

Present

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

Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Vaughn Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Deputy Warden 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 (Town of Antigonish)

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mayor L. Boucher.

2) Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved by Councillor W. Cormier and Seconded by Councillor M. Farrell that the agenda be approved as presented." Motion carried.

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. MacInnis and Seconded by Councillor M. Farrell to approve the Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee meeting minutes of December 20, 2017." Motion carried.

4) Business from Minutes

a. Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Antigonish Arena
Clerk G. Horne noted there was one adjustment requested to the Agreement; Section 5(b)(i)(3) which acknowledges that the Board shall, at minimum, meet on a quarterly basis, but can meet more often.

"It was Moved by Councillor W. Cormier and Seconded by Councillor R. Deveau to recommend to Town and County Councils to adopt the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Antigonish Arena as presented." Motion carried.

It was noted the Agreement would now to back to the individual Councils for ratification.

New Business

5a) Presentation/Discussion – Ms. C. MacKinnon; Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores (DEANS)

Mayor L. Boucher invited Ms. C. MacKinnon of DEANS to the podium.

Ms. C. MacKinnon introduced herself and other members of DEANS. Councils were provided with an overview of the organization and financial structure.

At 6:07 Deputy Warden H. Stewart joined the meeting

Ms. C. MacKinnon advised that they would be submitting applications for funding for the upcoming year to both Town and County. She expanded on their marketing initiatives and statistics.

It was noted Antigonish Town and County will be participating in Saltscapes Expo 2018 this year, and that two local winners were honored at the Gala Awards Dinner this past year.

Councils were advised on the support provided to nine Visitor Information Centres (VICs) within this region, a new person to focus on social media, waiting for support on an Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) application (with support from all municipal units), and how their group is working toward a travel media opportunity for this area.

C. MacKinnon advised that their budget was down approximately \$150,000 due to provincial cuts.

In response to a query from Councillor J. MacPherson, Ms. L. Delorey provided details on the new VIC. Ms. C. MacKinnon responded to a query on the percentage of funding provided by municipalities.

In response to a query from Deputy Mayor D. Roberts, it was noted that the Arts Council may be interested in the existing VIC building. Brief discussion took place.

Discussion took place on a room marketing levy, and it was noted that one of the largest operators does not support it, and that this area is maintaining the status quo for now.

At 6:37 C. MacKinnon concluded her presentation.

5b) Presentation/Discussion – Ms. S. Thornhill; Antigonish Senior Safety Coordinator

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed S. Thornhill to the podium who introduced additional members of their organization.

A package outlining their programs, services and referrals was distributed. Referrals made through various agencies were reviewed. Councils were advised on various programming and project work, as well as various partnerships and programs.

S. Thornhill responded to various queries from Councillors.

Financial Statements to January 31, 2018 were briefly reviewed. It was requested that any further questions regarding finances be funnelled through Councillors M. Farrell and/or R. Deveau.

Councils were advised on various aspects of the budget and a delay in receiving a grant from the province. Details were provided on the status of the criminal records checks, which is now down 40%. S. Thornhill noted they are trying to look at events that can raise additional funds.

S. Thornhill responded to a query from Councillor D. MacDonald regarding County criminal records checks. Clarification was provided by Mayor L. Boucher on record checks funding from students and it was noted due to a difference in the funding agreements with the Town and County policing contracts, the County is no longer able to provide funds from criminal records checks.

It was noted that S. Thornhill will be moving to the RCMP Office, and a brief overview of the new Senior's Coordinator was provided.

At 7:07 PM the presentation concluded.

5c) Presentation/Discussion – Mr. D. Bogle; Antigonish Community Transit

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Mr. D. Bogle to the podium.

D. Bogle reviewed the social, economic and health benefits of a transit program. He noted the Program has evolved to meeting the needs of clients and what works. Details were provided on ridership numbers with a total of 27,000+ for the Town and 16,000+ for County.

Councils were advised on positive changes including partnerships with Community Services, the Canadian Association for Community Living, the Heatherton Activity Centre, and an increase in wheelchair bound clients. D. Bogle noted that a grant received from the County enabled them to partner with the Victorian Order of Nurses.

D. Bogle advised that they are exploring expansion into the District of St. Mary's and the Municipality of the District of Guysborough. He noted they received a petition with over 800 signatures from Guysborough residents seeking an expansion of their services.

Mr. D. Bogle expanded on efforts moving forward, noting that they have a budget of approximately \$280,000, and they are looking once again at a charter application.

D. Bogle provided details on ways they are able to improvise, rates in comparison to other areas, and their overall goals.

In response to a query from Clerk G. Horne, regarding unique people travelling on the buses, D. Bogle noted they have lots of new riders, and are expecting numbers to increase with the new seniors living projects. He further stated their goal is to have charter license.

At 7:35 PM the presentation concluded.

5d) Presentation/Discussion – Ms. J. Gillis; Antigonish Heritage Museum

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Ms. J. Gillis to the podium.

A Comparative Income Statement was previously distributed. Ms. J. Gillis noted this past year they acquired a large number of artifacts and have been asked by the Royal Canadian Legion #59 to include their artifacts as well.

Ms. J. Gillis expanded on recent and upcoming capital projects, partnerships and diversity of the Board.

Councils were provided details on an upcoming accreditation program, their newsletter, new documentaries, summer ceilidhs, an African Heritage Month display, along with other partnerships and collaborations.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts thanked Ms. J. Gillis for her efforts. In response to a query from Clerk G. Horne, Ms. J. Gillis noted they do receive a lot of in-kind support, and over the past while have received requests regarding bequests and are moving toward having a bequest page online for those who may be interested. She noted the bequests are directed to the Antigonish Heritage Association.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, it was noted that the Museum receives approximately 4,000 visits annually. They also received students on school trips, however there appears to be an issue with transportation

Councillor D. MacDonald took the opportunity to thank J. Gillis for her efforts.

Councillor J. Dunbar referred to Dutch immigrants in his area and questioned whether any history might be available. Ms. J. Gillis requested Councillor J. Dunbar provide her with his contact information and she would provide him with further information. She further agreed to add each Councillor to the Museum's Newsletter, noting they would have the option to opt out should they desire.

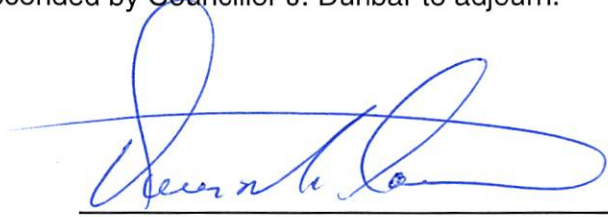
Mr. J. Gillis confirmed that she had a copy of an in-depth documentary on Dutch immigrants in this area, and noted that similar to African Heritage Month, a Dutch Heritage Month will also be recognized.

7) Motion to Adjournment

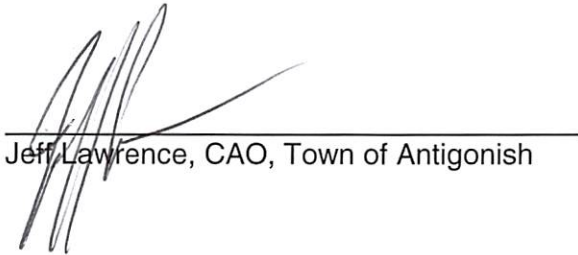
“It was Moved by Councillor A. Murray and Seconded by Councillor J. Dunbar to adjourn.”
Motion carried.



Mayor Laurie Boucher



Warden Owen McCarron



Jeff Lawrence, CAO, Town of Antigonish



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
County of Antigonish