

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
 Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
 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

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation (by Zoom)

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 6:38pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

Mr. Horne noted that the delegation scheduled for tonight has been cancelled for tonight due to one of the presenters being unable to attend, and the item will be rescheduled for a later date.

Three additions were made to the agenda:

- North Shore Development Association Property Tax Exemption Amendment
- Antigonish East Academy Graduation Funding Request
- Consideration of an Inter-Municipal Agreement Creating the Municipal Technology Services Association.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of June 8, 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 June 8, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

An update was requested on figures of rider numbers and locations for the Antigonish Community Transit Service. Staff provided some preliminary numbers, based on information received from the transit service, and will summarize the information in a memo for the Committee breaking down ridership by district.

An update was requested regarding the beach access issue discussed at the previous committee meetings. Staff is conducting additional background information to report further to Council at a future date.

Delegations

The scheduled delegations were deferred to a future meeting.

Continuing Business

There was no scheduled continuing business.

New Business

Review of Salaries and Stipends

Mr. Horne reviewed a Request for Proposal included in the agenda package, to undertake a review of staff salaries and Council stipends. Some questions of clarification were asked about the number of positions vs. the number of staff. Staff will proceed with posting the Request for Proposals.

St. Andrew Junior School Playground Equipment Request

Ms. Melanson spoke to a request from the St. Andrew Junior School for funding to support to purchase an accessible piece of playground equipment. A breakdown of attendance at the AEC by District was provided, and past practices when playground requests are made was reviewed. Staff has reached out to the representatives at the school for clarification on whether the Town has been asked for support. Discussion followed. Councillor Mattie suggested that the school perhaps consider a roll-on swing for students in wheelchairs, similar to what has

been done at Columbus Field. Consensus of Council was to provide \$500 from each Councillor's Special District Grant towards the project.

Bus Shelter Request - Heatherton

Councillor Dunbar reviewed a discussion with a constituent in his district who is looking for a bus shelter for his children. Contact has been made with the SRCE and local elected officials. Typically, Councillors try to facilitate relocating unused bus shelters elsewhere in the County to go to families who need them for their children. In instances where a used shelter cannot be located, some funds have been provided to assist with the construction of a shelter, provided receipts are submitted and a photograph of the shelter is provided.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Council approve a contribution of up to \$500 for the construction of a bus shelter at the intersection of the MacLellan Farm Road and the Heatherton Village Road in Heatherton.

Motion Carried

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

No meeting to report.

Antigonish Arena Association

No meeting to report.

Antigonish Crime Prevention

Following presentation at Joint Council, the Committee is going to work to determine next step for the Senior Safety Coordinator position.

Eastern District Planning Commission

The Eastern Plan Area Advisory Committee met last week and is making progress on the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law review. They are hoping to have a public meeting in the fall.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for June 24th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

The library Annual General Meeting was held last week, with an audited financial statement being presented. The library is now open under Covid-19 rules.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The next Board meeting will be held on June 24th.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

No meeting to report.

Community Events

- The Minister of Highways visited several locations in Havre Boucher to make funding announcements over the past week.
- North Shore Development Association is opening their Tuna Interpretive Centre, with a new Children's Activity Centre. Municipal staff was thanked for their help with photocopying materials for that centre.
- Positive feedback on the summer camp programming through County Recreation was also provided from Councillors based on comments received from their constituents.

Additions to the Agenda

North Shore Development Association Tax Exemption

Mr. Horne reviewed the request to add the North Shore Development Association's picnic park at Cape George to the Tax Exemption Policy, following its change in assessment by PVSC to resource taxable.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee approve adding AAN# 09100466 – North Shore Development Association Cape George Picnic Area, to the Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy, and writing off taxes owing in the amount of \$412.72.

Motion Carried

Antigonish East Academy Graduation Funding Request

Mr. Horne reviewed the request for funding assistance that has been received by parents who are organizing graduation activities for students from the East Antigonish Education Centre / Academy. They have asked Council for \$750 to help to cover event expenses.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a contribution of \$750 towards graduation celebrations for graduating students at the East Antigonish Education Centre / Academy.

Motion Carried

Consideration of an Inter-Municipal Agreement Creating the Municipal Technology Services Association

Mr. Horne provided an update on the status of the inter-municipal agreement to create the Municipal Technology Services Association. In his update, he noted that the Councils of the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the County of Victoria have both approved the agreement, while the Councils of the County of Inverness and Town of Antigonish will be having the agreement

come before them in the near future for consideration. The District of St. Mary's, which was the smallest unit of the proposed partners in the agreement, has declined to participate at this time.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement Creating the Municipal Technology Services Association as proposed.

Motion Carried

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 7:13pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:26pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:27pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO