

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

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

Monday, April 27, 2020, 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

### **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 5:34pm

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Light industrial park signage
- Discussion on cenotaph project

Moved and seconded:

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

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**Approval of April 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved and seconded:

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of April 14, 2020 be approved as presented*

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

An update was provided regarding the application to the Minister of the Environment with respect to the handling of recyclables while the Colchester facility is closed. Discussion followed.

**Delegations**

a. **Potential Housing Development - Dunmore Road**

Ian Tate and Amanda Knight from Dunmore Developments joined the meeting. Ms. Knight provided an overview of the project, and the organizations that have been consulted as the project has been reviewed. Questions followed regarding the proposed subdivision and the anticipated timelines for the development. Discussion followed. Ms. Knight and Mr. Tate were thanked for their presentation and left the call.

**Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Light Industrial Park Signage**

Councillor Deveau brought forward concerns regarding the condition of the existing signage at the light industrial park, which is damaged. Warden McCarron provided an update of a meeting with staff and a park representative earlier in the year to discuss options. The municipality is waiting for input from the industrial park members before taking any action on the signage.

b. **Cenotaph Relocation Project Discussion**

Representatives that presented a funding proposal to the Town and County at the last Joint Council meeting have followed-up and are looking for information regarding the requested financial support. Discussion followed regarding the importance of the project and how to fund the request.

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**Continuing Business**

**a. Sport Hub Project Update**

Mr. Horne provided a summary of the Sport Hub project and soft launch of the website for the program, which took place earlier in the day. The formal launch of the program will take place when public health restrictions are lifted.

**b. Update on NSFM Initiatives & Weekly Video Conference**

Mr. Horne provided a summary of the weekly updates that are provided by the NSFM via a video conference call. Representatives from the PVSC, who gave a presentation at the last NSFM conference call, are scheduled to provide the same presentation to Council on Thursday evening. Members of the Committee were asked to send any questions that they have to Mrs. Schumacher to be shared with PVSC.

**c. Discussion of Operating Budget Development**

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with an overview on the development of the 2020/2021 budget, leading into a discussion about Council expectations for the budget. The steps being taken in the review of the proposed capital plan, operations and service delivery, and the impacts of COVID-19 were discussed. Timelines for budget review internally and preparation for presentations of the budget to Council were also reviewed. Mrs. Duggan provided further details. Questions and discussion followed.

Staff was requested to set up a meeting to talk with the local MPs about funding options to support community centres that are losing rental and fundraising income. A suggestion was brought forward to consider further discussion about reserves, tax rates, and government support.

**d. Update on Inter-Municipal IT Initiative**

Mr. Horne provided an update on the Inter-Municipal IT Initiative project that has been underway with five neighbouring municipalities to determine the feasibility of creating an inter-municipal IT service. The first step of this project was to undertake an assessment of the existing IT infrastructure, and the creation of an action plan for the group. This step has been completed, and IMP has provided reports to the Inter-Municipal group. The action plan has been supplied to the director of a similar organization for further input. Questions and discussion followed.

Councillor Dunbar joined the meeting at 7:22 pm.

**New Business**

**a. Fire Damage Letter Request**

A fire letter has been provided by PVSC regarding AAN 05592917. A fire completely destroyed the home and the homeowners have requested that Council write off the taxes, which would be approximately \$247.

Moved and seconded:

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write-off the taxes, in the amount of approximately \$247, for AAN 05592917 where a fire completely destroyed the home.*

**Motion Carried**

**b. Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links**

The Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links fundraising golf tournament has been rescheduled to take place later in August, and they are seeking sponsorship for the tournament. In past years, the Municipality has supported this event at the Tournament Friend level.

Moved and seconded:

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a Tournament Friend sponsorship to the Bonvie MacDonald, provided the event takes place.*

**Motion Carried**

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

**a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

The museum is currently closed, and the Board did not meet.

**b. Antigonish Arena Association**

No further Board meetings have taken place. Updates on staffing and funding applications were given.

**c. Antigonish Crime Prevention**

Funding is being provided by the Province to the Senior Safety Coordinator to assist seniors with needs during the COVID-19 lockdown. The acting chair has resigned.

**d. Eastern District Planning Commission**

No meeting has been held since the last update was provided.

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

Meeting was held by conference call on April 17th to discuss recyclables.



f. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

Staff is working from home, with programming being offered online. Membership has been increasing. A further update will be forwarded by email.

g. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

Board meetings are being held by conference call.

h. **County Paqtnekek Joint Steering Committee**

No committee meetings have been scheduled.

**Community Events**

The following community events were reported:


- Councillor MacLellan provided an update on the Arisaig mural that was recently completed and is now at the Municipal Office in preparation for printing.
- On April 24th Warden McCarron attended a moment of silence held at the RCMP detachment office in Antigonish.
- Last week Pictou United Way held a Zoom conference regarding funding provided by the Federal Government and administered by the United Way. Information was sent out to Council by email and the deadline is approaching.

**Adjournment**

Moved:

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:41pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal  
Clerk/Treasurer