
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 5:30 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
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

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 5:35pm.

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 October 26, 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 October 26, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne provided an update regarding the Safe Restart Funding information that was shared at the last meeting and noted that staff continues to collect information and will bring the item back to a future Committee meeting.

Delegations

Basil Pitts - Roads and Winter Operations Discussion

Warden McCarron introduced Basil Pitts, Area Manager for the Provincial Department of Public Works. Mr. Pitts provided an overview of the capital works that was completed over the past construction season. This included paving and gravel roads projects. Ongoing capital projects work for the next construction season was also reviewed.

Mr. Pitts then reviewed the roads priorities lists that are provided by Council every six months and reviewed how the lists from the County and other organizations in the community are compiled and utilized when capital projects planning is underway. Mr. Pitts then reviewed a list of discussion topics provided in advance by Council, covering topics such as:

- Line Painting
- The intersection at the Mulgrave turn-off in Aulds Cove
- Trunk 4 / Route 16 - confirming a roundabout at that intersection scheduled for next construction season
- Aulds Cove fire hall drainage work

The floor was then opened for questions. Further discussion took place regarding:

- The RIM and gravel roads programs, and how funding is distributed through the service area
- Brush cutting concerns and how the work is being tendered out
- Equipment acquisitions by the local department

Councillors also asked about specific roadways or concerns in their districts.

Mr. Pitts was thanked by the Warden and Council for attending the meeting and answering all of their questions.

Jason Parise - SWEB Development

Warden McCarron introduced Jason Parise from SWEB Development. Mr. Parise gave a presentation that provided an overview of SWEB Development and the turbine project that they are exploring. Following the presentation, the Committee had an opportunity to ask questions. Clarification was asked regarding:

- Open house details and advertising plans
- The number of turbines that are expected
- The anticipated cost of the project

Mr. Parise also provided some further information about funding contributions and land acquisitions. Warden McCarron thanked him for his presentation.

Continuing Business

Covid-19 Vaccination Policy

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the revisions to the policy that were made based on the direction provided by the Committee at the last meeting. Instead of selecting a specific date, the policy was written to require full vaccination immediately and outlines what steps could be taken if an individual covered by the policy was not vaccinated. Accommodations for those not vaccinated for reasons covered under human rights legislation were included in the policy. Discussion followed. While members of Council are not covered by the policy, by consensus they all agreed to show their Proof of Vaccination to demonstrate their support for the policy.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the Municipal Covid-19 Vaccination Policy as presented.

Motion Carried

Information on Provincial Government Bills and Proposed Policy Affecting Municipalities

Mr. Horne provided an introduction to the memo prepared by staff outlining various bills recently passed or under consideration by the Province, and facilitated a discussion with the Committee about the proposed non-resident taxes noted in the Minister's letter that were issued by the Premier in September. Concerns were raised regarding the impact on rural and coastal property owners in the County, particularly seasonal residents, those who are holding vacant property to develop in the future, and those who are inheriting property. There is also a concern with taxes traditionally collected

for municipalities now being levied by the Province. Mr. Horne also noted that the Province is also looking to renegotiate the Service Exchange with municipalities. Discussion followed.

New Business

Community Engagement Liaison Recommendation

Mr. Horne reviewed the Request for Proposals process that was undertaken for the selection of a Community Engagement Liaison consultant to assist during the process of consideration of whether to pursue consolidation with the Town. The bid by Brighter Community Planning Consulting was selected following a review of the proposals received and is being recommended for approval by staff.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council awards the tender for the Community Engagement and Liaison project to Brighter Community Planning Consulting for the bid price of \$142,628.75 (incl HST).

Motion Carried

Winter Parking Regulations

Mrs. Schumacher spoke to the annual Winter Parking Regulations that are put in place from December 1 to April 15th, to prohibit parking on streets maintained by the County overnight and when winter storms are happening as a means of keeping the roads clear to facilitate winter snow removal. The regulations will be advertised in the paper and online once they are signed by the RCMP, who serve as the County's traffic authority.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the signing of the Order for Winter Parking Regulations for 2021-22 setting out the period from December 1, 2021 to April 15, 2022 as the time in which Winter Parking Regulations will be in effect on roads/streets under the jurisdiction of the County of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Approval of the F21/22 Statement of Estimates Report

Mrs. Duggan provided members of the Committee with an overview of the Statement of Estimates, which is part of the required reporting to the Province and uses information contained within the budget approved by Council earlier in the year.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Statement of Estimates A & B.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the Consolidated Water Budget

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the consolidated water budget, going through the document in detail and providing updates on expenditures including staffing increases, water main break repairs, and the purchase of additional meters. Members of the Committee were provided with the opportunity to ask any questions. Mrs. Duggan was thanked for her presentation and staff's work in preparing the budget.

Councillor MacFarlane provided his thanks and positive feedback on the work being done to replace the waterline on the South River Road. Mr. Horne provided his thanks to the staff team who handled the water break during the week previous.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the Consolidated Water Budget as proposed.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Councillor McNamara provided an update on the mobile flu shot clinic held in Havre Boucher during the past several weeks. He also provided an update on a community cleanup that took place in Havre Boucher.
- The Havre Boucher Veterans Association had their presentation to members and wreath ceremony earlier in the week.
- Warden McCarron provided an update on the emergency measures meeting, and the news about Hayston Lam leaving.
- Warden McCarron and Councillor Dunbar attended the 4H anniversary launch at the Heritage Museum, and Warden McCarron attended the flag raising on November 5th.
- Warden McCarron attended the Poppy Campaign on October 29th and the Legion Veterans dinner. Remembrance Day ceremonies will be taking place at Columbus Field on November 11th.
- Councillor Deveau was part of a community recording for a virtual Remembrance Day ceremony in Pomquet.

Staff Reports

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

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

In Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:35pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO