

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 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 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

Others Present: Chief Cory Julian, Paqtnkek First Nation
Darryl MacDonald, Director of Administration, Paqtnkek First Nation
Trevor Gould
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 6:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. The following additions were made:

- Antigonish Arena Accessibility Upgrades
- In-camera - litigation
- In Camera - personnel
- Volunteer Fire Department discussion

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Review of the February 14, 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 February 14, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne provided further updates regarding staff's work to coordinate the installation of signage to address concerns with dumping and unsecured loads along Beech Hill Road near the waste transfer station.

Delegations

Chief Julian and Darryl MacDonald – Paqtnkek First Nation PowWow

Chief Julian spoke to the upcoming Gathering taking place at Paqtnkek and encouraged everyone to attend. He noted that over the past several years a variety of events have postponed PowWow, including Covid, Fiona, and the passing of Chief Francis. The event has also outgrown the space available in the community, so this year it is being held on campus at St. FX.

The events and performers that are booked for the event were shared, and a preliminary budget for the event was presented. The theme is *Our Healing Journey*, and the Gathering is planned for April 1 & 2 at the Keating Centre. Over thirty vendors are lined up to date.

Mr. Gould spoke regarding his interest in Mi'kmaw place names and spoke specifically regarding the Mi'kmaw name for Antigonish. He hopes that the traditional name of the community will be used more often. The growth of song and dance in the community, and the important role of the gathering to the community, were shared.

Mr. MacDonald put forward a request for \$5,000 towards the event and asked that the same request be put forward to the Town.

Warden McCarron thanked Chief Julian, Mr. Gould and Mr. MacDonald for their presentations.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee recommends that Municipal Council provides \$5,000 to Paqtnkek First Nation for their 2023 PowWow.

Motion Carried

Continuing Business

Annual Planning and Development Appointments

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the request put forward by Mr. Bain for the appointment of EDPC staff to municipal positions, including Development Officer, Building Inspector, and Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Administrator.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the annual appointments of Eastern District Planning Commission staff to Municipal positions, as proposed.

Motion Carried

Renewal of Community Navigation & Physician Retention IMA

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the term of the inter-municipal agreement and provided an update regarding the vacancy for the navigator position following the previous incumbent moving on to a new role.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Community Navigation & Physician Retention Inter-Municipal Agreement be extended for an additional three-years.

Motion Carried

Discussion of Seabright Road Letter of Support

Warden McCarron reviewed discussions that he has had with the Wilgenhofs and the Department of Public Works regarding the Seabright Road, which the Province classifies as a K-class Road. The condition of the roadway following Fiona, particularly with the loss of trees, was a concern. Not only is the condition of the roadway an

inconvenience, but a safety concern. It was noted that there are ten houses on the roadway.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write to the Minister of Public Works, copying the local MLA, Department of Public Works Area Manager, and the Department of Public Works District Director, regarding the condition of Seabright Road.

Motion Carried

New Business

There was no new business.

Community Events

- Councillor Deveau shared that the Pomquet Winter Carnival was a great success.
- Councillor McNamara shared that he presented a certificate from the Municipality to a resident celebrating their 104th birthday.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum

Nothing to Report

Antigonish Arena Association

An update was provided that the boiler is back up and running a week earlier than expected. The Board received a presentation about the common booking platform being evaluated in conjunction with the Town and County Recreation Departments.

Eastern District Planning Commission

No updates

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

A meeting was held on February 23rd. Councillor MacDonald will be acting as Chair on the committee. A new member of the Committee has joined to represent Guysborough. ERSWM has had their application for a Clean Leadership Intern approved. Updates were provided regarding school audits that were conducted, with schools being sent letters to recognize the great job that they are doing to sort

waste. The 2023 Jacqueline Dort Memorial Bursary will be for the County of Antigonish.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

No updates

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

A future Joint Council meeting may be held to provide updates to both Councils. An update was provided regarding repairs made to the boiler.

County-Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

No updates

Consolidation Steering Committee

No updates. Mr. Horne noted that all meeting notes from that Steering Committee are posted online.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

A meeting was held earlier in the month. The agreement has been approved for another three year term, and the navigator vacancy has been posted.

Additions to the Agenda

Arena Accessibility Grant Application

Mr. Horne spoke to the application that the Arena Association is preparing for priority accessibility upgrades that have been identified, including parking, building access, washrooms, and rink surface viewing area. A number of secondary improvements were identified as well. The grant application requires a letter of support, as well as matching funding from the Municipality. The Town and County are being asked to contribute (dollar amount) from the 2023/24 budget.

Councillor Mattie shared observations that were made during the ENSE regarding the accessibility of the arena building by the Arena Manager.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provides a letter of support be provided to the Antigonish Arena's Recreation Facility Development Grant application, and budget to provide matching funds up to \$52,395.24 in the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Motion Carried.

Volunteer Fire Department Discussion

Councillor Dunbar shared a concern raised by a resident on the Meadow Green Road, who had a fire on their property and had a concern about their location along the boundary between the St. Andrews Volunteer Fire Department and the Pomquet Fire Department. They felt that the St. Andrews Volunteer Fire Department was closer to their location, but the Pomquet Department was summoned to the event with a 40-minute response time. A suggestion was made to follow-up with the fire departments to find out more information about the response time noted and their procedure of determining what station responds to a call.

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole move into an in-camera session to discuss litigation/ potential litigation at 7:34pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:48 pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO