

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

**Monday, March 30, 2020, 6:30 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 March 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Directive from the Minister
6. Continuing Business
  - a. First Review of Final Active Transportation Corridor Report
  - b. COVID-19 Impact on Municipal Administration
7. New Business
  - a. Discussion of Recycling Service due to Colchester MRF Closure
  - b. Cape Mabou Pasture Co-op
  - c. Letter from Leonard Mason
  - d. Discussion Regarding Railway Crossing
8. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions
  - a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
  - b. Antigonish Arena Association
  - c. Antigonish Crime Prevention
  - d. Eastern District Planning Commission
  - e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
  - f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library
  - g. RK MacDonald Nursing Home
  - h. County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee
9. Additions to the Agenda
10. In Camera Items
  - a. Contract Negotiations - Connectivity RFP
11. Adjournment

---

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 9, 2020, 5:30 pm  
Council Chambers  
Municipal Administration Building  
285 Beech Hill Road  
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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

Regrets: Warden Owen McCarron  
Councillor Gary Mattie

Staff Present: Allison Duggan, Director of Finance, Acting Municipal Clerk Treasurer  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk  
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

1. **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Deputy Warden Stewart, at 5:31pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Deputy Warden Stewart called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. One addition was made: Extension of Leave.

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald

**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of February 24, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Deputy Warden Stewart called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

**Seconded By** Councillor Chisholm

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 24, 2020 be approved as presented*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Government FOCUS Sponsorship Request**

Mrs. Duggan spoke to the presentation that was made by Councillor Smith at the previous Committee of the Whole meeting, where the Committee was asked to consider sponsoring seats at the Female Leadership School taking place in early May. Discussion followed.

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

**Seconded By** Councillor Dunbar

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve sponsoring two seats for the Female Leadership School taking place in May 2020.*

**Motion Carried**

b. **Final Report on the Dissolution of the Eastern-Strait Regional Enterprise Network (ESREN)**

Deputy Warden Stewart spoke to the correspondence that was included in the agenda package, outlining the final steps in the dissolution process of the organization. Discussion followed.

7. **New Business**

a. **EDPC Appointments**

The recommended appointments of Eastern District Planning Commission staff to municipal positions of Building Inspectors, Development Officers, Special Constables, Fire Inspector, and Dangerous and Unightly Premises Administrator, along with their alternates and assistants, were presented from a letter provided by Mr. John Bain, Director of the Planning Commission.

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

**Seconded By** Councillor MacFarlane

---

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the annual appointments of Eastern District Planning Commission staff to Municipal positions, as proposed.*

**Motion Carried**

**b. SRCE International Student Program - Questions for Consideration**

Mrs. Duggan spoke to a letter received from the Strait Regional Centre for Education, providing information about their International Student Program. The letter included several questions about the program for Council, to facilitate discussion about awareness and opportunities for the program. Discussion followed.

**8. Staff Reports**

Mrs. Duggan reviewed the staff reports that were included in the agenda package.

**9. Additions to the Agenda**

**a. Extension of Leave**

Mrs. Duggan noted that Councillor Mattie's would be absent from Council due to illness. The excused absence that was provided for the month of February was proposed to be extended for one month.

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

**Seconded By** Councillor Dunbar

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council extend the leave for Councillor Mattie for one month.*

**Motion Carried**

**10. In Camera Items**

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property and Contract Negotiations at 5:51*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor Chisholm

**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*That the in-camera session adjourn at 6:18pm.*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau  
**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council appoint Linda Arsenault at the Returning Officer for the 2020 Municipal Election.*

**Motion Carried**

11. **Adjournment**

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:20pm.*

**Motion Carried**

---

Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart

---

Allison Duggan, Acting Municipal  
Clerk/Treasurer

## **Direction of the Minister under a Declared State of Emergency**

(Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act*, the *Municipal Government Act*, and *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*)

During the Provincial State of Emergency declared on March 22, 2020, and under the authority provided to me in Section 14 of *the Emergency Management Act*, in addition to any other directives I have issued, and as Minister of all municipalities, I direct all municipalities and villages in the Province, including the Halifax Regional Municipality, to:

1. **Effective at 2 pm on March 22, 2020**, discontinue holding their meetings in person, instead only virtual meetings may be held by video or telephone. Those virtual meetings must be recorded, and the minutes posted on a public website within 24 hours of the meeting.

Despite this direction, municipalities and villages are still authorized to continue making other operational decisions especially those required for service delivery.

Please note that these directions are in addition to any requirements established in a Medical Officer's order under the *Health Protection Act*.

**A failure to comply with this direction could result in a summary conviction with fines between \$500 to \$10,000 for individuals and up to \$100,000 for a corporation per incident.**

This direction will remain in place for the duration of the Provincial State of Emergency unless it is terminated in writing by me earlier.

Dated March 22, 2020.



---

Hon. Chuck Porter  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Cape Mabou Pasture Co-operative Limited  
Box 4  
Mabou, NS B0E 1X0

Warden Owen McCarron  
Municipality of the County of Antigonish  
Antigonish Municipal Office  
285 Beech Hill Rd.  
Antigonish, NS B2G 0B4

March 1, 2020

Dear Warden McCarron:

Since 1956 years the community pasture on Cape Mabou has been a mainstay in support of local livestock producers. The land is owned by the Department of Natural Resources. It is licensed to the Farm Loan Board who in turn has a license with the Cape Mabou Pasture Cooperative Limited to operate a community pasture. This co-operative was set-up in March 2001.

In 2019, thirteen patrons grazed 328 head of cattle on the 500 acres on Cape Mabou Community Pasture. The co-operative membership has always included beef producers from Cape Breton Island, the Nova Scotia mainland, and other provinces. The co-operative currently includes 14 beef producers from Antigonish County.

Good pasture land is at a premium and Cape Mabou Community Pasture offers some of the best. With its elevation of 1200 feet above sea level, constant moisture, and one of the best soils in the province the grass grows exceptionally well guaranteeing that the cattle grazing there can obtain three (3) lbs per day.

In the past couple of years the board of directors has strengthened governance, built new infrastructure and secured new patrons to ensure that this facility is successful.

To ensure the Cape Mabou Community Pasture continues to be successful the 14 fields need to be sustained with a yearly application of lime. In turn, the grass will grow better and more cattle can be pastured each season, increasing revenue and ensuring that patrons can use this facility for years to come.

The co-operative board of directors would greatly appreciate your consideration for our request for funding in the amount of \$5000 to purchase lime for these fields.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.  
If you have any questions concerning this request please contact me at 902-302-2171.

Sincerely,



Rankin MacEachern, President  
Cape Mabou Pasture Co-operative Limited

March 8, 2020

## Antigonish County Council

I request that my allotted ten minutes at this meeting (March 10, 2020) to be used by Council to read silently and then discuss this letter and its contents. I expect to receive a written report within two weeks so that I can then decide if it is necessary for me to present this issue to the media on Council's lack of interest regarding this issue.

Note: Until this matter is settled, no further taxes will be paid on the Mason Lakeside lot.



March 8, 2020

1.

In 2009 the water in Loch Katrine was raised. In 2010, I gave then, Deputy Warden Owen McCarron a large number of photos showing damage being done to the banks of the lake. Mr. McCarron said he would "look into it right away; nothing was done!"

In 2011 the assessment for the Mason lakeside property was reduced to almost half; there was no response from Council regarding this as damage to the property was obviously the reason for the reduction.

In 2015, I provided a complete file (photos, etc.) to Randy Delorey's office regarding the lake damage; Mr. Delorey sent the file to Mr. Paul Keats of Environment. Mr. Keats, through Mr. Delorey's secretary, Shannon Long, requested a list of people from around the lake who were concerned about the water level; I provided Mr. Keats (along with cover letter) of 29 signatures. There was no reply or followup regarding the issue.

In 2016, I sent a registered letter to then, Warden Russell Bouchie. I inquired if my letter was discussed; it was not and the letter could not be found. I provided a carbon copy which was acknowledged and sent to Randy Delorey's office although I had sent a carbon copy of the letter (registered)

to Mr. Delorey's office. Since I did't hear from Mr. Delorey, I inquired and was told that they could not find the letter. When they did, Mr. Delorey did not reply to the issue.

Since that time, I have provided letters and large photos of before and after the water was raised to Mr. McCarron and Council members. I have received no reply nor was the issue placed on any agenda although an abandoned house in Lochaber was given the time to be discussed at 10 Council meetings!

In May 31, 2017 Richard MacKenzie, reporter for the Casket, did an article that appeared on the front page regarding the "concern of folks" about the high water levels in Loch Katrine. Four residents from around the lake gave statements regarding the damage done to property and the highway on the west side along the lake.

Paul Keats provided false statements regarding the lake to Bruce Nunn (filling in for the Media advisor with the Environment) to Mr. Richard MacKenzie. Mr. Nunn quoted Mr. Keats saying that their office was in regular contact with me. He also stated that inspectors were in contact with property owners who stated there were no problems with high water levels or damage; all false statements!

After a letter to Council stating that since we have not been able to use our lot for over ten years (because of damage and high water levels) we were paying taxes for property equivalent to paying for a dead horse a meeting was called that included Owen McCarron, Paul Keats and Randy Delorey. I presented photos, maps, etc. but received no feed back to resolve the issue of high water and damage.

Mr. Delorey and Mr. McCarron turned the responsibility to Paul Keats and requested of him to keep them informed in dealing with the lake issues. Weeks after the meeting that was held on December 4, 2017 I received no information from McCarron, Delorey or Keats.

It was very odd that after false statements made by Paul Keats (who had 29 names in a file in his office of residents around the lake opposed the high water levels) to Richard McKenzie's article that no one had a problem with high water levels except me, that Mr. McCarron and Delorey would have him keep them informed - which he did not. I contacted Mr. Keats on my own to see what progress he was making and he simply told

me, "What am I suppose to do?"

It was obvious that there was no following by him, Mr. Delorey or Mr. McCarron following that "meeting".

I wrote to Warden McCarron and Council and Mr. Delorey but received no reply. I was informed later that Council decided it was not their problem (though not in writing) from Warden McCarron or Council.

Since I have been denied a meeting with County Council at their monthly meeting and if no action is taken up to deal with other government departments, I will proceed with an open letter to media stating all comments made in this letter. This is your district Mr. McCarron and you have done nothing to deal with this issue since I presented you with photos of damage done in 2010.

In an effort to impeach Donald Trump the Democrats were refused to present witnesses. Your Council has denied me an audience at your meeting. Hiding the truth will not resolve this serious matter.

Jonny Mason