

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor Willie Cormier
Councillor Andrew Murray
Councillor Mary Farrell
Councillor Jack MacPherson
Councillor Donnie MacInnis
Councillor Diane Roberts

Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughn Chisholm
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Neil Corbett

Regrets

Councillor Hugh Stewart

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence (Town of Antigonish)
Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer (County of Antigonish)
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk, (Town of Antigonish)
S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor L. Boucher, and roundtable introductions were made.

2) Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis and seconded by Councillor M. MacLellan that the agenda be approved with one addition.

3) Approval of Minutes

Mayor L. Boucher called for the approval of the previous Joint Town and County Advisory Committee minutes.

It was Moved by Councillor D. Roberts and Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier to approve the Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 12, 2017.

4) Business from Minutes

a. Discussion Regarding Highway 7 (Lochaber Road/West Street) and old Highway 104 Intersection Moving Forward

Mayor L. Boucher invited Warden O. McCarron provide an update. Warden O. McCarron noted that representatives from the Town, County, St. FX, and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) attended a meeting regarding the former TransCanada highway at the intersection of Highway #7. He noted that the existing lights are at the end of their life cycle. It was noted that TIR would look at the cost of modern lighting versus a roundabout. He further noted traffic counts are currently being done, and, when complete, TIR will compile the data, which will likely take approximately 3 or 4 months, following which the numbers would get

plugged into their budget. Councils were advised that regardless of TIR's plan of action, it is too late to be included in their next budget

Warden O. McCarron responded to a query from Councillor A. Murray with Mayor L. Boucher clarifying that the land that may be impacted was actually County land.

b. Discussion Regarding Skate Park

It was noted that Mayor L. Boucher, Warden O McCarron, CAO J Lawrence, Municipal Clerk G. Horne, along with representatives of the Federation of Agriculture, Farmers' Market, 4-H and Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition (ENSE) attended a meeting to discuss a skate park. He expanded on details from the meeting.

Mayor L. Boucher noted a Memorandum of Understanding would have to be put in place to ensure the parking lot area would be made available, and spoke to a call she received regarding the number of parking spaces might be available at the front of the Arena if the area was paved. Brief discussion took place.

Warden O McCarron advised provided comment on the signed agreement between the Arena and Federation of Agriculture.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that she had heard the community of Heatherton is looking to build a skate park, with Councillor J. Dunbar noting there would be an open house tomorrow, and that the Town and County are welcome to attend.

It was noted that the Heatherton group is receiving good reception. Brief discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to other areas being looked at as a possible location for a skate park, with one sit in particular that appears to be a very acceptable site that could be carried forward with.

c. Status of 55+ Games Application

Mayor L. Boucher noted most in attendance this evening had heard the presentation from the leader of the 55+ Games. She noted the Town and County jointly filed an application and were successful, and will be hosting the 2019 55+ Games.

Brief discussion took place on number of athletes, and dates.

New Business

Introduction of Antigonish Arena Commission – Governance Review (as prepared by S. Scannell, Town of Antigonish Special Projects Coordinator.

Mayor L. Boucher noted CAO J. Lawrence and County Clerk G. Horne had been working on the Arena Governance for a while, eventually turning it over to S. Scannell, who took to the podium.

S. Scannell provided a PowerPoint presentation noting this had come out of the Memorandum of Understanding from 2015, and expanded on the formation of the discussion. He provided details on the purpose and origin or the Governance Review.

Council was advised that both the Town and County have the authority to create inter- municipal agreements from Section 60 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA). S. Scannell noted that

consideration had been given to the *Societies Act* (the 'Act') from 1967. He noted that he had reviewed the Act, MGA, some existing inter-municipal agreements, and document from municipal affairs referring to recreation. He further noted he had looked at 3 or 4 other inter-municipal agreements for governance structure around recreation facilities.

S. Scannell suggested he go through the report section by section. He noted that first was an ability to guarantee loans, which came up in a 2015 agreement regarding replacing the floor for Arena. He noted that the County Solicitor suggested that the Act to enable guarantee loans isn't clear. He further expanded on details in this regard.

S. Scannell went through the financial considerations including sharing of liabilities at the termination of the agreement, having the Arena submit an annual budget, identifying/clarifying roles and responsibilities, and best practices

Brief discussion took place and it was noted that it is important to clearly define what the Commission's authority is, and what the Town and County's authority is. Brief discussion took place on controversial items which should come back to Council. CAO J. Lawrence spoke to utilizing a policy and provided comment on authority, roles and responsibilities.

S. Scannell noted that there are standards for inter-municipal agreements, as well as a mechanism for dispute-resolution, which is recommended via Section 60 of MGA. He noted it further outlines a step-by-step process.

Councils were advised that with a lack of clear term for members, it appears that board members sit on the board until they are replaced. It was noted that most boards have term limits of 2-4 years.

S. Scannell noted that under the Act, officially the Commission is identified as the Building for Youth Commission, but is often referred to as the Antigonish Arena Commission.

Councillor B. MacFarlane spoke to the origin of name and how it allowed Antigonish to get federal funding as it was the 'building for youth' and not an arena. Councillor M. MacLellan noted that the library is named The People's Place as they couldn't get money for a municipal library.

CAO J. Lawrence stated that the Commission should be rescinded, and only one name used. In response to a comment from Councillor D. Roberts, CAO J. Lawrence noted at some point a name would have to be determined but that this meeting was more for discussion and governance itself.

Brief discussion took place on having stakeholders on the Board. S. Scannell noted he looked at three (3) main options - ensuring meetings are open to public, establishing permissive powers to invite people to participate in board discussions, and placing stakeholders on the Commission but without powers (this may cause issues). Clerk G. Horne noted some complexities come to light the more you bring a stakeholder onto the board. Having some stakeholders on the Board as ex-officios was briefly discussed.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to dispelling trust, and referred to the Town's Planning Advisory Committee as an example. Discussion took place on sending out an agenda and invitation to stakeholders as ex-officos, which is being transparent, then work on building trust.

S. Scannell then reviewed two options; Maintaining the status quo structure with a side agreement or Re-establishing the Commission as a body corporate under Section 60 of the MGA, with the second option appearing to be the best.

S. Scannell noted utilizing the second option would see the Commission dissolved under the *Companies Winding Up Act* and then reconstituted under Section 60 of the MGA. He further noted recommendations would be included in a final report and would require municipal solicitor input for a more modernized agreement.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Steve Scannell for his efforts, with Clerk G. Horne further providing kudos for his work.

CAO J. Lawrence suggested perhaps having a member of the public from both the Town and County as well as one or two members from each Council.

Members of Council thanked S. Scannell.

Brief discussion took place on having the Inter-Municipal Agreement drafted and timelines. CAO J. Lawrence indicated he would have general discussion with the manager first, then come back to Council.

It was generally agreed to try to get things finished up as quickly as possible.

Government New Tax Proposal

Councillor D. Roberts advised that she attended an information session at the Library regarding federal tax changes. She noted two members from Grant Thornton provided logistics and that a good number of people were in attendance. She suggested that they show support to citizens, businesses and doctors, etc. and having a meeting with MP Sean Fraser who was invited today but was unable to attend.

Warden O. McCarron noted he was also in attendance and the issue is bigger than just doctors, and the impact it will have on small business. He provided further comment and noted it was a good presentation.

Councillor D. Roberts noted they said this impact is the biggest one since 1970 and that the last overhaul to income tax legislation took 6 years, and that the government is trying to do this in 75 days. She noted everyone was invited to write a letter to our MP, telling their own story/impact that this change would have.

Following much discussion on the best step to take moving forward, it was generally agreed that the Mayor and Warden seek to meet with MP Sean Fraser.

Motion to Adjourn

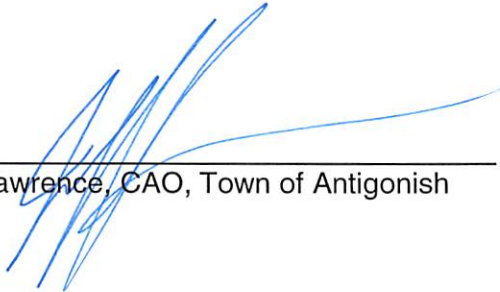
At 8:28 PM it was Moved by Warden O. McCarron and Seconded by Councillor A. Murray that the Joint Council Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.



Mayor Laurie Boucher



Warden Owen McCarron



Jeff Lawrence, CAO, Town of Antigonish



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
County of Antigonish