
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Donnie MacDonald

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

Others Present: Blake Priddle, 101.5 The Hawk (by Zoom)
Gallery

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 6:51pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Horne requested that an in-camera item be added regarding Potential Litigation / Litigation. Warden McCarron requested to add an item regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal ceremony.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Review of the January 10, 2023 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 10, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

A question was asked whether there had been any follow-up regarding streetlights. Councillor McNamara raised a point that in the strategic priorities a date is noted that appears to be a misprint. Mr. Horne noted that a correction would be made. Discussion followed regarding the provincial rebate program for satellite Internet being offered by the Province.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Projected Changes to Assessments

Mrs. Duggan reviewed the preliminary tax figures that have been created using the roll as taken earlier in the month. A caution was provided that the roll could change based on the appeal period not yet having closed. A question was asked about the change in preliminary assessment figures following the appeals being processed last year, and discussion followed regarding feedback that Councillors have heard from their constituents regarding assessments.

Mrs. Duggan continued by going through an exercise of evaluating seven different types of assessment, to better gauge the difference that this years assessment will make on a tax bill. Staff noted that while the assessments are higher, the mandatory costs, like police, protection, and education, as well as tenders are expected to come in higher as well.

2023/2024 Community Partnership Grant Allocation

Mr. Horne reviewed the application window for Community Partnership Grants, and reviewed the figures based on the preliminary assessments if a 3% of tax revenue figures were to be utilized. A question was asked about how any changes in assessment might change the amount available for community grants. Mrs. Duggan noted that the assessments could have an impact on the figure, but a decrease in the tax rate would have a more significant impact on the available funds for grants under the program.

2023/24 MFC Balloon Payment Options

Mrs. Duggan reviewed the options available for a balloon payment of a debenture that is coming due on an MFC loan that was taken out in order to construct the Public Works Building in 2008. The example of the payout of the balloon payment on the water utility in the current fiscal year was discussed. Mrs. Duggan noted that a decision on this balloon payment could be included in budget deliberations.

New Business

RK MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation Appointments

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed correspondence from the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation looking for Council's endorsement of the appointment of Antigonish residents to the foundation board.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council endorse the appointment of the following Antigonish County residents as representatives on the RK MacDonald Foundation Board:

- *Ms. Chantel Sangster, Pomquet*
- *Ms. Lois Wazny, Cribbons Point*
- *Mr. Blaise Ross, Highway 245*

Motion Carried

Illegal Dumping & Unsecured Loads on Beech Hill Road

Councillor MacFarlane requested consideration of options to try to reduce the occurrences of illegal dumping on Beech Hill Road in the proximity of the transfer station. Ideas such as extending weekend hours at the transfer station and signage were suggested. Discussion about enforcement of illegal dumping and unsecured loads followed. Ideas for collaboration with Eastern Region Solid Waste Management were put forward.

Community Events

- Councillor MacLellan noted that the new building is coming along well.
- Councillor Mattie noted that the fridge is down at the community hall, which has impacted activities
- Councillor McNamara noted that a dart tournament is planned in Havre Boucher.
- Councillor Deveau noted that the Pomquet Winter Carnival would be taking place in February, and long-service medals will be presented on February 6th to the Pomquet Volunteer Fire Department
- Warden McCarron shared feedback from a meeting about tourism
- African Heritage Month events are planned at St. FX for early February.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

The next meeting is planned for Monday February 6.

Antigonish Arena Association

The next meeting date has yet to be determined.

Eastern District Planning Commission

The Board met, and there has been lots of development activity in the community.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

A meeting is expected in a few weeks time.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

No report.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

Councillor McNamara attended an orientation, and the next meeting is January 26th.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

The Paqtnkek Annual PowWow is planned to take place at St. FX in early April.

Consolidation Steering Committee

No report.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

No report.

Additions to the Agenda

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal Presentation

Warden McCarron highlighted Councillor Mary MacLellan's receipt of a Platinum Jubilee Medal at a ceremony earlier in the month. The Warden read out the names of those who received medals at the event and asked that a letter be sent to each recipient on behalf of Council extending their congratulations to each recipient.

Councillor McLellan received a federal volunteerism medal as well.

Warden McCarron reviewed the names of Platinum Jubilee medal recipients from Guysborough as well.

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole move into an in-camera session to discuss litigation/ potential litigation at 7:51pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:09 pm.

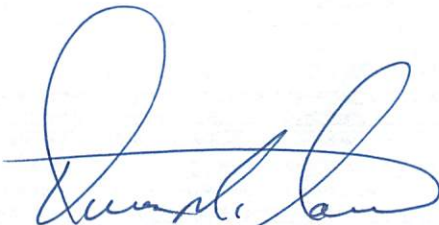
Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO