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## Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 6:00 pm  
St. Joseph's Community Centre  
2752 Ohio East Road  
St. Joseph's, Nova Scotia

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron  
Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart  
Councillor Donnie MacDonald  
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm  
Councillor Remi Deveau  
Councillor John Dunbar  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Neil Corbett  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
Mayor Laurie Boucher  
Councillor Willie Cormier  
Councillor Donnie MacInnis (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Jack MacPherson  
Councillor Andrew Murray  
Councillor Mary Farrell  
Councillor Diane Roberts

Regrets: Councillor Mary MacLellan

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer, County of Antigonish  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk, County of Antigonish  
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, County of Antigonish  
Jeff Lawrence, CAO, Town of Antigonish  
Steve Scannell, Director of Community Development, Town of Antigonish  
Ken Proctor, Director of Public Works, Town of Antigonish

Also Present: David Morgan  
Wyanne Sandler  
Andrew Fedora, Port Hawkesbury Paper  
Allan Eddy, Port Hawkesbury Paper Gallery

### 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 6:07 pm

### 2. Approval of Agenda

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

- Highland Games Parade Float
- Update on Physician Recruitment

**Moved By** Mayor Boucher

**Seconded By** Councillor MacFarlane

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Carried**

**3. Approval of Joint Council Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions to the Joint Council Minutes of February 20, 2019.

**Moved By** Councillor MacInnis

**Seconded By** Councillor Murray

*That the Joint Council minutes of February 20, 2019 be approved as presented*

**Carried**

**4. Delegations**

**a. Climate Emergency Presentation**

Ms. Wyanne Sandler and David Morgan provided a presentation regarding climate change, and concerns regarding global warming and climate emergencies. Information was provided to the Councils about green house gas projections, the anticipated weather and environmental impacts from climate change, and what the expected consequences to the community could be. A summary of awareness activities in the community over the past several months was also given.

Mr. Morgan and Ms. Sandler brought forward a request to the Councils to declare a climate emergency, to be followed with a response including:

- Development and review of plans to reduce carbon emissions and protect both citizens and natural areas from the worst effects of climate change;
- Public engagement on the steps and timelines the municipalities will put in place to reduce their carbon footprints as rapidly as possible to the targets recommended by the 2018 IPCC report and the Paris Agreement;
- The establishment of a Climate and Equity Working Group with a diverse membership of citizens to provide guidance and which will receive regular reports on progress in carbon emission reduction and mitigation measures; and,

- Consideration of how adapting to climate change may ultimately become a critical element of all policy-making.

Mr. Morgan reviewed a number of groups in the community who are also looking to support the request. Dr. Riley Chisholm then presented a letter from the administration of St. Francis Xavier University.

Warden McCarron thanked those who presented. The floor was opened to the members of Council. Mayor Boucher also thanked those who presented for bringing this information to the Committee. Discussion followed.

**b. Port Hawkesbury Paper - Operations Update**

Mr. Allan Eddy presented an operations update from Port Hawkesbury Paper that focused on the economic impact, sustainable forest highlights, and new business opportunities. Members of Councils were provided with information about the website and social media links for the company. A summary to the economic impact, including jobs and spending in the community, and information was provided regarding harvest standards required under their certifications. The presentation touched on potential business development opportunities, where assets and resources from the company site, such as waste heat and treated water, were reviewed.

Members of Councils were invited to ask any questions that they had. Questions were asked about replanting on private woodlots, the biomass plant owned by Nova Scotia Power, and harvest management on private lands. Discussion followed. Mr. Fedora and Mr. Eddy were thanked for their presentation.

**5. Continuing Business**

**a. Update on Sewage Treatment Plant**

Mr. Ken Proctor, Director of Public Works for the Town of Antigonish, provided an update on the review of the Antigonish Sewage Treatment Plant. Options for upgrades, including those required to meet requirements, identified in study done by EXP following the ERA, were reviewed. Pilot projects for improving the efficiency of the system while repairs and upgrades are done were also reviewed. Next steps include ongoing flow monitoring, continuing to pilot technologies, sewer bylaw updates and enforcement, updating the Inter-Municipal Agreement, and considering funding options for upgrades.

Members of Councils had the opportunity to ask questions. A suggestion was made for members of Council to take a tour. Mr. Proctor was thanked for his presentation.

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6. **New Business**

a. **Event & Recreation Facilities Update**

Mr. Steve Scannell, Director of Community Development, provided an update on Recreational Capital Projects in the community; specifically, the Sandlot Accessible Ball Field and the Skate Park Association. For the Skate Park, designs are anticipated to be finalized by the end of June with ground-breaking in the latter park of July. Conceptual plans were shared with the Councils.

For the Sandlot Baseball Field, a timeline of construction and anticipated opening were provided. Budget details, including additions and amendments, were also reviewed. The grand opening of the field is expected to take place on Saturday July 20th. Further details will be shared with Councils when they are known.

Mrs. Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator with the County, provided an update on the Nova Scotia 55+ Games. Members of Councils were provided with information packages including registration information and volunteer information. Some preliminary registration figures, and fundraising initiatives in the community were reviewed. Volunteers are needed to assist with the fundraising breakfast taking place at the Farmer's Market on June 23rd. The registration deadline is July 1st.

Mr. Scannell and Mrs. Donovan were both thanked for their presentations, and those involved on the Town/County teams as well as in the community were thanked for the work that they have done on the projects presented.

7. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Highland Games Parade Float**

The Town and County have been requested to consider submitting a float for the upcoming Highland Parade. After some discussion, it was felt that it was too short of notice to prepare a float for this year, but something could be done for the 2020 parade. Members of Councils were invited to consider participating in the parade by walking, as is done with the Santa Claus Parade.

b. **Update on Physician Recruitment**

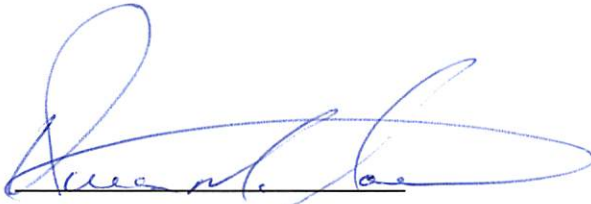
Mayor Boucher provided an update regarding initiatives for a physician-led, community-supported recruitment effort. Discussion followed. Mayor Boucher will provide further information from other communities in the Province and will provide future updates as they become available.

8. **Adjournment**

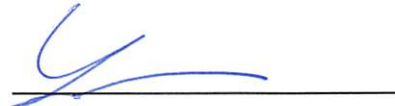
**Moved By** Councillor Farrell

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:29 pm*

**Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Mayor Laurie Boucher



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer



Jeff Lawrence, CAO