

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 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
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart (by Zoom)
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau (by Zoom)
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets:

None

Staff Present:

Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Others Present:

S.Sgt Hillier, RCMP
Sgt. McBeath, RCMP
Kathleen Robertsson, Antigonish Imagination Library
Kyle Musial, MNP (by Zoom)
Gallery (by Zoom and in-person)

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 6:30pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

- Streetlight Request
- Discussion on Consolidation News
- Discussion on Volunteer Fire Departments on Meadow Green Road

Mr. Horne also asked to change the order of the delegations to allow the Antigonish Imagination Library to present first.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Review of the February 28, 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 28, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

Antigonish Imagination Library

Warden McCarron welcomed representatives from the Antigonish Imagination Library. A description of the program, which provides books sent monthly by mail to children from birth to age 5, was provided and a video was shown to give some background on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Members of the Committee expressed their support for the initiative. Warden McCarron thanked Ms. Robertsson for her presentation.

S. Sgt. Hillier and Sgt. McBeath - RCMP

Warden McCarron welcomed S.Sgt Hillier and introductions were done with members of the Committee. Priorities that the RCMP team reviewed included traffic safety, building relationships, and crime reduction. Several initiatives are being planned to address different aspects of those priorities, and examples were shared. Members

of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions. Deputy Warden Stewart left the meeting at 7pm. Warden McCarron thanked S.Sgt Hillier and Sgt. McBeath for coming to the meeting.

Continuing Business

Presentation of the 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Musial presented the 2021/2022 Audited Financial Statements for the municipality. The non-consolidated financial statements were reviewed in detail, followed by the water utility statements and the consolidated statements. The floor was opened for questions from the Committee. Members of the Committee shared their thanks for the work done by the Finance Team on a job well done. Staff from MNP were thanked for their presentation to the Committee.

New Business

Streetlight Request – East Tracadie Road Curve

Councillor Mattie spoke to a request for a streetlight at a curve on East Tracadie Road where visibility in poor weather at night has been raised as a concern by drivers in the area.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council approves a streetlight on the curve at East Tracadie Road.

Motion Carried

Tax Write-Offs

Mrs. Duggan spoke to the staff memo outlining a list of accounts that have outstanding balances where multiple attempts to collect those balances have not been successful.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write off \$1859.20 in transfer station invoices, property taxes, utility billing and a miscellaneous equipment purchase.

Motion Carried

Notice of Recommendation for Designation – Heritage Churches

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed a staff memo outlining the circumstances leading to the discover that heritage designations of two church properties approved by Council in 1991 were not registered. In accordance with the Heritage Property Act, the municipality must provide the property owner with a Notice of Recommendation to

Register these properties as municipal heritage properties, in advance of a meeting being held where Council considers that recommendation.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council directs staff to provide Notice of Recommendation to Register St. Margaret's of Scotland and Holy Rosary Churches as heritage properties and schedule a Statutory Public Hearing for May 9, 2023.

Motion Carried

Access to Schools on Inclement Weather Days

Councillor MacFarlane raised a concern regarding school gymnasium access for programming on storm days when the inclement weather is no longer an issue later in the day. A request was made to follow-up with the school board with a letter to see if something could be done to help to address the issue locally, and a future update to Council was suggested.

Bulky Waste Collection

Mr. Horne brought forward a request to tender for Bulky Waste Pickup. Consensus was provided to prepare and issue tender documents for that service.

Community Events

- Councillor McNamara shared that on April 19th there is a dart tournament in Havre Boucher at the Community Centre. He also shared that pickleball play is increasing in the community.
- Councillor Mattie attended the St. Patrick's Day concert in his community.
- Councillor Deveau shared that activities are planned in May for the Acadian Games and a community cleanup.
- Councillor Dunbar shared that the Paqtnkek PowWow is planned to take place this coming Saturday and Sunday (April 1 and 2).
- Warden McCarron shared that Riverside International Speedway has a monster truck event coming up, and their season starts in June.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum

Nothing to Report, next meeting Monday April 3.

Antigonish Arena Association

Next meeting will be held after the ice comes out later in May. Further updates on arena maintenance and funding announcements for accessibility updates were shared.

Eastern District Planning Commission

Next Meeting on Thursday March 30th.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

Next meeting on Thursday March 30th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

A chili bowl fundraiser was very successful. The food pantry and community fridge at the Antigonish Library has been doing well.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The next meeting is on Thursday March 30th.

County-Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

April 19, 2023 will be the next meeting.

Consolidation Steering Committee

No updates.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

The Community Navigator vacancy has been posted.

Additions to the Agenda

Streetlight Request – Taylor’s Road

Councillor Deveau brought forward a request to install a streetlight at the curve where the mailboxes have been installed by Canada Post, near civic number 522.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council installs a streetlight on Taylor’s Road at the curve near 522 Taylor’s Road where Canada Post has installed a community mailbox.

Motion Carried.

Consolidation Update Discussion

Councillor McNamara requested an update on the discussions with the Province regarding the news received late last week regarding their decision not to take the request to consolidate the Town and County at the spring sitting of the Provincial Legislature. Warden McCarron shared that the update provided to Council on March 24th was the latest update based on the conversation held with the Minister of Municipal Affairs late on Friday afternoon.

Discussion on Volunteer Fire Department on Meadow Green Road

Councillor Dunbar spoke further to the concern raised at the last Committee meeting about the division of districts between responding volunteer fire departments. Councillor Dunbar noted that he met with the representatives from the Pomquet Fire Department and the residents to talk about the instance of the recent flue fire in his district and found the meeting to be very productive. Councillor Dunbar asked Council if anyone had any suggestions that could be shared regarding different methods of dividing the boundaries of any of the volunteer departments. The volunteer fire departments were complimented for their services, and clarification provided that Council wasn't looking to make changes on behalf of the departments, but instead to look at helping to identify outliers that could be a concern to help the departments.

In Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO