

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 5:30pm

Municipal Administration Centre

- 1) Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
- 2) Approval of Agenda – Additions or Deletions
- 3) Approval of March 6th, 2017 Minutes
- 4) Delegations:
 - a. Antigonish Farmers Market
 - b. Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network – John Beaton
- 5) Continuing Business
 - a. Adjustments to the CoW Agenda
 - b. Rec/MPAL Operational Plan Tender Award
 - c. Approach to Grant Requests for Class or Team Events
 - d. Smart Cities Challenge
- 6) New Business
 - a. Grand Kilted Skating Party – Festival Antigonish
 - b. Discussion regarding Province's proposed *Act to Amend Chapter 18 of the Acts to 1998, the Municipal Government Act Respecting Cape Breton Regional Municipality*
 - c. Discussion regarding Volunteer Fire Departments
- 7) Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions
 - a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
 - b. Antigonish Arena Commission
 - c. Antigonish Crime Prevention
 - d. Eastern District Planning Commission
 - e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
 - f. Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network
 - g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library
 - h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home
- 8) Community Events
- 9) Staff Reports
- 10) Additions to the Agenda
- 11) In-Camera Items
 - a. Personnel Matters
- 12) Next Meeting: April 3rd, 2018 @ 5:30pm
- 13) Adjournment

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART December, 2017 (amended Mar. 2018)

COUNCIL PRIORITIES	
NOW <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BROADBAND PROPOSAL: Agreement – Jan. INTERNET SERVICE: Business Case – March CELLULAR SERVICE: Business Case – May NEW BUSINESS PARK: Options – June REN STRATEGY: Review – Mar. 	
NEXT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACCESSIBILITY: Audit INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: PLAN WATER: Assessment & Projects SEWER: Assessment & Projects GUYSBOROUGH: Collaboration Meeting TOURISM PROGRAM: Review 	ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Broadband Funding (Province)</i> <i>Long-Term Care Facility Funding (Province)</i> <i>Aging In Place Program (Province)</i> <i>NS Broadband Study (Province)</i> <i>PFN: CEDI Initiatives</i>
CLERK TREASURER	FINANCE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> REN STRATEGY: Review – Mar. INDUSTRIAL PARK –LAND AD, SALE & NEW BUSINESS PARK: Options - June Asset Management System: Phase 1 – June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Management Coordination Leadership Team Development Program 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: Plan – Jun Water Meter System: Integration Landfill Billing System: Review – Mar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Utility Rates: Review – Oct. Information Technology Strategy: Sept
PUBLIC WORKS	RECREATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SEWER TREATMENT: Assessments & Problem ID – Sept. WATER SYSTEM: Assessment – Mar. WATER SYSTEM: Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Asset Condition Assessments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Active Transportation: Action Plan – April. MPAL: Recreation Plan – June. Part Time Staff Leadership Program – April Support Community Initiatives – Jan 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation for All Program – Jan 2019
SUSTAINABILITY	PLANNING
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ACCESSIBILITY: Audit – Mar. Emergency Business Continuity Plan – May. Renewable Energy: Options – June (Prov.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFN: CEDI Initiative Next Steps – April Municipal Awareness Strategy – September 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EASTERN ANTIGONISH PLAN REVIEW – Sept. <i>Civic Address Internal Audit</i> – April Amendments – PAC Jan/Feb. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigonish Affordable Housing (Phase 3) MacDonald Dairy Warehouse Levy's Leather Warehouse
ADMINISTRATION	ADMINISTRATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> BROADBAND PROPOSAL: Agreement – Jan. INTERNET SERVICE: Business Case – March CELLULAR SERVICE: Business Case – May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Review Online Media Refresh 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> GUYSBOROUGH: Collaboration – Mar. TOURISM Review/Scan – Mar. Internet Upgrades – Mar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court House: Assessment - Mar Dog Control Program: Review - June

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: *COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEMO*
DATE: MARCH 20TH, 2018

DELEGATIONS

a. Antigonish Farmers Market

Representatives from the Antigonish Farmer's Market will be providing members of the Committee with an update on their efforts for a new market building.

b. Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network

Mr. Beaton will be providing the Committee with an update on the operations at the REN, and upcoming projects.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. Adjustments to the CoW Agenda

Based on the discussion and direction provided by the Committee on March 6, adjustments have been made to the Committee of the Whole agenda, specifically:

- *Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions* has been added and each has been listed. This item will continue to be placed on the Council agenda as well and councillors can choose at which venue the report is most appropriate.
- *Community Events* has been added to provide councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.
- *Additions to the Agenda* has been added to give all additions a specific time near the end of the agenda.
- Committee business has been divided into two categories: *Continuing Business & New Business*.

The goals of these adjustments is to enhance communication among councillors and between Council & staff, best use our limited time together and schedule the meeting to facilitate constructive exchanges & discussion. If these adjustments are to the satisfaction of the Committee we can begin applying the new format and review it after a few months.

b. Rec/MPAL Operational Plan Tender Award

The Rec/MPAL Operational Plan Tender closed on Wednesday, March 14th. Staff will provide a review of the bids received, and provide their recommendation for the award of the tender. Materials will be provided at the meeting.

c. Approach to Grant Requests for Class or Team Events

Please see the attached Request for Direction from staff.

d. Smart Cities Challenge

Please see the attached Memo for Direction from staff.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Grand Kilted Skating Party – Festival Antigonish

The Municipality has been asked to sponsor a team for this year's Grand Kilted Skating Party. The entry fee for this event serves as a donation to Festival Antigonish. More information about the event is attached.

b. Discussion regarding Province's proposed *Act to Amend Chapter 18 of the Acts to 1998, the Municipal Government Act Respecting Cape Breton Regional Municipality*

Reference materials regarding this topic are attached for review and further discussion at the meeting.

c. Discussion Regarding Volunteer Fire Departments

An opportunity for the Committee to have a discussion and ask any questions that they may have regarding the Volunteer Fire Departments in the County.

REPORTS FROM INTER-MUNICIPAL COARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Please see the attached reports.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

This item provides councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.

STAFF REPORTS

Administration

- The first issue of the revamped Municipal Newsletter has gone to print, and will copies will be provided to Council at an upcoming meeting.
- On March 7, Mr. Horne & Councillor Corbett met with Havre Boucher Village Commission Clerk Raymond Carpenter to discuss the dissolution of the Commission. A letter notifying Mr. Carpenter and another member of the former Commission is being sent shortly.
- Six submissions were received from the Municipality's RFP for an Economic Assessment. References are being checked and a recommendation for the successful proponent will be coming forward shortly.
- On Friday, March 9, Mr. Horne & Mrs. Schumacher took part in TMR2 (trunk mobile radio) training facilitated by the Antigonish REMO.

Recreation

- Postings for the Summer Students and Recreation Programmer positions were published during the week of March 19th, and will close on March 23rd.

Finance

- The Finance Team is preparing for Fiscal Year End (March 31st), and asks that you provide staff with information about any intended carry-over of Special District Grants if you have not done so already.

- Tax sale notices were published in the Casket this month, in preparation for the Municipality's Tax Sale, which is scheduled to take place on April 25th. Information about the Tax Sale process is posted on the Municipality's website, along with the 2018 Tax Sale List.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart, Chair
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Rémi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane (left at 7:30pm)

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Sean Fraser, MP for Central Nova
Nicole LeBlanc, Director of Communications for Sean Fraser

Regrets: Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Mary MacLellan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Deputy Warden Stewart, at 6:13pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Fire Reduction Request
- Discussion About Graffiti in Monastery

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Warden Stewart called three times for any errors or omissions in the February 20th Committee of the Whole minutes.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 20th be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

IN-CAMERA: CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

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 MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Contract Negotiations at 6:16pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the amendment of the ESREN Inter-Municipal Agreement to include the Town of Mulgrave. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:31pm. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES DOCUMENT

Staff reviewed the Strategic Priorities Document that has been prepared as a summary of the planning sessions that were held with Council and staff in December. The Committee was asked for any questions or comments in advance of approving the document.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald, Seconded by Councillor Corbett, that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopts the 2018 Strategic Priorities Update for continuous reference at each Council meeting, quarterly updates and annual strategic priority reviews. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar, Seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council requests the Clerk Treasurer to schedule an annual Priority Setting update session prior to the start of the annual budget process. Motion carried.

INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the list of accounts identified by staff as being inactive, and brought forward for write-off.

Moved by Councillor Deveau, Seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council write off the following amounts on accounts deemed inactive:

Roll #	Balance	Background
05091438	\$638.96	<i>moved mobile</i>
05112478	\$65.25	<i>wrongly assessed, changed to farm in 2013</i>
07120850	\$55.67	<i>moved mobile</i>
07122896	\$2,136.20	<i>uncollectable, includes tax sale fee from 2014, duplicate account</i>
07129645	\$900.62	<i>moved mobile</i>
07140134	\$412.86	<i>moved mobile</i>
07153538	\$260.64	<i>moved mobile</i>
09018522	\$89.46	<i>moved mobile</i>
09218386	\$6.58	<i>mapping error</i>
09292209	\$1,206.32	<i>Double assessed</i>
09707093	\$817.74	<i>Crown purchased land for highway</i>

10259673	\$36.28	moved mobile
TOTAL	\$6,626.58	

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA ON-SHORE PETROLEUM ATLAS

Mr. Horne noted that staff and members of Council have been receiving correspondence and phone calls in response to the letter from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, which had requested a letter of support be sent to the Province. Discussion followed. Staff provided updates on the direction given by the Committee at their last meeting. This included reaching out to the staff at Guysborough, as well as municipal units in the basin areas identified in the Guysborough letter. Staff noted that arrangements were underway with the Departments of Energy and Environment to have experts on the subject to come and speak to members of Council at a future date.

MAYFEST VOLUNTEER REQUEST

Mr. Horne asked whether anyone would be interested in volunteering with security detail at this year's Mayfest event. Councillors Chisholm, Corbett, Mattie and Deveau offered to take shifts at this event.

COUNCIL REPORTS AT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A discussion was held on whether some committee reports might be better provided at the Committee of the Whole meeting, in the interest of facilitating discussion Committee matters instead of motions for ratification at Council. Staff was directed to look further into how this could be accommodated in the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Horne suggested also including an opportunity for Councillors to make note of upcoming events in the community, so that all of Council can be made aware of community events.

FIRE DAMAGE REQUEST

Mr. Horne reviewed a fire damage letter received from the PVSC. A refund of \$187.11 for property tax in 2017 is being requested as a result of the reassessment due to fire, in accordance with the provisions made in s.69A of the Municipal Government Act.

Moved by Councillor Deveau, Seconded by Councillor Chisholm, that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a refund of \$187.11 to Assessment Account 02926547 for 2017 property taxes, due to reassessment of property destroyed by fire. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ABOUT GRAFFITI IN MONASTERY

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a discussion regarding the graffiti in the community of Monastery earlier in the day. Mr. Horne provided an update regarding the information known to staff at the time about the incident. Mr. Horne noted that Warden McCarron had also reached out to Chief Prosper to offer support following the incident.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar, Seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council condemns the actions of those who applied the racist graffiti in Monastery, and extends their support to the Paq'tnkek First Nation. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:37pm. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Stewart

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

REQUEST FOR DECISION

TO: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FROM: SHIRLYN DONOVAN, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COORDINATOR
SUBJECT: SPECIAL DISTRICT GRANT REQUESTS
DATE: MARCH 20, 2018

BACKGROUND

Over the past few years Councillors have been receiving an increasing number of Special District Grant requests from individuals travelling to events that do not meet the criteria for the travel assistance or community partnership grants programs. These events are typically sports, cultural or educational in nature and the individuals or groups involved are electing to go; they have not qualified to attend.

At the direction of Council, staff have developed this proposal to find a fair and equitable way to deal with these requests.

CONSIDERATIONS

Based on the direction from Council, staff are proposing the following changes to policy & process:

- The creation of “Elective Travel Assistance Grants”;
- The funds for these grants be reallocated from “Council Special District Grants”;
- The Council Special District Grant Policy be amended to disallow “topping up” any participant or group that is eligible for a “Elective Travel Assistance Grant”;
- The “Elective Travel Assistance Grants” be administered by staff in the same manner as the “Travel Assistance Grants”.

Please see attached Proposed Schedule F, which staff is proposing for addition to the Community Partnership Grants Policy (Policy #36), to address “Elective Travel Assistance Grants” (attached). The proposed schedule seeks to provide a funding option for teams, clubs and organizations that will be travelling for elective sports, cultural or educational purposes. Currently, each councillor is dealing with these types requests on an individual basis and participants are receiving different amounts.

Also attached are two proposed lists of disbursements that would provide direction regarding the amount of contribution that an application could qualify for:

- Funding Disbursement: Travel Assistance for Sport, Cultural and Educational **“Qualifying”** Events
- Funding Disbursement: Travel Assistance for Sport, Cultural and Educational **“Elective”** Events

The funding disbursement list for qualifying events is updated from the schedule that was part of the Recreation Financial Assistance Program for Non-Profit Organizations, which was rolled into the Community Partnership Grants Policy in 2014. Staff is proposing that the disbursement amounts in these lists not be included in the actual policy, but be reviewed and approved during each budget.

The purpose of this proposed policy is to create an equitable travel assistance program option for groups coming to Council seeking travel assistance. In order for this policy amendment to work in the manner in which it is intended, every Councillor would need to avoid topping up any participant or group who would otherwise be eligible for funding under this new policy.

As a means of funding this particular division of grants, staff is suggesting that each Councillor contributes an amount, to be determined by Council, out of their annual Special District Grant to be put in this “Elective Travel Assistance Grants”. For example, if each Councillor contributes \$400 of their Special District Grant to the Elective Travel Assistance Grants, to provide an annual pool of \$4,000 for this program.

By establishing criteria for application and the set disbursement amounts based on the nature of the trip, any requests to this new grant program could be dealt with by staff in a manner similar to how Recreation Travel Assistance Grants are handled now.

Examples of activities that requested or received funding in the past year that could have been eligible for consideration under the new Elective Travel Assistance Grant program include:

- Gaelic Trip
- 4H Exchange
- French Immersion Trip
- Highland Dance Trip to Scotland
- We Day Trip to Nicaragua (Individual)

Likewise, some examples of events and/or trips that would not fit within this policy are:

- Any travel within the Maritimes.
- Class/group trip to museums, historical venues etc.
- Invitational tournaments/events within the Maritimes.

Proposed Procedure:

Staff is suggesting that the following procure be followed for requests for funding under the proposed Elective Travel Assistance Grants:

1. All requests and inquiries are referred to a designated staff member.
2. The applicants will be required to fill out an application.
3. The application will be reviewed by the designated staff person and if they meet the criteria outlined in the policy, they will receive the grant.

WORK PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Orientation for staff and councillors would have to be conducted to ensure all staff and members of Council are fully aware of the requirements and procedures under the Special District Grant Policy (Policy #34) and the Community Partnership Grants Policy (Policy #36).

ALTERNATIVES

As an alternative to the proposed policy amendment, Council could maintain the status quo and continue to have each individual Councillor make a decision regarding funding requests for elective travel for sport, cultural or educational purposes from their Special District Grants.

NEXT STEPS

Staff is looking for further direction from Council on how they would like to proceed, based on the information presented in this report.

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE F – ELECTIVE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

OBJECTIVE

1. To provide travel assistance to youth teams, clubs, or organizations for elective travel for sports, cultural or educational purposes outside of the Maritimes.

CRITERIA:

Basic Eligibility Requirements for All Grants

Applications will be accepted from groups that:

- Have submitted complete applications at least two (2) weeks prior to the travel date(s) or as soon as they find out they have been selected.
- Have fulfilled any obligations outstanding from previous grant awards;
- Have provided proof of non-profit status or is a group that is not incorporated but has an executive, membership and a proven reputation.
- Apply on behalf of an individual(s) who are members of their organization.

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Individuals;
- For-profit businesses;
- Organizations with political affiliations;
- Faith organizations where services/activities include the promotion and/or required adherence to a faith;
- Hospitals, clinic-based services or medical treatment programs;
- School boards;
- Provincial/national organizations unless a local chapter exists to service the residents of Antigonish County;
- Organizations seeking assistance in funding deficits.

Youth is defined as an individual who is 18 years of age or younger and a resident of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.

If there are 3 or more individuals applying for the same trip/event, the individuals **MUST** apply as a group.

The event site must be outside of the Maritime Provinces in order to be eligible for funding from this grant.

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOTMENTS

Funding Disbursement: Travel Assistance for Sport, Cultural and Educational “Qualifying” Events

Individuals travelling to a provincial event	\$100
Individuals travelling to an Eastern Canadian event within the Maritimes (NS, NB, PEI)	\$125
Individuals travelling to an Eastern Canadian event outside the Maritimes	\$175
Individuals travelling to a national event within the Maritimes (NS, NB, PEI)	\$150
Individuals travelling to a national event outside the Maritimes	\$200
Individuals travelling to an international event within the Maritimes (NS, NB, PEI)	\$200
Individuals travelling to an international event outside the Maritimes	\$250
Groups travelling to a provincial event	\$300
Groups travelling to an eastern Canadian/Atlantic event within the (NS, NB, PEI)	\$400
Groups travelling to an eastern Canadian/Atlantic event outside the Maritimes	\$500
Groups travelling to a national event within the Maritimes	\$500
Groups travelling to a national event outside the Maritimes	\$600
Groups travelling to an international event within the Maritimes	\$600
Groups travelling to an international event outside the Maritimes	\$700

Funding Disbursement: Travel Assistance for Sport, Cultural and Educational “Elective” Events

Individuals travelling outside the Maritimes but within Canada	\$150
Individuals travelling internationally	\$200
Groups travelling outside the Maritimes but within Canada	\$500
Groups travelling internationally	\$600

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

MEMO FOR DIRECTION

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: TAMMY FELTMATE, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
SUBJECT: *SMART CITIES CHALLENGE*
DATE: MARCH 20, 2018

SUMMARY

The Smart Cities Challenge is a national challenge that is part of an international program to integrate technology in how communities develop and meet the needs of their residents. Staff is seeking direction from Council on developing an application; the initial Challenge Statement is due on April 23, 2018.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada is challenging communities to come forward with their best ideas to improve their community, through innovation, data and connected technology. Smart Cities is about community driven innovation, meeting community priorities in new exciting ways with the latest technology as tools to create change and lay a foundation for the community to excel.

It can be about:

- how people move around;
- inclusion;
- active healthy living; and
- how to ensure our community is safe for everyone and everyone feels secure in their place.

The Challenge is open to municipalities and indigenous communities. Two or more of these community groups can submit a joint application. Prize levels are set at \$5M, \$10M (2 prizes) or \$ 50M.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Smart Cities Challenge is a national challenge that is part of an international program to integrate technology in how communities develop and meet the needs of their residents. It recognizes that to do this and to be innovative there are resources needed. This process not only allows us to compete on a national stage for significant prize money, at the very minimum

it gets our community on the map of innovative forward thinking communities and helps build a case for support from the federal government for community change.

Many of the priorities identified at our Strategic Planning session are about technology and making our community one that is safe, accessible, business ready. This is an opportunity to get really creative in addressing one or more of these priorities and to look at doing it in partnership with our neighbors.

The first step in the application process includes the development of a **Challenge Statement**. The Challenge Statement is a single sentence that defines the outcome or outcomes a community aims to achieve by implementing its smart cities proposal. The Challenge Statement must be measurable, ambitious, and achievable through the proposed use of data and connected technology. This statement is due by April 23rd, 2018.

Examples of Challenge Statements:

- The neighbourhood in our community with the highest crime rate will become safer than the national average.
- After years of decline, our community will transform a former industrial neighbourhood into one of the top locations in Canada for economic growth.
- Our community will ensure that every senior who is able to live independently at home is empowered to do so.
- Our community will implement preventative measures to reduce flood damage risk by 40 percent and provide every resident of at-risk areas with access to these measures.
- Our community will ensure that every person without a home has access to nightly shelter, and will connect 100 percent of vulnerable residents with the services, activities and programs that are known to reduce the risk of homelessness.
- Our community will become 50 percent more active and healthy, and achieve a measurable decrease in chronic disease.

The Challenge timeline outlined in the following graphic:



All challenge statements will be promoted, published nationally and posted on the Smart Cities Platform <https://impact.canada.ca/ca/challenges/smart-cities>; an independent jury will review all submissions and develop a short list. The jury will select finalists by Summer 2018- each finalist will receive a \$250,000 grant to develop their final proposal.

Finalist then use this grant to develop fully- implementable final proposals that outline all design, planning and project management components of their plans. They must have a strong

business case with clearly established milestones and measurable outcomes. A data and reporting strategy must also be clearly defined with links to Infrastructure Canada tools. These final proposals are due Winter 2019, deadline has not been named yet.

Our Challenge Statement could be about so many things. For example:

- **A community with no energy poverty** (investments in renewables, water conservation and protection, all homes energy efficient, a tool and resource library, a team of energy managers that support our vulnerable population)
- **Totally connected** (free internet for the entire community; new cell towers (possibly community owned) to ensure coverage for EMO and EMS, recycled cell phones for those in need to stay in touch, lifeline... business hub that brings new enterprise and business investment to area)

NEXT STEPS

If Council would like to pursue the development of a Challenge Statement, a brain storming session will be scheduled including municipal officials and invited guests. This session will leverage Council's Strategic Priorities, but will also provide an opportunity for new ideas to come forward.



4th ANNUAL GRAND KILTED SKATING PARTY

Sunday, March 25, 2018

TEAM INFORMATION SHEET

Team Competition: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Free Family Skate: 4:30 – 6:00 pm

About the Event

The Grand Kilted Skate is an annual fundraiser (and “fun” raiser) for Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre. Generous community supporters cover all our event costs so that 100% of the funds raised by participating teams go directly towards helping us produce and deliver top-quality professional theatre at affordable ticket prices.

The skating competition consists of a variety of team activities including racing, dancing, and some Highland Games-inspired skills tests – all in a fun and relaxed environment. We will have prizes and giveaways for everyone. Come prepared to have fun, and bring along your cheering squad!

Each Team:

- will consist of four participants (over the age of 14)
- will be dressed in kilts or tartan accessories
- will wear helmets and gloves as a safety precaution
- will wear coloured arm bands provided by the organizers for team identification

Participation Rules

- Minimum entrance fee - \$500 per team (donation to Festival Antigonish)
- Teams are encouraged to find sponsors (individuals or businesses) to cover their fees. Each sponsor and supporter over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt from Festival Antigonish.
- We are inviting a maximum of 12 teams, confirmed on a first-come basis.
- The team with the largest entrance donation will be recognized
- Team members are asked to be at the Arena by 2:30pm on March 25th for registration and orientation.

For questions, or further information, please contact:

Sean Cameron

seanandemmy@gmail.com

(902) 863-8854

Reema Fuller

rfuller@stfx.ca

(902) 867-4539

Supporting a 30-year legacy of outstanding live theatre at Festival Antigonish!



MODG Responds to Introduction of Amendment to Municipal Government Act

March 9, 2018 (Guysborough, Nova Scotia) - On Thursday, March 8, 2018 the Province of Nova Scotia introduced an *Act to Amend Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the Municipal Government Act Respecting Cape Breton Regional Municipality*.

The Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG) recently wrote a letter (Copy Attached) to Premier Stephen MacNeil expressing our concern with the impacts of the proposed “Special Charter” to Cape Breton Regional Municipality. To date. We have not received a response.

If enacted, this Act will have a profound negative impact on all Nova Scotia municipalities. Section 51B (2) states that “*Cape Breton Regional Municipality may sell or lease to any person eligible municipal property at a price less than market value*”.

In addition, Section 71BA (2) permits the following – “*Notwithstanding any enactment, where the council of Cape Breton Regional Municipality considers it necessary or advisable, the Municipality may enter into a taxation agreement with the owner of an eligible industrial property respecting the taxes payable to the Municipality by the owner*”.

The current Municipal Governance Act was designed to provide a “level playing field”, avoiding investment decisions based on which Nova Scotia municipality provides the greatest amount of government incentives. The proposed Act will have the opposite effect. While we feel strongly that this Act is not in the interests of Nova Scotia Municipalities, we believe that any amendments must apply equally to all Municipalities.

“Earlier this morning, our Council held an emergency special council meeting to discuss this issue” said Warden Vernon Pitts.

“At the meeting a unanimous motion was passed to write Minister Mombourquette and ask him to provide the Municipality of the District of Guysborough with all those same rights and privileges as has been proposed to provide CBRM through an amendment of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the Municipal Government Act” said Warden Pitts.

He concluded by saying “Current proposed major projects in our Municipality are based on sound business cases, and not on direct or indirect subsidies from Government, and it’s unfortunate now that we have to go down this road just to keep a level playing field for potential future projects.”

For further information please contact Warden Vernon Pitts (902) 870-6975 or vpitts@modg.ca or Barry Carroll, CAO at bcarroll@modg.ca or (902) 533-3705 ext. 228



Office of the Warden

February 27, 2018

Honorable Stephen McNeil
Premier of Nova Scotia
PO Box 726
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

Dear Honorable Premier,

At the February 21, 2018 meeting of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG), Council passed a motion expressing our concern with the proposed "Special Charter" for Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM).

Municipalities throughout Nova Scotia have significant challenges in terms of fulfilling their responsibility to deliver services for their residents. In recent years many rural Municipalities have been forced to turn in their charter. Many others are facing difficult choices regarding their future.

The MODG has already absorbed the Town of Canso within our operations. As you are aware, the Town of Mulgrave also faces significant challenges and uncertainty in terms of their ability to continue to provide local governance for its residents. There are many other Municipalities in Nova Scotia on the precipice of insolvency.

While we fully appreciate CBRM's desire to have more flexibility in terms of playing a greater role in determining the future of the area that they represent, we have significant concerns regarding the impact a "Special Charter" might have on the competitive balance of Municipalities in Nova Scotia.

The current Municipal Governance Act provides strict guidelines in terms of the role Municipalities play in attracting investment to Nova Scotia. These rules are meant to prevent Nova Scotia Municipalities from competing with each other for development. The focus should be on attracting investment to Nova Scotia, not creating a situation whereby investors play-off one Municipality against another within Nova Scotia.

As you are aware, the MODG has worked with multiple investors for large-scale investments that have tremendous potential for Nova Scotia. The MODG has purchased and sold land for "market-value". It would be inherently unfair if changes in the MGA now provide an opportunity for another Municipality to offer incentives to sell land or buildings for less than market value.

Any proposed changes to the MGA must recognize the inherent danger of creating an un-level playing field among the member Municipalities. We ask that you ensure that any changes in the MGA for a single Municipality fully consider the impact on other Municipalities and is applied equally to all Municipalities.

Sincerely,

Warden Vernon Pitts

c. UNSM President, Geoff Stewart



Atlantic Chamber
of Commerce
Representing business since 1896

Chambre de commerce
de l'Atlantique
Représentant les affaires depuis 1896

March 14, 2018

The Honourable Stephen McNeil,
Premier Province of Nova Scotia

Via Email

Re: ACC Request for Equitable Competitive Environment for All Nova Scotia Businesses

Dear Mr. Premier,

We are writing today to express our membership's objection to your government's proposed amendments to Chapter 18 of the Municipal Government Act Respecting Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Our understanding of the amendments is that CBRM will be conferred an exemption from long-standing regulations that prohibit municipalities from providing fiscal and real property incentives to private businesses.

Many of our members agree that municipal governance needs to be modernized, but this specific circumstance is not helpful. We understand the objective but fear the consequences of such an approach.

As a business organization we strongly support competitive markets, not artificial incentives, as the best means of attracting investment opportunities with sustainable profitability. This objective is best accomplished by the province creating globally-competitive infrastructure and cost structures across the entire economy, and ensuring access to an appropriately trained workforce.

The proposed amendments represent the crest of a very slippery slope. The reaction the province can expect to the allocation of special economic development powers to a specific community is both predictable and decidedly negative. Municipal governments striving to expand tax bases and attract new businesses will be forced to petition the government for equivalent powers in order to respond to competition from advantaged municipalities like CBRM. If the province opens this door, we can expect municipalities will, of necessity, join the race to the bottom and adopt the destructive practice of providing tax exemptions and land giveaways.

We remind you of the need to rally behind the principles of the Ivany Report that call for all Nova Scotians to work together to address the economic and social challenges that confront us. It is essential that our municipalities be encouraged to work together to achieve prosperity. In the long run no one will win when municipality is pitted against municipality to provide potential investors with more for less.

Our economy and public finances will not withstand the inevitable onslaught of artificially competitive business proposals that economic incentives will create. We need to pursue business proposals that are built on market-based costs. Recent events confirm that our international trading partners will quickly penalize, via compensatory tariffs, any company that appears to benefit from government subsidies.

This letter is not intended to condemn your government for the proposed amendments but forcefully convey our stance that the amendments create a path that we do not want to go down. Chambers across the province have been engaged to discuss this matter; and feedback on the proposed legislation. Initial responses have been overwhelmingly negative, noting such amendments will create discord, eliminate fairness and that the entire province will suffer. Our Nova Scotia member chambers strongly urge you to reconsider this potentially disastrous approach to economic development and pursue a balanced and equitable modernization of municipal governance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheri Somerville". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Sheri" and last name "Somerville" clearly distinguishable.

Sheri Somerville

CEO, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce

Cc: The Honourable Derek Mombourquette, Minister of Municipal Affairs
NS Media

From: amanda@straitareachamber.ca [mailto:amanda@straitareachamber.ca]

Sent: March 9, 2018 4:23 PM

Subject: Municipal Charter Threatens Economic Development in Nova Scotia

Good afternoon everyone,

A topic has hit the legislature that is designed to pit one region of our province against the other. A bill is on the docket that could result in CBRM having the kind of economic development incentives at their disposal that have not been seen since the 1990's in Nova Scotia - a time when every region of the province worked against each other in a race to the bottom using tax exemptions, land give-aways, and a host of other unsustainable practices. The problem is that if someone has to pay less, then someone has to pay more - the burden will most likely shift to residential taxpayers and small business.

The One Nova Scotia report, and the efforts that have followed it, have been well-intentioned; not perfect, but full of progressive ideas to improve our economy. The most impactful legacy of that report, and of the last 18 months of work updating the Municipal Government Act, have been to ensure that all regions of our province work together, on a level playing field, to advance our economy. The bill introduced today in the provincial legislature flies in the face of the OneNS forward-thinking plans, and sets us back 30 years. The proposed municipal charter for CBRM will result in the creation of a false sense of economic security for that region, and a race to the bottom for all of us as municipalities will need to pursue their own special deals with the province just to remain competitive and on a level playing field.

The draft bill is available for review here: https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd_1st/1st_read/b085.htm
Although the CBRM motivation is clearly about port development (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/legislation-changes-sydney-harbour-container-terminal-1.4568084>), the impact will be felt much more broadly in terms of our ability to attract investment to rural Nova Scotia.

- Inevitably, municipalities will be pitted against each other in the face of these sweeping economic development powers for a select few.
- Investors will lose confidence in a government that does the opposite of creating winning conditions for business as recommended in the OneNS report - changing rules in mid-stream and in this case, creating government-enabled competition, which this legislation is doing.
- Unsustainable business models will be propped up on the backs of taxpayers and small businesses (in this case especially, when you keep in mind the continued need for dredging and the estimated \$100 million cost to upgrade the rail line).

How will your municipality/region compete? Will you negotiate your own best deal? Of course - because you need to be able to offer attractive investment conditions to potential new business. But so will your neighbour, and your neighbour's neighbour (case in point - see the attached press release from the Municipality of the County of Guysborough). At a time when we are on the edge of prosperity with balanced budgets in this province, the inevitable result will be a race to THE BOTTOM.

Ask your provincial representative - how does this proposed legislation support the OneNS principles and create a level playing field? Encourage modernization of the MGA, without major exceptions like this, so that all ships rise in Nova Scotia's economy.

With respect,

Amanda

Amanda Mombourquette

Executive Director



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