
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Regrets: Councillor Donnie MacDonald

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
John Bain, Director - Eastern District Planning Commission

Also Present: Sarah O'Toole, Community Navigator
Michael Lynch

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 5:39pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

- Streetlight request - Skye Crescent

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of November 30, 2021 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. Councillor McNamara noted the omission of the Havre Boucher Community Centre in the discussion of the Safe Restart Funding in the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 30, 2021 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne provided an update regarding the provincial disaster relief program that has been opened up for application to those who were affected by the flooding in the community on November 23rd. Discussion followed regarding the types of damage that would be eligible for the program. Mr. Horne also clarified that the request from the Coady is for \$5,000 each year for the scholarship, starting next year, for five years.

Delegations

Sarah O'Toole - Community Navigator Update

Sarah O'Toole, Community Navigator, provided a 2021 review of the Physician Retention Services Association program and plan. A summary of the activities of the program, including the number of families supported and the nature of the activities undertaken, was provided. The impact of the pandemic on the integration activities being planned and held was highlighted, and feedback about the demographics served and factors that influence peoples' choices to live in Antigonish were shared. A preview of the plan being developed to attract, integrate and retain physicians through community engagement was shared, with the plan release expected for early in the new year.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. Councillor MacFarlane asked whether there is any information about what work is being done to encourage those growing up in the community to pursue a career in health care. Councillor MacLellan recounted concerns shared with her about acceptance numbers at Dalhousie in the medical program, and asked about how residents can be added to the list for assistance with finding a doctor if their is retiring.

Ms. O'Toole was thanked for her presentation.

New France Residents - Connector Road Proposal

Mr. Michael Lynch spoke on behalf of residents who use the New France Road exit off of Highway 104, who had several near-misses at the intersection where it was difficult to see the turn-off and where the left turn takes place at the end of a climbing lane. A number of residents from the area have been exploring options, anticipating the eventual twinning of the 104, to create a connection between the area at the Bayside Travel Centre. Consultation with Paqtnkek, local residents, and the Province's transportation department was reviewed. The floor was opened up for questions, which included:

- Details about the discussions with Paqtnkek
- The awareness of property owners along the proposed roadway of the proposal
- Details of feedback from provincial representatives in the department of Transportation
- What possible timelines might be expected for the proposal

Mr. Lynch was thanked for his presentation.

Continuing Business

Safe Restart Funding Update

Mrs. Duggan reviewed an additional five requests for assistance that have been received for assistance from the Safe Restart Funding Program. Consensus was given to provide the funding as requested to the Arisaig Parish Community Centre, Cape George Museum, Mini Trail Community Centre, North Shore Development Association, and the St. Andrew's Community in addition to those previously approved.

New Business

Road Name Change - Alice Lane

Mr. Bain provided an overview of the municipal standards adopted from the Provincial standards regarding the number of civic numbers allowed off of a private laneway before that laneway requires a name. Concerns were reviewed regarding any possible deviation from the policy if the Committee were to allow the third property to be added without requiring the laneway to be named. The floor was opened up for questions, and Councillor MacLellan shared the concerns raised by the residents in her district.

As part of a general conversation about emergency services E911 addressing, Mr. Bain shared the provincial civic address finder webpage as a resource available and encouraged Councillors to direct their constituents to check to make sure that their civic addresses are in that database for emergency services. Councillors felt that it would be wise to stick with the requirements of the policy.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the renaming of a previously unnamed private lane in McArras Brook to Alice Lane.

Motion Carried

Update on Local COVID 19 Outbreak

Mr. Horne reviewed an update that was shared an update on the current Covid-19 outbreak in the community that has been developing over the past week. Case numbers, provincial requirements regarding isolation, testing and the availability of rapid tests were reviewed. The hours and services at the Church Street and mobile testing centres was provided. Information about how the province is looking to keep up with the testing demand was shared. Mr. Horne also highlighted that those residents aged 60 and older are now eligible for booster doses of vaccine.

Councillors flagged that they have heard of those seeking booster doses that are not yet eligible due to the timeline that must be observed between the second dose and the booster dose. General feedback heard throughout the community was shared. A question was asked about whether additional rapid tests could be supplied to the local library for distribution to the community. Questions were raised about the school exposures and the feedback from the school board.

Mr. Horne shared plans underway to cancel the New Years Levee and asked for any feedback on joint communications being prepared with the Town for the community. Discussion followed.

Community Events

No additional community events were shared with the group.

The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm, with plans to reconvene following the Municipal Council meeting.

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called back to order at 8:12pm.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne noted that staff reports could be found in the agenda package.

Additions to the Agenda

Streetlight Request - Skye Crescent

Warden McCarron spoke to a concern raised by a resident regarding the intersection of Blacksmith Valley Road and Skye Crescent in St. Andrews. A streetlight was requested to improve visibility at the intersection at night.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a streetlight on
Blacksmith Valley Drive at Skye Crescent.*

Motion Carried

In Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:13pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO