

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

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

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 5:42pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of April 27, 2021 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 27, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

2021/22 Budget Operating Budget Deliberations

Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy

Mr. Horne spoke to the Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy. This policy has been updated over the past several years to increase the exemption amount and the income threshold for eligibility. No changes to the policy are proposed by staff at this time. Consensus of the Committee was to leave the policy as-is. 144 applications to the program were submitted last year, which was up from the year previous. Discussion followed.

Review of Community Partnership Grant Requests

Mr. Horne reviewed the list of applications that were submitted, going through each request and the recommendation of staff for each ask. Staff started the review with the Municipal Contributions, followed by the multi-year commitments. Operating requests were reviewed one-by-one, with an explanation of past contributions and the requests being made this year. Capital grant requests were then reviewed. Discussion followed.

St. Joseph's Community Centre Outdoor Rink Grant Request

Deputy Warden Stewart brought forward a request to provide an additional \$30,000 to the \$20,000 grant that the St. Joseph's Community has requested for upgrades to the building for accessibility. Mr. Horne suggested that follow-up for additional details of the project be sought from the Community Centre for further information for the Committee as a condition of any motion approval.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a \$30,000 contribution to the St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre, for the construction of an outdoor rink, contingent of receiving an acceptable application from the organization.

**Motion Carried
(9 votes in favour, 1 vote against)**

Safe Restart Agreement Funding Update

Mr. Horne noted that information has been received from the province regarding the Safe Restart Funding that is being provided to the municipality to cover losses due to COVID in 2020. Mrs. Duggan provided a brief overview of where the funding is likely to be allocated,

covering expenses such as lost fees or revenue for programs, including the funding provided to local community centres to assist with their revenue losses. Discussion about funding allocations was discussed.

New Business

There was no new business.

Community Events

Warden McCarron provided a summary of an interview held with Business View Magazine with Mayor Boucher, promoting the community. The publication is expected to be out in June.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne noted that staff reports were included in the agenda package for the Committee's information.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

In Camera Items

Councillor MacFarlane declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 7:42pm.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 7:42 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:56pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:57pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO