

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 5:30 pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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- 1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**
 - 2. Approval of Agenda**
 - 3. Approval of September 11, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes**
 - 4. Delegations**

- a. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements**

The Audited Financial Statement will be provided at the meeting. The Municipal Auditor, Sonny MacDougall, will present the audit to the Committee.

- 5. Continuing Business**

- 6. New Business**

- a. 2018/2019 Water Utility Budget and Statement of Estimates Approval**

The Water Utilities budget will be circulated at the meeting. Director of Finance, Allison Duggan, will present the budget and is seeking approval.

The Statement of Estimates (SOE) is a template data entry form that the Province gives each municipal unit to populate with each municipal unit's current Operating Budget and Water Budget. Staff is requesting Council approve the F2018/19 SOE as part of the Provincial requirements.

- b. Approval of the Financial Information Return**

Staff will provide a presentation on the Financial Information Return.

- c. Consideration of a Streetlight**

Councillor Mattie is requesting consideration of the installation of a streetlight at the sharp bend on Delorey's Road in his district. Members of the public have expressed concern with the visibility of this bend, particularly in the winter.

- d. Skatepark Discussion**

Please see the attached release concerning the Antigonish Skate Park. While the Municipality has endorsed the park and committed to seeing it come to fruition, it has not determined a specific level of funding for its construction. The anticipated timeline is to tender the design and construction of the Skate Park in the winter for a spring 2019 build.

To consider be considered as the Municipality determines its funding level:

- The project is estimated to cost \$700,000.
- \$200,000 has been secured from an anonymous donor.
- \$500,000 is to be raised among the federal and provincial governments, the Town, Municipality and the Skate Park Association.
- This project is eligible for ICIP funding, as well as a Community Recreation Capital Grant from the Province. Municipal staff have been in contact with provincial officials to highlight this project for funding. A meeting of the Warden, Mayor, MLA and MP on this subject in the near future is advisable.
- Based on the funding available, a number of funding scenarios are possible. At this point, the proposed funding scenario is 1/3 raised by the Skate Park Association (\$166,665), 1/3 other levels of government (\$166,665) and 1/3 municipal governments (\$83,332 County / \$83,332 Town).
- It is possible more than 1/3 of the project can be raised from the federal and provincial governments, which would change this scenario.

Another question surrounds a Municipally owned property at Appleseed Drive, that was previously considered as the location of a Skate Park. Further information on this question will be provided during an in-camera session at the meeting.

7. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

- Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**
- Antigonish Arena Commission**
- Antigonish Crime Prevention**
- Eastern District Planning Commission**
- Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**
- Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network**
- Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**
- RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

8. 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.

9. Staff Reports

- Recreation**
 - The Mobi-Mat was installed at Pomquet Beach and has received very positive feedback from the community.
 - Fall programs are underway
 - The MPAL / Recreation Plan is nearly complete and is expected to come to Committee later in October

b. Administration

- Glenn and Beth Attended an AMA leadership workshop in New Glasgow earlier in September
- Shirlyn is working on the next edition of the County Connect
- A draft of revision to the Dog By-law is undergoing an internal and stakeholder review before a public consultation period begins. Staff hope to have the by-law before Committee during the fall.

c. Finance

- Water meter training with PW and Finance staff took place earlier in September
- Allison and Jackie are attending the Diamond Conference at the end of September
- Tracey and Vera are attending the Tax Collectors Conference in early October

10. Additions to the Agenda

11. In Camera Items

Acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property.

12. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 6:30 pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
 Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Remi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Neil Corbett

Regrets: Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 7:27 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

A request was made to add a discussion about brush clearing concerns along roadways in the County. Mr. Horne noted a Deletion: 2018/2019 Water Budget and SOE, which is being referred to the next meeting.

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion : Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes included in the agenda package.

a. Approval of June 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee approve the Minutes of June 19, 2018, as presented.

Motion : Carried

b. Approval of July 17, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the Committee approve the minutes of July 17, 2018, as presented.

Motion : Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor MacLellan asked for clarification on the AED item noted in the minutes. The AEDs have been ordered, with training to be scheduled. Once the training is complete, the Municipality will reimburse for units purchased as approved.

5. Continuing Business

a. On-Site Energy Manager

Mr. Horne provided background on the on-site energy manager position, which was an idea generated during the energy session held during the CEDI sessions in May. The position would be divided between partnering municipalities, with the expense cost-shared with Efficiency Nova Scotia. The program is being offered to two years, and the annual expense of the position is estimated to be \$100,000.

Staff has reached out to neighbouring units to see who would like to participate. Mulgrave has committed by passing the proposed resolution. Guysborough and St. Mary's are considering the motion in the near future. The breakdown of the municipal share of the cost-share would have to be negotiated depending on the participating partners; those details would be captured in an inter-municipal agreement that would return to the Committee for approval. Discussion followed.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the Municipality of the County of Antigonish partner with neighboring municipalities and First Nation to apply for a dedicated Efficiency Nova Scotia Energy Manager to assess municipal infrastructure for the purpose of determining and accessing opportunities for reduction of energy consumption, and that an inter-municipal agreement be developed among the partners to share the costs equitably.

Motion : Carried

6. New Business

a. Volunteer Firefighter Medal Discussion

Ms. Schumacher brought forward a request made by the 4 valleys volunteer fire department for financial assistance in acquiring long-service medals and pins for members for presentation at their 40th anniversary celebration in November. Consensus was to support this request and a motion was made.

Further discussion took place regarding utilizing this recognition method at other departments in the County. Staff will follow-up with further information about long-service members in other VFDs that are celebrating anniversaries this year.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the request made by Four Valleys VFD to purchase long-service medals and pins in advance of their 40th anniversary.

Motion : Carried

b. Arisaig Parish Community Centre Request

Councillor MacLellan provided an overview of the timing and nature of the request being made by the Arisaig Parish Community Centre, who are hoping to start the development of their outdoor pickleball courts now in order to be able to capitalize on savings provided by utilizing a contractor who is already in the area doing paving work.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council pass the request made by the Arisaig Parish Community Centre regarding the release of funds for the outdoor pickleball courts.

Motion : Carried

7. **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

There was nothing to report.

b. **Antigonish Arena Commission**

The commission met in July to discuss scheduling concerns. The financial review is underway and is being undertaken by MGM. The audit was awarded to MGM and will take place after the financial review. The RFP for by-law and policy development will be going out soon, and a call for public members to the commission will coming out after that.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

There was nothing to report.

e. **Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**

The committee has an upcoming meeting later in September.

f. **Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network**

Updates were provided regarding previous discussions about the REN and negotiations with the province.

g. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

Eric Stackhouse is back to work following. With the contributions provided by the library's funding partners, staff was given a 1% cost of living increase.

h. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

Work is being done to re-point the brickwork on the building. Some staff changes due to retirements are pending.

8. **Community Events**

- Councillor Dunbar noted that Paqtnkek PowWow starts on September 21st.
- Warden McCarron noted that a walk is coming up this Sunday at Chisholm Park at 2pm to about 3pm – This is a men's walk in support of women, from Chisholm Park to Columbus Field, and is hosted by the KoC.
- Councillor MacLellan noted that on Sept 29th a dinner and auction fundraiser is happening in Arisaig for HM MacDonald school for upgrades to the playground equipment at the school
- Sunday Sept 16th is Open Farm Day
- Councillor Corbett reviewed events that have taken place in his district including the Havre Boucher community hall fashion show, the salmon supper that had a good

turnout. Chase the Ace is ongoing in HB and is starting to build. The Car Show had a very good turnout, and Pickleball is being established in Havre Boucher.

9. Additions to the Agenda

a. Brush Clearing Concerns

Councillor Deveau raised a concern regarding brush clearing in his district. Funds have been cited as a reason for the work not being done. Councillor Deveau has been recommended to write a letter to Minister Hines noting this concern in the County.

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write a letter to Minister Hines noting concerns with brush cutting in the County.

10. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Motion : Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

PRESS RELEASE: Community Will, Partnerships Help Launch Skate Park in Antigonish

Release date: August 24, 2018

It may be a long time coming, but the construction of a world class skate park is finally within view for the community of Antigonish. Reaching this point has taken persistent drive from the community, and a partnership that included the Town and County of Antigonish, St. Francis Xavier University, and – of course – the Antigonish Skatepark Collective (formerly the Antigonish Highland Skateboarding Association) have brought it one step closer to reality.

“A skate park adds to an already impressive recreation package that our community offers and includes multiple fields, gyms and multiple ice surfaces, beaches, trails, Keppoch, rowing at Lochaber and much more.” Warden Owen McCarron stated, “This is another example of what is possible when we all – County, Town, St.FX and community – work together.”

“In my experience, this is among one of the finest examples of all sides coming together to deliver an important asset to our community – especially to the youth of the community,” said Mayor Laurie Boucher.

In the past, the quest for a skate park was lead by the Antigonish Highland Skateboarding Association – then a small group of extreme sport athletes and enthusiasts with the mission of not only developing the skate park but of fostering friendships and promoting active lifestyles for youth. And while some opportunities pursued by the group never quite panned out, the dream among some of its members (now the Antigonish Skatepark Collective) to ultimately construct a skate park in the community never diminished.

“We feel it is important for this community to provide modern recreational opportunities that will be utilized by today's families,” stated the Collective. This sentiment was echoed by Mayor Boucher. “We heard through our Engage Antigonish session that we conducted with youth that our young people are searching for spaces to hang out that are fun, free and easily accessible,” she said. According to the summary report of the Engage Antigonish consultations, “Youth Friendly Spaces” was the highest rated priority for Town Council among the youth consulted, with a skatepark near the top of the list. “I think this project shows we are listening and taking the opinions of our youth seriously when they were asked: “How can we make Antigonish a place that you are proud to call home?”

Constructing a skatepark can shape a community and sends an important signal to youth about their value to the community. “A skatepark is a feature of a progressive community,” the Skatepark Collective said. “It lets the youth of Antigonish know they matter and their sport matters.” Perhaps most importantly, adds the Collective, “It is important to let the youth of Antigonish Town and County know they are valued and celebrate their talents so they will want to stay and grow this community.”

The Importance of Partnerships

As of late, building partnership arrangements has come quite naturally to the Town and County Councils, but this project has proven to be somewhat unique.

The partnership grew around the community's collective will to build the skate park, notes the Collective, with the partners quietly rallying behind that goal for the past year. "It has brought together the Town, County, the University, and a community group (the Collective) to achieve a common goal," noted Warden McCarron. "When you step back and look at it, it's a special thing when you can accomplish that level of commitment and cooperation from three important sectors of our community."

"At St. FX, we have been very deliberate to support efforts that will help improve the mental and physical health of our community," said Dr. Kent MacDonald, President of St. Francis Xavier University. "For example, investments in facilities like the Saputo Centre for Healthy Living provide us with the health benefits that come with a state-of-the-art recreation complex. These investments also support our efforts to bring national-scale events like the Special Olympics to our region. A world-class skate park is another example of St. FX University's belief that supporting healthy living brings a range of positive benefits to our community."

When asked about what made the partnership successful, it boiled down to mutual respect, open communication and accountability.

"There's been a mutual respect between all stakeholders working towards a common goal of improving and growing this community," said the Collective. "It came down to meeting, coordinating, strategizing, and holding each other accountable."

Building trust is also a big part of the equation for successful partnerships. "Partnerships are successful when everyone is pulling in the same direction, and that sense of common purpose is accomplished when we truly achieve trust among those involved," said Mayor Boucher. "We all worked hard over the past year to listen to each other, we kept the lines of communication open, and we delivered on our promises."

Location

An agreement was recently reached, in principle, with St. Francis Xavier University, who generously agreed to lease land along West Street to construct the proposed skatepark. The location was selected due to its visibility, ease of access, and its proximity to the RCMP station, which ensures the venue will be a safe space for users.



"Many sample designs were reviewed over the course of the past year simply for context," noted Mayor Laurie Boucher, "and I bet that many residents will be surprised at how seamlessly these facilities can be integrated into the community landscape as a complement to the beautiful Town we have here in Antigonish."

The land is approximately 11,000 square feet, and all involved believe that it provides suitable space to construct a world class facility.

What comes next?

If all goes as planned, the community could see a skate park by next summer. The Town will be leading the procurement process and anticipates issuing a Request for Proposals for a Design/Build within the next month.

Then comes the matter of financing.

There is a commitment to have funding shared among the partners. At this stage, the project has already received an anonymous donation of \$200,000, leaving an estimated \$500,000 more to go to achieve the initial vision for the park.

“We still have a few more steps ahead of us,” said Mayor Boucher, “but knowing what this group has already achieved and the community will behind it, I am confident that we will see a skate park very soon.”

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Antigonish Skatepark Collective

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Fund Raising Information:



The Antigonish Skatepark Collective will begin a fund-raising campaign to help reach the funding amount required to achieve this vision. To find out how you can get involved, please email **Matt Schumacher** (mschumac@stfx.ca) with “Skatepark Fund Raising” in the subject line.