

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 5:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting

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

Regrets: Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk  
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Also Present: Natasha Kochhar, Constituency Assistant  
Mike Kelloway, MP Cape Breton - Canso  
Michelle Thompson, MLA Antigonish  
Greg Morrow, MLA Guysborough - Tracadie

**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 5:32pm.

**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 December 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 December 14, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **Delegations**

Warden McCarron welcomed MP Kelloway and Ministers Thompson and Morrow. Mr. Horne noted that the list of Council priorities was sent in advance to the delegations and invited a general discussion. Minister Thompson provided an overview of the last several months starting off as the new local MLA, including the new office location, outreach with seniors and other constituents, and recovery from the flood in November. MP Kelloway provided an overview of federal priorities and the platform, with particular focus on healthcare, infrastructure, and affordable housing. Minister Morrow spoke to cellular and broadband coverage concerns in his riding, roads, and collaboration between federal and provincial representatives to serve the residents in the community.

Warden McCarron opened the floor to Council for questions. Issues that were raised included cell and broadband coverage in the County, the Province's proposed surtax for non-resident landowners, property erosion along the West River on the South River Road, culvert replacements following the flooding on November 23rd, East Antigonish Education Centre enrollment numbers, roads in the community, the provincial and federal pandemic response, green energy programs and grants, wharf dredging and Archie's Pond, infrastructure funding programs, agriculture cost concerns, and railway at-grade crossings.

Mr. Horne then reviewed several items for the general information of the representatives in attendance, which included:

- An upcoming housing symposium being planned by staff
- ICIP applications that have been submitted and are under consideration
- Infrastructure funding and grants programs, particularly regarding funding windows and regularity of offerings

Warden McCarron thanked the representatives in attendance for their time and accessibility in meeting with Municipal Council.

### **Continuing Business**

#### **Safe Restart Funding Discussion**

Mrs. Duggan reviewed a request received from the Monsignor Donnelly Hall for assistance with unexpected costs resulting from their ongoing closure, and Councillor Mattie described how it affected their sewage system resulting in repairs. Consensus was provided to give the remainder of the funds remaining to them to assist with that repair cost.

#### **Consolidation Steering Committee Update**

Mr. Horne provided spoke to the memo provided to the Committee, with particular focus on the updates to the timeline due to the public health gathering restrictions affecting the ability to meet in person. Other updates included:

- A virtual Joint Council meeting planned for January 20th is planned to meet the consultants.
- A background report reviewing all previous mergers of municipalities in the province is expected to be ready to share with Council in the near future as additional information.
- The Municipality has also received approval from the UARB to allow the boundary review to take place in 2023 in light of the discussions to consider consolidation.

Discussion followed regarding the information that would be supplied to Councillors to assist with resident questions that are coming in, and when public consultation is expected.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Community Events**

In the interest of time, this item was deferred to the community event updates to be given during the Council meeting.

### **Staff Reports**

Staff reports were included in the agenda package for information.

**Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**In Camera Items**

There were no in-camera items.

**Adjournment**

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:34pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO