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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 28, 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  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
Councillor Harris McNamara  
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

**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 7:24pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

- Crime Prevention Update
- Federal Election Discussion
- Consolidation Information Session Discussion

**Moved and Seconded**

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of September 14, 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 September 14, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor McNamara asked for an update on the arrangements with the province for wetland compensation, and the Coastal Protection Act regulations comments being prepared for the consultation period. Mrs. Schumacher provided an overview of the letter that was prepared by staff for the Coastal Protection Act regulations consultation. Councillor MacLellan provided an update regarding the accessibility review of the Arisaig Hall. Mr. Horne shared the letter of thanks from the Naomi Society.

**Delegations**

There were no scheduled delegations.

**Continuing Business**

There was no continuing business.

**New Business**

**Consideration of a Virtual Meetings Policy**

Mrs. Schumacher provided an overview of the proposed policy being provided to the Committee for review. A demonstration of the video camera recently purchased to provide 360-degree views of the Council Chambers was given. Members of the Committee were asked to share any suggestions or comments that they have regarding the proposed policy, which will be revisited at a future meeting.

**Letter of Support for a Roundabout at the Intersection of Trunk 4 & Route 16, Monastery**

Councillor Mattie provided a brief explanation of a motion passed by the Municipal Council of the District of Guysborough earlier in the month to provide a letter to the Minister of Public Works and the local MLA expressing their support for a roundabout to be constructed at the intersection of Trunk 4 and Highway 16 in Monastery. Councillor Mattie suggested that the Council send a letter to the Minister of Public Works, with MLAs Greg Morrow and Michelle Thompson copied, supporting the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Trunk 4 and Highway 16.

## **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions**

### **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

There was nothing to report.

### **Antigonish Arena Association**

The association had a meeting the previous week. MGM did audit and it went well. Waiting for Phase 5, and the association will be meeting again in November.

### **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

Councillor Deveau provided an update as a separate agenda item.

### **Eastern District Planning Commission**

The Board met during the previous week, and is looking at whether future meetings may be virtual to increase attendance.

### **Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**

Councillor McNamara provided a summary including the following items of business:

- EPR - meeting with local MLA to discuss issues.
- Jackie Dort memorial bursary rewarded to a representative from Liscomb - next year the award will go to a student from the Town of Antigonish.
- Waste Reduction Week - proclamation to come to a future meeting.
- Landfill inspections - seasonal residents not realizing requirements to sort waste or that green bins were free.
- Clean-up funds for not-for-profit groups to apply to access.

### **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

There was no further report to the update given at the last meeting.

### **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

The Board has a meeting on September 29th and is working on hiring process for a replacement CEO. The interim CEO is doing a very good job.

### **County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee**

There is nothing to report.

### **Town & County Consolidation Steering Committee**

Mr Horne noted that this has been added as a new item for future reports.

## **Community Events**

There were no community events to report.

## **Additions to the Agenda**

### **Crime Prevention - Senior Safety Program**

Councillor Deveau gave an overview of the programming provided by the Crime Prevention - Senior Safety Program. A number of groups that had previously participated in the committee have left, and the committee is struggling to recruit and have been looking for a Senior Safety Coordinator. The van owned by the committee has been sold, and at the meeting last week it was decided that the process would start to dissolve the committee. Municipal representatives from the Town and County from the committee are now approaching their respective Councils for further direction about the Senior Safety Program.

Discussion followed regarding the Senior Safety Coordinator position and their role in the community, the number of clients served each year, and the funding of the position between the Town, County and the Province. Mr. Horne noted that, if it was the will of Council, further evaluation of the program and role could be done to facilitate further discussion. Direction was provided to do so.

### **Federal Election Discussion**

Councillor Dunbar noted his congratulations to MP Fraser and MP Kelloway for winning their seats in the recent election and thanked all of those individuals who ran as candidates. Councillor Dunbar also voiced his support for Antigonish County no longer being split between two ridings. He noted that a boundary review is expected in future once the Census results are released, and advocated that Council take an active role in encouraging Antigonish County to be contained within one riding. Discussion followed, and there was general agreement to take an active role with providing submissions when that boundary commission is established. Councillor Dunbar advocated that Council encourage residents to get involved in providing feedback as well.

### **Consolidation Information Session Discussion**

Mr. Horne opened up the floor for members of Council to provide their feedback and ask any questions that came up following the information session that was put on with representatives from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing earlier in the week. Items of discussion raised included public feedback to date, opportunities for information sessions for the public about the process, providing more information about the impacts on taxes and services to help to inform the decision, the concerns of the rural/urban areas of the community, boundaries and distribution of Council representation, community partnership grants, and challenges in getting information to the public through a variety of mediums.

Mr. Horne shared a draft timeline providing a very preliminary outline of the different activities that would take place during the process of exploring consolidation. The establishment of a steering committee, further information sessions with municipalities that have gone through a consolidation process, the development of guiding principles and the opportunities for community engagement were put forward as next steps. Discussion followed. Warden

McCarron encouraged Councillors to write down any questions received from constituents to share with Council at future meetings.

**In Camera Items**

There were no in-camera items.

**Adjournment**

**Moved**

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:59pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO