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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 30, 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 Harris McNamara

Regrets: Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO  
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance  
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation  
Alisha Bowie

**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 6:55pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

The following items were added:

- November 23, 2021 Flood Briefing
- Surcharge Tax Proposed by the Province
- Road Name Change Policy Discussion

**Moved and Seconded**

*That the agenda be approved.*

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of November 9, 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 November 9, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr. Horne reported that, following the approval of the Covid-19 Vaccine Policy, 100% of the Councillors, staff, and contractors that are subject to the policy are fully vaccinated.

**Delegations**

**Gord Cunningham & Shannon Stephenson - Coady International Institute**

Gord Cunningham provided an overview of the programs offered by the Coady International Institute. Shannon Stevenson continued the presentation, speaking to scholarships that are being developed to support students at the Coady. Warden McCarron invited Councillors to provide their feedback and ask any questions of the presenters. Discussion followed, with several Councillors expressing support for the scholarships while others asked about anticipated enrollment. The representatives from the Coady were thanked for their presentation, and Warden McCarron noted that they would hear back regarding their request for funding later in the New Year.

**Antigonish Tourism Association - Antigonish as a Biking Destination**

Representatives from the Antigonish Tourism Association provided a presentation outlining an idea to promote Antigonish as a Biking Destination. A request of \$27,000 is being made of the Municipality. A general discussion regarding initiatives to support tourism in the community was held. Warden McCarron thanked the group for their presentation and noted that they would be contacted in the future about their request for support with their initiative.

## **Continuing Business**

### **Safe Restart Funding Update**

Mrs. Duggan provided an update on the requests received to date from community organizations that have reached out to the municipality for assistance for operating losses due to Covid. The Highlander Curling Club has requested assistance, while CACL, Chez Deslauriers, and Antigonish Community Transit have also asked for help. Finance staff is waiting to hear back from the Cape George Heritage Museum and will bring that request to a future meeting. ACALA has requested assistance to cover additional cleaning costs. SAFE has also reached out for assistance with the cost of rent for the families that they are supporting, while the Havre Boucher Community Centre is looking for assistance where they are not able to hold fundraising activities.

Warden McCarron opened the floor for discussion. Further information about the types of requests received and eligible for access to the funding was shared. The need for organizations to demonstrate the loss of operating revenue due to Covid was stressed. Consensus was provided to give funding to the Highlander Curling Club, CACL, Chez Deslauriers, Antigonish Community Transit, the Havre Boucher Community Centre, and ACALA. The request from the Cape George Museum will be considered once further information is received.

## **New Business**

### **Road Name Change Petitions**

#### **Blue Spruce Lane**

A previously unnamed private lane in Georgeville is under consideration to be renamed to Blue Spruce Lane.

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the renaming of a private lane off Highway 337 in Georgeville to Blue Spruce Lane.*

**Motion Carried**

#### **Seabreeze Lane**

A previously unnamed private lane in Tracadie is under consideration to be renamed to Seabreeze Lane.

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the renaming of a private lane off Merland Road in Tracadie to Seabreeze Lane.*

**Motion Carried**

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

### **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

New Curator hiring process moving along well.

### **Antigonish Arena Association**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in late January.

### **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

Jeff DeBeek in contact with Jaqueline Smith regarding the Senior safety coordination position.

### **Eastern District Planning Commission**

A general review of the existing files, a farewell was issued to the outgoing chair of the board, and an update was provided for the Plan Eastern Nova project. Mr. Horne provided a review of the public open houses that were held in the County, where the public turnout was exceptional and all of the discussion was constructive and put the project off on a good foot. Councillors who attended the open houses provided their feedback as well.

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

The Committee met on the 25th in Guysborough. Bill 57 was passed, invitation to Ministers Morrow and Thompson as well as the Environment Minister to come to Guysborough for a site visit. A budget deficit was identified, due to the cost of living increase.

### **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

The Board met in the previous the week in person and it was well attended. Work continues on the One Card project, can use all over Nova Scotia with the exception of Halifax. Councillor MacLellan has resigned from LBANS board, which was meeting in Truro every 2 months.

### **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

An update will be provided in-camera.

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

Band elections have happened, and Tma Francis was re-elected Chief.

### **Consolidation Steering Committee**

Mr. Horne noted that confirmation was received earlier in the day that the provincial government will provide \$150,000 in funding. Kickoff meetings with Brighter Communities will take place later in the week. Staff will have a better idea of when the guiding principles session will happen with Council.

### **Community Events**

- Councillor MacDonald attended the open house for Antigonish Affordable Housing on Sunday, which was well attended. 12 units anticipated date for move in is January 1st.
- Councillor Deveau noted that a turkey dinner for seniors in district 5 is being planned.
- Havre Boucher light tour and 30 floats in the parade is planned for December 4th.
- At the library this past Saturday - Tootse van deSande and Adrian van Berkel wrote a book on Dutch immigration.
- Warden McCarron attended the Mini Trail beef dinner.
- Warden McCarron introduced the request from Santa for Seniors for a contribution. Allison will check to see how much was contributed last year.
- New Years Levee - planning is in motion to host a joint levy on New Years Day. Advertising will be coming out in the near future.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

#### **Funding Requests due to November 23, 2021 Flooding**

Councillor MacLellan reviewed a request that was received from a trails group in her district who are looking for assistance to reconstruct a bridge that was damaged during the flooding on November 23rd. Mr. Horne noted that there is expected to be an announcement of a provincial/federal program via the Nova Scotia Emergency Office to assist organizations and not-for-profits that have experienced losses and uninsured damage resulting from the flooding events. A suggestion was made to wait to see what would be covered by this program before making any decisions on the funding requests received by the municipality to date.

#### **Discussion About the Province's Proposed Non-Resident Tax Surcharge**

Councillor MacLellan spoke further to the feedback that she has received from residents who are concerned about the proposed surcharge for non-Nova Scotia resident-owned properties. Concern was expressed that there hasn't been more public outcry about the proposed surcharges. Mr. Horne noted that the NSFM has been

contacted and will provide further details once they hear further from the province. Ongoing discussion with the local MLAs about the topic before the spring sitting of the House was suggested.

### **Road Name Change Policy Concern**

Councillor MacLellan raised a concern from residents in McArras Brook who are upset that their civic numbers will be changing due to their un-named private lane having a third civic number added with the construction of a new home on that road. Mr. Horne explained that the threshold of three civic numbers has always been used, and a request to defer the renaming of the road has been rejected. The existing property owners on the private lane are concerned because they will have to change their address. Discussion followed. Mr. Horne offered to have Mr. Bain attend a future meeting to provide further detail on the policy if desired by the Committee.

### **In Camera Items**

Prior to moving into the in-camera session, the Committee revisited the request made by Tourism Antigonish for funding. A suggestion was made to provide a letter of commitment to funding, to include in their application to ACOA for funding for their project to promote Antigonish as a Biking Destination. This letter would state that funding would be provided in the 2022/23 fiscal year and would be conditional of them getting the ACOA grant.

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provides a letter of commitment to provide funding in the 2022/23 fiscal year to the Tourism Association, conditional upon their receipt of funding from ACOA, to promote Antigonish as a Biking Destination.*

**Motion Carried**

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 9:19pm.*

**Motion Carried**

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*That the in-camera session be adjourned at 9:31pm.*

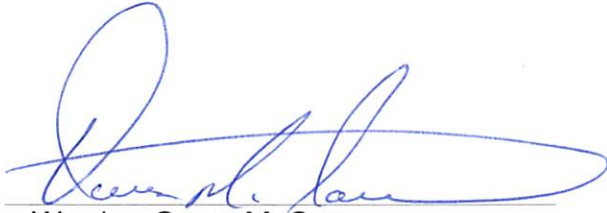
**Motion Carried**

### **Adjournment**

#### **Moved**

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:32pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO