

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020, 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:

- Allison Duggan, Acting Clerk Treasurer, Director of Finance
- Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
- Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Also Present:

- Councillor Kaytland Smith
- Travis DeCoste

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 6:35pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Two additions were made:

- Discussion regarding turning lane concerns at Hwy 104 and New France Road
- Bowl for Bernie

One deletion was made:

- In-Camera item - Personnel matter

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of February 10, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 10, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Delegations**

a. **Government FOCUS**

Councillor Kaytland Smith from the District of St. Mary's provided an overview of the Government FOCUS group and its work to promote more women getting involved and running in the upcoming municipal election. A leadership school event is planned to take place in May, as well as an exhibit starting at the art gallery in Port Hawkesbury that features female municipal and band leaders in the communities represented. The goal of the group is to engage women and get them involved in politics, and to create an accessible program that will continue beyond the election in October.

The organization is looking to enroll 100 women for the two-day leadership school for May 1st/2nd, to be hosted at the NSCC Strait Area Campus. The estimated cost per woman for the event is \$250. Sixteen communities have are included in the area; at this time, four have confirmed funding by sponsoring between two and eight women.

Questions were asked regarding how women are selected to attend the event, how to apply, where and when the leadership school is taking place, and how the event is being advertised to the community. Discussion followed. Ms. Smith was thanked for her presentation, and the Warden noted that following further

discussion, the Committee would provide a response regarding the sponsorship request.

7. New Business

a. Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport - Ownership & Governance Model

Mrs. Duggan spoke to correspondence received from the Town of Port Hawkesbury regarding the governance model for the Allan J. MacEachern Regional Airport. Discussion followed. The Committee felt that this was not something that they wanted to entertain at this time.

b. Streetlight Request

Deputy Warden Stewart noted that a streetlight requested back in September was installed in another location on the Keppoch Road where the road had a sharp curve. While that streetlight is helpful, a streetlight is still needed in the original location.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a streetlight at Keppoch Road and St. Joseph's Road.

Motion Carried

c. Write-Offs for Inactive Accounts

Mrs. Duggan spoke to a list of accounts that the tax office has identified as being uncollectible due to double-assessments, trailers that have been removed, or Land Registry errors.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor Mattie

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the recommended tax account write-offs in the amount of \$4026.73.

Motion Carried

d. Cost of Living Update for 2020/21

Mrs. Duggan provided for information as staff prepares the upcoming budget. The CPI for inflation will be used for upcoming salaries and stipends; 2.2% will be the amount of increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

e. Accessibility Committee Terms of Reference

Ms. Feltmate spoke to the documents included in the agenda package regarding the establishment of a Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee, including a staff report, draft terms of reference, and draft templates for advertising and

selecting committee members. Discussion followed. The policy included is a draft, and approval for that documents is not being sought at this time as it is desired to have the Committee look at it.

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Committee.

Motion Carried

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

a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

The Heritage Board is looking to change their meeting night, where it conflicts with the new Committee meeting dates.

b. Antigonish Arena Association

The meeting scheduled for February 26th will be rescheduled to later in March.

c. Antigonish Crime Prevention

The next meeting will be in early March. The Committee is still looking for a Chairperson and Secretary.

d. Eastern District Planning Commission

The next meeting is schedule for March 12th

e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on February 27th.

f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 12th.

g. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on February 27th.

9. Community Events

Warden McCarron attended the fundraising breakfast in Lochaber and provided an overview to the Committee. Councillor Deveau reported that weather and conditions were good for the Carnival Events in Pomquet.

The following upcoming events were shared with the Committee:

- St. Patrick's Day event in Havre Boucher on March 14th (dinner and dance)
- Chase the Ace St. Joseph's Friday Night

- March 7th @ Tracadie Hall - Pub Night (fundraising for Brianna Mattie)

10. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Highway Turning Lane Modification Request**

Councillor Dunbar spoke to a concern raised in his District regarding the intersection of Highway 104 and New France Road. A year ago, a request had been made to upgrade the lighting at this intersection. The configuration of the turning lanes, and their relationship with the passing lane (including signage) has been raised as a concern, particularly where there is not a dedicated turning lane separate from the climbing lane. Discussion followed. A request was made to draft a letter to Minister Hines, with Minister Delorey copied, outlining the concern and request. A suggestion was also made to have the group of concerned citizens meet with Minister Delorey and Councillor Dunbar to discuss the intersection.

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Ministers Lloyd Hines and Randy Delorey outlining concerns with the lack of / configuration of turning lanes, and their relationship with the climbing lane (including signage) where New France Road intersects with Highway 104.

Motion Carried

b. **Bowl with Bernie**

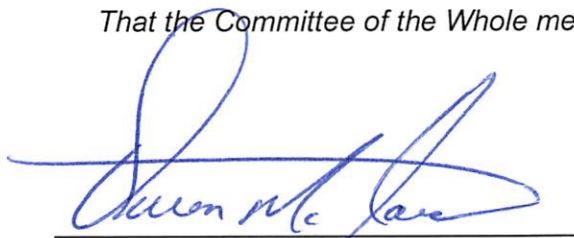
Warden McCarron shared a request to provide prizes for the upcoming bowling tournament in memory of Bernie Vosman. Local charities that benefit from this fundraiser are CACL and L'Arche; last year \$10,000 was raised. Staff will send the information out to Council.

12. **Adjournment**

Moved By Councillor Deveau

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:43pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Allison Duggan, Acting Municipal
Clerk/Treasurer