

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

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

Monday, March 30, 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 (joined meeting at 7:15pm)  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Neil Corbett  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets:

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk  
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance  
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation  
Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works  
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, Warden McCarron, at 6 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Two additions were made; a discussion about the Jeux L'Acadie Sponsorship, and Garden Road East Havre Boucher. Mr. Horne also requested consideration of moving the recycling discussion up to Item 5a.

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of March 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 9, 2020 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Directive from the Minister**

Mr. Horne reviewed the Directive from the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding how Council and Committee meetings are to be held until the state of emergency is lifted.

a. **Discussion of Recycling Service due to Colchester MRF Closure**

Mr. Horne provided an update of conversations that staff has had with Eastern Region Solid Waste Management staff regarding the recycling plant in Colchester, and the impact this has on the Municipal recycling program. Staff has explored what options are available to the Municipality, and at this time, recyclables collected over the past week are being stockpiled at the Beech Hill Transfer Station until storage capacity is reached. Staff expect to know more about options in the next day or two. Discussion followed.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **First Review of Final Active Transportation Corridor Report**

Ms. Melanson joined the Committee meeting and spoke to the draft final report that was circulated to the Committee earlier in the day. Her review touched on the highlights of the plan, specifically the two main routes that are highlighted in the plan with cross-sections and supplementary information. The preferred option for each section of the routes was based on the recommendations from the steering committee, a standards manual, and input from the public consultation sessions. Discussion followed. Ms. Melanson was thanked for her presentation.

b. **COVID-19 Impact on Municipal Administration**

Mr. Horne spoke briefly to the measures that have been taken with municipal operations, but also provided the Committee with the opportunity to ask any questions, concerns and suggestions that they might have. Mrs. Duggan spoke to updates from an AMANS/NSFM meeting that was held last week. The Committee had the opportunity for questions and discussion about the information that was shared. An update was also provided to the Committee on staff work-from-home arrangements for those staff who can work from home.

7. **New Business**

a. **Cape Mabou Pasture Co-op**

Warden McCarron spoke to a letter received from the Cape Mabou Pasture Co-op, making a request of the municipality for a financial contribution. Fourteen local farms are a part of this co-op, and this is the first time the Municipality has been asked to assist. Discussion followed.

b. **Letter from Leonard Mason**

Warden McCarron spoke to a letter included in the agenda package from Mr. Mason regarding concerns with the water levels in Loch Katrine and his interactions with various Provincial Departments and individuals. Warden McCarron will call Mr. Mason to follow-up on the letter, and asked if the Committee would reconsider having Mr. Mason attend a future Committee meeting for a ten (10) minute presentation once the Committee is able to meet in person again, or to write a letter to the Province to raise his concerns to them again. Discussion followed.

c. **Discussion Regarding Railway Crossing**

Deputy Warden Stewart spoke to a constituent who is looking for the Municipality to write a letter to the railroad questioning the costs listed in the estimate and why they are so high, with the letter copied to the Minister of Transportation. Consensus was given to write the letter as requested.

8. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Jeux L'Acadie**

Councillor Deveau spoke to a request from Jeux L'Acadie to defer the \$10,000 contribution that was set aside for the 2020 Games until 2021, which is when the games have been rescheduled to take place. Consensus from Council was to carry that contribution over.

b. **Garden Road East Havre Boucher**

Councillor Corbett spoke to a concern from residents along a private road in his district, where there are two culverts that were installed in the 1950s/60s by the Department of Transportation that are now being impacted by erosion due to storm water flow from the highway. The Department of Transportation does not have any record of the installation/ownership of these culverts. The residents are concerned because additional water flow down the highway from East Havre Boucher is causing erosion of the roadway and the loss of the driveway. Councillor Corbett has been meeting with Department of Transportation staff, but they feel it is a private road and is the residents' responsibility. Discussion



followed. Suggestions were made to Councillor Corbett regarding Department of Transportation staff who may be able to find out more information.

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

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

No updates are available - no meeting was held this month.

b. **Antigonish Arena Association**

The arena will remain closed until Friday April 3rd, when a meeting will take place and a decision will be made regarding whether the ice will be removed early for the summer. Questions were asked regarding what was happening with the arena staff, and the catering business within the building.

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

No updates - the March meeting was cancelled.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

At the last board meeting there was a review of operations and new staffing. A question was asked about EDPC operations with remote working; Mr. Horne noted that EDPC staff could be reached while their staff were working from home.

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

No updates - March meeting was cancelled.

f. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

Libraries are closed until at least April 30th. Online services and programming are still available.

g. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

An update on infection control measures being taken by the facility was provided for the Committee, with specific details about the COVID-19 case being circulated to the Committee by Councillor MacLellan earlier in the day. Further updates will be sent directly from Councillor MacLellan to the Committee.

h. **County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee**

No update was available. Municipal staff are in touch with Paqtnkek staff on a regular basis during the COVID-19 response.

10. **In Camera Items**

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 7:57 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

*That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 8:12 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council authorizes staff to proceed in lease negotiations with SBA Canada provided they secure a cellular provider.*

**Motion Carried**

**11. Adjournment**

Warden McCarron reviewed upcoming scheduled conference calls with the local MPs for general updates on the COVID-19 situation tomorrow.

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:17 pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal  
Clerk/Treasurer