

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 5:30 pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of May 7th, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. New Business
 - a. Community Partnership Grants

The 2019 Community Partnership Grant application process closed on March 30, 2019. A total of 46 applications were received, with a total of nearly \$620,000 requested of the County's grant program. A committee of staff has reviewed the applications for compliance with the grant criteria outlined in the Community Partnership Grants Policy, and will present their recommendations for the distribution of grant funds for the fiscal year. Supporting documentation will be provided at the meeting.
 - b. Review of Elective Travel Grants

In March 2018, Municipal Council adopted a policy regarding Leadership and Elective Travel Grants, and stipulated that a review be done after one year. Staff has prepared a summary of the applications received during the year for requests under this program; documentation will be provided under separate cover.
 - c. Consideration of Low Income Tax Exemption Thresholds

By policy, the Municipality makes property tax exemptions available to residents whose combined family income meets stipulated thresholds in the previous calendar year. Each year as part of the budget deliberations process, the income threshold and the exemption amount are reviewed. This year, staff is proposing an increase to both the threshold household income and the exemption amount. Further details will be provided at the meeting.
 - d. Tax Billing Due Date and Interest Rates

Staff will be proposing a due date and interest rate amount for overdue tax and sewer accounts for the Committee's consideration.
6. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 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 Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

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

Other: Matt MacInnis

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 6:01 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Two additions were made:

- Bonvie MacDonald Links to Rinks Tournament
- Bulky Waste Tender

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of April 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of April 16, 2019 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Warden McCarron noted that the Chip in Fore St. Martha's tournament had been held over from the last meeting and will be discussed with the Bonvie MacDonald tournament item.

5. **Delegations**

a. **Matt MacInnis - Lower South River Ballfield**

Mr. Matt MacInnis presented to the Committee on behalf of the Lower South River Ballfield, requesting assistance with updating the buildings and the ballfields. Copies of photographs of the facilities were passed around. Mr. MacInnis has submitted a community partnership grant, and has reached out to Rae Gunn for information about funding through the Province as well. A review of fundraising efforts was also given. Discussion followed. Mr. MacInnis was thanked for his presentation.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Highway 337 Discussion**

Councillor MacDonald spoke to the concerns that have been raised regarding vehicle speeds on Highway 337 adjacent to the Mount Cameron subdivision. One of the suggestions made was to consider upgrading the road profile to include curb and sidewalk. A request has been submitted to have a speed study done again along the stretch. Discussion followed.

Staff was requested to prepare a letter responding to Mr. Curry. Mr. Horne suggested looking at the option for pedestrian infrastructure as part of the review of local improvements projects in upcoming months, and staff will look into preparing some cost estimates.

b. **Discussion Regarding Railway Crossing Concerns**

Deputy Warden Stewart brought forward a concern of a constituent who is having difficulty getting permission to cross the railway, mostly due to not being able to get a hold of anyone from the railway. There have also been issues with crossings being removed or lease fees increasing without notice throughout the County.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council request that the representatives from the railway come to a future Council meeting.

7. **New Business**

a. **Gorman Road - Afton Road Connection**

Councillor Mattie spoke to the resident concern regarding the condition of the Afton Road and Goreman Road from the boundary of the new interchange development area and heading east, where it is still gravel and rather grown over. Residents are concerned because they are trying to reach the interchange from point east and are finding the gravel roadways to be impassable because of road maintenance issues (gravel roads not paved and left icy, gravel washed away, and road is deep mud that vehicles get stuck in).

Councillor Mattie asked Council for a letter to be written to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal outlining these concerns, with copies to be sent to the local MLAs.

Moved By Councillor Mattie
Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the local MLAs regarding road conditions on the unpaved portions of the Afton Road and Goreman Road, which connect to the new Bayview Power Centre.

Motion Carried

b. **Fire Damage Letter Request**

Mr. Horne reviewed the request for a write-off of 2019 property taxes for AAN07153732, which was destroyed by fire. The 2019 taxes for the property are estimated to be in the amount of approximately \$60.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald
Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a write-off of approximately \$60 to Assessment Account 07153732 for 2019 property taxes, due to reassessment of property destroyed by fire.

Motion Carried

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

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

The Museum Board reviewed their budget and provided an update regarding upgrades to the Internet services to the building. The museum office has requested an additional \$10,000 from each participating municipal unit in their grant applications to fund a part-time employee position. The museum is also reaching out to local churches to see if they can be opened to the public for tourism purposes.

b. **Antigonish Arena Commission**

There is nothing to report; a meeting is expected to be scheduled in the next few weeks.

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

The April meeting was cancelled. The Senior Safety Coordinator is in the office intermittently; Councillors are asked to contact Travis DeCoste if they are not able to get in touch with the Senior Safety Coordinator.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

A meeting is coming up May 24th.

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

ERSWM had a discussion about options for dealing with textile waste. Spring cleanup has started around the counties; there is a grant available for community groups who are looking to do a clean-up. A copy of the form will be distributed. A discussion also took place regarding options for a permanent install for household hazardous waste.

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

An update will be provided during the in-camera session due to it including discussion about Personnel Matters.

g. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

No report.

h. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

An education meeting was held for the Board; a link to the education program provided will be distributed to members of Council.

9. **Community Events**

The following upcoming community events were highlighted:

- A 4H Leadership Development is taking place this weekend; Councillors were asked to consider attending the welcome dinner on Friday night.
- NSFM Spring Conference - check-in for those going
- Air Cadets are having a march-by at the St. Andrews Jr School on June 8th
- Chase the Ace St. Josephs Friday night
- Arisaig Lobster Dinner Sunday May 12th
- Coady School Invitation coming out soon
- Economic Forum taking place next week
- Mayfest taking place May 11th
- Club 500 draw taking place in Heatherton this Friday with entertainment
- Chase the Ace is starting up in St. Andrews

10. **Staff Reports**

Mr. Horne reviewed the staff report updates.

11. **In Camera Items**

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Contract Negotiations/Personnel Matters and Litigation/Potential Litigation at 7:32

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the in-camera session be adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Motion Carried

12. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Bulky Waste Tender**

Mr. Horne spoke to the tender bid received for Bulky Waste Collection. Staff is looking into the additional charges and surcharges included in the bid. Staff is still recommending that the bid be approved.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve awarding a tender to Eastern Sanitation Limited in the amount of \$59,865.90 HST included for the

collection of the bulky waste material throughout the County during the weeks of May 27 and June 4, 2019.

Motion Carried

b. Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links

Council has been approached about sponsoring a team for this year's Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links golf tournament. In the past, the Municipality has sponsored a team at the Tournament Friend level.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a sponsorship at the Tournament Friend level for the 2019 Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links tournament.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council sponsor a team for the 2019 Chip in Fore St. Martha's golf tournament together with the Town of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

c. Safety Update

Councillor MacLellan reviewed an incident that happened in the last month in her District where a search and rescue was hampered by the lack of cell service in the area. A letter has been submitted to her by a resident, and she will be forwarding it to the local MLAs.

13. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer