

# MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 5:30 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 Gary Mattie  
Councillor Neil Corbett  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk  
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance  
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

Also Present: John Beaton, ESREN

### **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 5:36pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart

**Seconded By** Councillor MacLellan

*That the agenda be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of January 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald

**Seconded By** Councillor Mattie

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of January 22, 2019 be approved as presented*

**Delegations**

**Local Department of Transportation Team**

Mr. Basil Pitts, Area Manager, provided members of the Committee with an update on upcoming tenders and paving work in the area, as well as gravel work upcoming in the capital program for gravel work. Councillors had the opportunity to ask about specific roads and areas of concern in their districts. Discussion followed. Mr. Pitts was thanked for coming to the meeting.

Councillor Dunbar joined the meeting at 6:04 pm.

**Continuing Business**

**MPAL Plan Approval**

Ms. Melanson provided members of the Committee with a final copy of the "Communities in Movement: A recreation and physical activity plan for Antigonish". This plan was reviewed in detail with Council at a session on January 29, 2019. Members of the Committee were provided with an opportunity for any final questions or comments on the plan.

The Recreation team was thanked for all of the work that was done to develop the plan.

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt "Communities in Movement: A recreation and physical activity plan for Antigonish County".*

**Motion Carried**

**New Business**

**Financial Update**

Mrs. Duggan reviewed the PVSC Capped Assessments for the municipality, providing a summary of figures from 2016-2019, with a detailed review of 2018 over preliminary 2019 figures. Discussion followed regarding changes in the assessments, anticipated appeals, and anticipated increases to mandatory costs.

Mrs. Duggan then reviewed the year-to-date actual statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Discussion followed. Mrs. Duggan was thanked for the work that she did in preparing the financial update.

#### **Pickleball Sponsorship Request**

Mr. Horne reviewed a request from the Arisaig Pickleball Club and Antigonish Pickleball Club, asking for the Municipality to consider sponsoring a tournament being held at the Keating Centre in May 2019. The event will be an all-ages provincial event, and the amount requested from the Municipality will be \$3,000. The total budget for the event is expected to be \$20,000.

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacLellan

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a sponsorship in the amount of \$3,000 to the Arisaig Pickleball Club and Antigonish Pickleball Association for the 2019 Provincial Pickleball Championships.*

**Motion Carried**

#### **Request for Municipal Contribution Increase from the PARL Board**

Mr. Horne reviewed information received from Communities, Culture and Heritage regarding recommended changes to the funding formula for libraries in the province. Communities, Culture and Heritage is looking to bring forward additional funding to libraries, with a potential impact of this funding on Municipalities.

The funding formula is intended to take effect in 2020, and is anticipated to be included in the 12 month letter issued by DMA in the coming months. Mr. Horne reviewed the figures included in the CCH presentation that was included in the agenda package.

Councillor MacLellan provided further details regarding the consultations that have taken place with the provincial library associations and boards, and the feedback from municipalities as the consultations continue with them. Consensus from the Committee was to support the new formula.

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan  
**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write a letter expressing support for the proposed library funding formula.*

#### **Staff Reports**

##### **ESREN Staff Report**

Mr. Beaton reviewed the report that was included in the agenda package, and provided several updates to the Committee regarding ESREN operations. Discussion followed



regarding the broadband/cellular coverage advocacy. Mr. Beaton was thanked for his time and update.

**Adjournment for Council Meeting**

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

*That the Committee of the whole meeting be adjourned at 7:32 pm, to be reconvened after Council.*

**Motion Carried**

Warden McCarron called the meeting back to order at 8:35pm

**In Camera Items**

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart

**Seconded By** Councillor Deveau

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations at 8:35 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor Dunbar

**Seconded By** Deputy Warden Stewart

*That the Committee adjourn the In-Camera Session at 9:21pm*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

**Seconded By** Councillor Dunbar

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve hiring Linda Arsenault for the term position of Receptionist.*

**Motion Carried**

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:22pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer