

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 6:30 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
Councillor Shawn Brophy

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

Also Present: Sonny MacDougall, CPA, CA, Partner, MNP

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 6:16pm.

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 January 11, 2022 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 January 11, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

New Business

Review of 2020/21 Audited Financial Statements

Sonny MacDougall joined the meeting at 6:30pm.

Mr. MacDougall provided Councillors with a detailed overview of the audited financial statements that have been prepared for the Municipality. Councillors were then invited to ask any questions of Mr. MacDougall or Finance staff. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Horne explained the difference in procedure for approving the audited financial statements this year, due to the involvements of the Municipal Audit Committee. A recommendation to approve the audited statements will be included in the motion coming forward from that Committee at the next Council meeting.

Mr. MacDougall was thanked for his presentation and work. Mr. MacDougall thanked Council and staff and left the meeting. Mr. Horne highlighted the work done by the Finance team not only during the audit, but though out the year.

Approval of the Financial Information Return (FIR)

Mrs. Duggan noted that the Financial Information Return is a report to the province, using the information from the Audited Financial Statements.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Financial Information Return.

Motion Carried

Balloon Payment Due in Fiscal 2022-2023

Mrs. Duggan provided a review of an upcoming debenture balloon payment with Municipal Finance Corp. Staff reviewed the options available to the Committee regarding the debt:

- Refinance the debt through Municipal Finance Corp.
- Refinance the debt internally using reserve balances
- Retire the debt early by paying it out using reserve balances

Staff is suggesting that Councillors consider looking to pay it off or using municipal reserve balances to refinance the debt internally. Questions were asked about what balances are kept in reserve funds, and how would reserves be affected by consolidation. Responses from staff noted that financial indicators provided to the municipality indicated that reserves were at good levels, and regarding consolidation, gave the example of how reserves were handled in the Windsor West Hants situation. Staff will notify Municipal Finance Corp. that the debenture will not be renewed and will build the debt repayment into the budget.

Property Tax Write-Off for Inactive Accounts

Mrs. Duggan noted that the properties identified in the memo were deemed by staff as being inactive, due to the properties being merged or being trailers that were removed without notice. Staff is recommending the amount indicated be written-off.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve inactive account write-offs in the amount of \$316.40

Motion Carried

Community Partnership Grants

2021-22 Grant Carry Over Requests

Mr. Horne reviewed the requests to carry over grants from the 2021-22 year. Consensus was given to carry over those grant amounts as requested.

2022-23 Grant Allocation

Mr. Horne noted that it was time for the community partnership grant applications to open. Consensus was given to use 3% of tax revenue toward Community Partnership Grants, and the expected dates of the application window were provided.

Streetlight Requests

Councillors McNamara and Mattie each spoke to the safety concerns that had been raised at each of the intersections that they felt would be alleviated in part by providing streetlights at those locations.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the installation of a streetlight at Havre Boucher Road and Old Post Road.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the installation of a streetlight at Myette Road and Myette Branch Road.

Motion Carried

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2022.

Antigonish Arena Association

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10th, 2022. The arena was successful in receiving grants that will be used to do some required maintenance on the chiller and condenser at the facility.

Antigonish Crime Prevention

No meetings are scheduled for the foreseeable future.

Eastern District Planning Commission

It was reported that things are going well at the Planning Commission.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

Extended Producer Responsibility for Printed Paper and Packaging

- 90-day targeted consultation began January 10, 2022
- There will be a presentation to the Facility Manager & Directors/Regional Coordinators (Thu. Jan 26) and Regional Chairs (Fri. Jan 27)

- Regional Chairs through the Priorities Group and working towards a joint municipal response to the department from Regional Chairs, NSFM, AMA, Mayors & Warden

Clean Intern Application

- Submitted for a 15-week position 'Waste-Resource Compliance Promotion Officer' (100% salary funded by from Divert NS)
- Target areas: proper sorting, waste reduction, litter and illegal dumping

Regional Coordinator/Education Position

- In the process of hiring, interviews this week, aim is to start the transition Jan 31 to Feb 24

A suggestion was made to write a letter to Nicole to thank her for the great work done over the past twenty years with ERSWM and wishing her the best at her new position with GFL.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

A meeting was held in January, and extension discussions took place regarding homelessness. A letter from PARL to the Premier and several Ministers was circulated to the Warden and Council. Councillor MacLellan read the letter aloud for the benefit of the Committee, as well as a letter from the local library staff.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The facility is short staffed, despite recent hiring. Visitor restrictions remain in effect, and residents and staff are all double vaccinated.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

Mr. Horne noted that the draft report of the Low Carbon Communities document has been received, and staff will be meeting with Paqtnkek representatives before sharing the report with Council.

Consolidation Steering Committee

Mr. Horne noted that the notes from the meeting held earlier in the day would be circulated for information shortly. Agendas and notes from meetings held since the last update were included in the agenda package.

Community Events

Warden McCarron visited the new Apothecary on Beech Hill Road. The proprietors are looking to reduce plastics by using glass containers for products. Meeting rooms and offices are in the building as well.

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 7:26pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO