
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Also Present: Sonny McDougall, MNP

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 5:30 pm

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Several items were added to the agenda:

- Casket

- Senior's Concerns
- Time of Meetings

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of October 13, 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 October 13, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes. Mr. Horne provided an update to an item raised about the water rate study, regarding the rate division between base and consumption.

5. Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

6. New Business

a. Approval of Audited Financial Statement

Warden McCarron introduced Sonny MacDougall from MNP. Mr. MacDougall then provided an overview of the audit findings for the Municipality to the Committee, going through each page in detail. Warden McCarron thanked Mr. MacDougall, as well as Allison Duggan and her Finance Team staff, for all of the work done on the Audit.

b. Lights of Love Donation Request

Mrs. Donovan provided an overview of the Lights of Love campaign request.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a \$1000 contribution to the Lights of Love fundraising campaign at the RK MacDonald Nursing Home.

Motion Carried

c. **Visitor Information Centre Support Request**

Mr. Horne spoke to a request received from the Visitor Information Centre asking for a grant to assist with a deficit incurred due to the closure of the Arts House during the COVID closures. The emergency funding request is \$1617.18 from each of the Town and County.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide an emergency grant to the Visitor Information Centre in the amount of \$1617.18.

Motion Carried

d. **Letter to Dr. Strang - Asymptomatic Testing Site on StFX Campus**

Mrs. Donovan spoke to a letter drafted to Dr. Strang requesting that resources be allocated to permit an asymptomatic testing centre to be opened on campus for the period when St. FX students are isolating on campus after the Christmas holidays. The current plan as currently known for students returning to campus and quarantining on campus was shared with the Committee. Discussion followed.

e. **RK MacDonald Board Composition**

Mr. Horne spoke to a request received from the RK MacDonald Nursing Home to adjust representation on their board. The RK is looking to change representation from the Municipality from four (4) elected officials to three (3) elected officials and one (1) public member.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the process for Committee appointments of County representatives to the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Board in the manner requested by the RK.

Motion Carried

f. **Committee Appointments**

Mr. Horne noted that there were some gaps based on the requests made to date. Staff will re-circulate the list to Council for further consideration and appointments at a future meeting.

7. **Community Events**

Councillor Deveau discussed the recording the Remembrance Day ceremony in Pomquet scheduled for this week. On December 5th a concert is being held in Pomquet, with tickets for sale now following strict COVID guidelines.

Councillor MacFarlane discussed the recording the Remembrance Day ceremony in Williams Point scheduled for this week

Councillor McNamara discussed the recording the Remembrance Day ceremony in Havre Boucher scheduled for this week, flu clinic arranged with the mobile pharmacy van from Port Hawkesbury that saw 98 residents get their shots. He suggested other mobile medical services could be considered in the community that would help residents who are unable to travel into Town or other centres.

Councillor MacLellan shared that the Arisaig Hall is now open under strict COVID regulations. For the first time in 35 years, the Christmas Bazaar will not be held.

Mr. Horne shared that the St. Joseph's Bazaar is being held this upcoming Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Donovan spoke to Municipal Awareness Week, which is coming later this month, and asked members of Council if they can complete the questionnaires that will be used to create bios of each Councillor.

Warden McCarron shared past and upcoming events in St. Andrews and how the community centres have adapted to observe COVID protocols. A video of the Legion Remembrance Day ceremony at the Legion was filmed earlier today, and the opening of the relocated cenotaph was done last week.

8. Staff Reports

Mr. Horne noted that staff reports were included in the agenda package. Further updates based on the ST. FX pool updates and the Provincial Public Health press conference that was provided earlier in the day.

9. Additions to the Agenda

a. Discussion about the Casket

Councillor MacLellan brought forward concerns with the Casket not being reinstated and has been collecting articles in other Saltwire publications about reporters being hired and other small publications returning in communities throughout the province. In reading those articles it appeared that the elected officials in those communities have been very vocal with their concerns. Warden McCarron provided some background to the letter sent to Saltwire expressing concern with the closure of the Casket and suggested that a follow-up letter may be appropriate. Discussion followed.

b. Seniors' Concerns

Councillor MacLellan brought forward a concern raised by a senior in her District who has concerns about being able to clear snow on their property in the winter. The request was passed to the Senior Safety Coordinator, who is looking into opportunities to create a list of volunteers who could be on hand to assist a

senior with snow removal. The Committee took an opportunity to discuss options for community initiatives that are in place or have been put in place over the last year that could be copied or utilized to address concerns like this.

c. **Time of Meetings**

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward a request that, where possible, meetings be scheduled in the evenings to accommodate those who are still working during the day. Warden McCarron noted that the request could be looked at for upcoming Strategic Priorities sessions. A question was asked about whether a Saturday session could work. Mr. Horne noted that staff will schedule whatever works for Council.

10. **In Camera Items**

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 7:10 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the In-Camera Session adjourn at 7:32 pm.

Motion Carried

11. **Adjournment**

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:35pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO