.

In a number of these instances DNR has eventually acted. In many more cases, the municipality is required to intervene. A dead whale begins to decomposes quickly once washed on shore. It creates a very foul odour, can attract other forms of wildlife and is generally unpleasant for local residents. This creates a greater degree of pressure on the Municipality, and in particular the Municipal Councillor, to act.

In the case of the two relatively small whales in Cape Jack, the Municipality paid \$200 for each to be removed. On other occasions, an honorarium is provided to fishers to haul the whale out to sea, if that option is possible. In other municipalities cost to dispose of a dead whale have been upward of \$1000 - \$10,000 for a large animal. This does not include the staff resource required to address the situation.

OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATION

Staff are requesting direction be provided my Municipal Council on this issue. The following options are available to the Municipality:

1. **Assume responsibility for the removal and disposal of dead whales / mammals when they are reported.** This will require a budget allocation of approximately \$2000 per year with an understanding that it is highly dependent on the size and number of animals that wash up. This option is the most expedient and can be implemented immediately. A policy and procedure to address these situations would be developed and assigned to a municipal employee.
2. **Deny responsibility for the removal and disposal of dead whales / mammals when they are reported.** This approach is more complicated and time consuming and would require advocacy and lobbying of the provincial government to assume responsibility. It could be done in cooperation with our municipal neighbors and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. However, in the meantime it potentially leaves residents without recourse if the Department of Natural Resources refuses to act.

There is little middle ground on this issue. If we assume responsibility for the removal and disposal of any reported whale it would be extremely difficult to make the case it is a provincial responsibility.

The recommended option is to deny responsibility for the disposal and removal of dead whales / mammals and work with other municipalities and the UNSM to see the province take responsibility.

If other options have been overlooked please let me know.