
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 5:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart

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

Others Present: 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 5:36pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. A request was made to add an item regarding a streetlight request on Summerside Road. Mr. Horne noted that the delegation from the RCMP would be rescheduled to a later meeting, and noted an addition for a Tender for Backup Generator for 285 Beech Hill Road.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Review of the January 24, 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 24, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne provided a follow-up to the discussion regarding the concerns about illegal dumping along Beech Hill Road and on Highway 104, noting that signage has been requested from the Department of Highways along Beech Hill Road, and information has been shared on social media. A question was asked about progress on streetlight installations, and Warden McCarron shared that NSP staff has been reaching out to scope installation request locations.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Fiscal 2022/23 Financial Update

Mrs. Duggan provided members of the Committee with a detailed review of the financial figures for the municipal accounts, reviewing the revenue and expenses that have been collected or paid to date in comparison to the budgeted amounts. Discussion followed regarding the year-to-date spending, as well as unbudgeted expenses that have been approved by Council since the budget was struck in June 2022. Mrs. Duggan was thanked for her update.

Request to Carry Over Community Partnership Grant Funding

Havre Boucher & Area CDRA

Mrs. Duggan spoke to a request from the Havre Boucher & Area CDRA to carry over their Community Partnership Grant allocation to next fiscal, due to the asphalt that the grant was to purchase not being available until later in the spring.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council carry over the 2022/23 Community Partnership Grant for the Havre Boucher & Area CDRA to the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

Jeux de l'Acadie

Councillor Deveau spoke to a follow-up request to a 2019 allocation for Jeux de L'Acadie, for the games that have been deferred since 2020 due to Covid. The games have been rescheduled for May 2023, and due to the increase in expenses since the original request, the grant ask has been increased to \$15,000.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide Jeux de l'Acadie with a \$15,000 grant for the Regional Games that are scheduled to take place in May.

Motion Carried

Audit Committee Re-Appointments

Mrs. Duggan noted that Mr. Bobbie Mattie has agreed to serve for another year on the Audit Committee.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council reappoint Bobbie Mattie to the Audit Committee for another one (1) year term.

Motion Carried

Interest in Attending the Annual FCM Conference in Toronto, May 25-28

Mr. Horne asked Councillors who are interested in attending the FCM Conference in Toronto to please notify staff at their earliest opportunity to that arrangements can be made.

New Business

Parkhurst Subdivision Streetlights

Mr. Horne reviewed a memo that summarizes the scope by NSP for streetlights in the Parkhurst Subdivision. Lights were recommended on every other pole, and the area rate for the 2023/24 fiscal year was estimated to be \$31.49. Mrs. Duggan noted that the area rates are reviewed each year based on the NSP rates, and reviewed the process that is used to determine the rate.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council levy an area rate of \$31.49 to the Parkhurst Subdivision for the installation of streetlights.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Councillor Deveau shared that the Pomquet Winter Carnival starts on February 19th and runs until the 26th.
- Councillor McNamara shared his experience with helping residents in his district with making applications to the provincial heating assistance rebate. He also shared that the Havre Boucher Community Centre was opened as a warming centre several times over the past few weeks due to the extreme cold weather and power outages.
- Councillor MacLellan shared the success that was had with a chili fundraiser.
- Warden McCarron shared that a funding announcement will be taking place at the office on Tuesday February 21st.
- Mr. Horne noted that Keppoch Fun Day takes place on February 19th

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne shared news of the retirement of Kevin McCulloch from the Transfer Station. Mr. McCulloch has been with the Municipality for 32 years. An internal competition has been launched to fill the position. Mrs. Duggan shared that Strait IT has hired Kyle MacQuarrie as their new IT technician. He will be located in Cape Breton but will be a part of the Strait IT team.

Additions to the Agenda

Streetlight Request – Summerside Road

Councillor Dunbar was contacted by a resident regarding a streetlight that was damaged during hurricane Fiona, near 1648 Summerside Road. The resident has not been able to get NSP to address the light, and Councillor Dunbar asked that the Municipality install a light in this location.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a streetlight installation near 1648 Summerside Road.

Motion Carried

Tender Award – Backup Generator

Mr. Horne reviewed the tender bids received for conduit work and the installation of a backup generator at the Municipal Office.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council award the tender for conduit work and the installation of a backup generator at the Municipal Office to KV Electrical Inc. for the bid price of \$195,000 (plus HST).

Motion Carried

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole move into an in-camera session to discuss litigation/ potential litigation at 6:48pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 6:59 pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO