
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 8, 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
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

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. One addition was made:

- Discussion about service from Bell Aliant in the community.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of January 25, 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 25, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Fiscal 2021/22 Year-to-Date Review

Mrs. Duggan provided a review of the year-to-date expenditures in comparison to the figures in the budget, to the middle of January. Each item of revenue and expenditure was discussed in detail with the Committee. An opportunity was provided for the Committee to ask any questions of staff. Discussion followed.

Debrief on Consolidation Workshop and Related Questions

Mr. Horne introduced the frequently asked questions document that has been prepared in response to the request made by Council, provided an update on the upcoming planned workshops for the exploration of consolidation, and invited discussion following the joint workshop that was held with the Town Councillors on January 20th. Discussion followed. A request was made by Councillor McNamara that all of Council receive copies of any questions that are being received through the public consultation process, and he provided a suggestion to speak with the Warden of Guysborough about their consolidation process as well.

Councillors felt that the facilitators of the joint session with Town Council did a good job overall. Mr. Horne provided some clarification regarding the issue of boundaries, and the role of the UARB in determining what those will be. Some questions and comments that have been asked or heard through the community were shared. These items were identified as potential topics for the upcoming workshop that is planned later in February to develop guiding principles.

A question was asked about how the service levels might differ between the two units, and whether that would be the reason for the current difference in the commercial tax

rates between the two units. An update on the RCMP contract discussions was also provided. Mr. Horne noted that talks are ongoing, but there is no further information to update at this time. Further discussion took place regarding questions about boundaries.

The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm. The meeting was called back to order at 7:54pm. Due to connection issues, Councillor McNamara was not present when the meeting resumed. The following agenda items were referred to the February 22nd Committee of the Whole meeting:

- New Business - Volunteer Fire Department Long Service Awards
- New Business - Discussion of Fireworks By-law
- In-Camera - Public Security
- In-Camera - Contract Negotiations
- Addition to the Agenda - Discussion about Bell Aliant Service in the Community.

New Business

Fire Letter

Mr. Horne reviewed the request to write-off taxes for a property that was destroyed by fire in July 2021.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write-off the taxes for AAN 09373217, which was destroyed by fire, in the amount of \$963.84.

Motion Carried

Antigonish Arena System Upgrades Request

Mr. Horne reviewed the upgrades that are being planned to the facility systems, which are being supported with a grant that was awarded to the arena. Councillor Mattie made the request to include accessibility upgrades in the arena as ongoing improvements are made to the facility.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee recommend to Municipal Council that a letter of commitment be provided to the Antigonish Arena Association for funding in 2022-23 up to \$68,400 + HST for required capital upgrades, pending a successful application to the Recreation Facility Development Program.

Motion Carried

Volunteer Fire Department Long Service Awards

This item was referred to the February 22nd meeting.

Pedestrian Crossing at Temporary West River Bridge

Councillor MacFarlane raised a concern regarding the provision of safe pedestrian and active transportation access over the West River as they look to place a temporary bridge while reconstructing the bridge. There is an option in the design of the new bridge for a two-meter paved shoulder, but there is not space for safe crossings over the temporary bridge that is being used while the new bridge is under construction. A request was made for staff to work with the local transportation team to review options.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council direct staff to follow-up with local Department of Public Works staff to address active transportation and pedestrian safety concerns on the temporary bridge crossing the West River.

Motion Carried

Discussion of Fireworks Bylaw

This item was referred to the February 22nd meeting.

Community Events

No upcoming community events were shared.

Staff Reports

Staff reports were included in the agenda package for the Committee's information.

Additions to the Agenda

Discussion about Bell Aliant Service in the Community

This item was referred to the February 22nd meeting.

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss a Personnel Matter at 8:03pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee adjourns the In-Camera session at 8:13pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

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

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO