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**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 18, 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  
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  
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation  
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities (by Zoom)

Others Present: Maria Fraser, Community Sport EDI Navigator  
Trevor Reddick  
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 6:32pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

- The Multi-Pitch Facility item was moved to Delegations.
- In-Camera Item - Personnel

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Review of the March 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 March 28, 2023 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **Delegations**

#### **New Multi-Pitch Facility for Antigonish**

Warden McCarron welcomed Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation, who introduced Maria Fraser and Trevor Reddick. Mr. Reddick, a community volunteer, spoke about how the opportunity to bring a mini-pitch development to the community. The goal of the project is to create a space for inclusive and accessible space for free play. Ms. Fraser provided a review of the programming opportunities resulting from their partnership with the Barca Foundation, which they have connected with X Project to collaborate on youth connectivity projects.

A preliminary site plan and budget were shared with the Committee. The team is expecting to hear from Scotiabank about funding opportunities imminently, and other funding applications have been made. The School Board will donate the land where the mini-pitch would be located, and preliminary figures were shared for site preparation, mini-pitch construction, and exterior features such as walkways and lighting.

The floor was then opened for Councillors to ask questions. A comment was made about the proximity of the project to the existing accessible playground at the school,

which provided additional opportunities for inclusive play. A question was asked about washroom access, and whether facilities at the school could be used. Clarification about the size of the field was raised. Ms. Fraser noted that each pitch is expected to be about the size of a school gymnasium due to the site constraints. Additional positive comments about how exciting the opportunity is were shared.

## **Continuing Business**

### **2023/24 Operating Budget Preparation**

Mr. Horne reviewed the summary memo in the agenda package, which provides further details about ongoing projects as their expected expenses are further clarified as staff work on the budget.

#### *RCMP Contract Increase & Retroactive Costs*

Mr. Horne shared that the expected RCMP costs are expected to increase by 6% in the upcoming budget year, not including the retroactive wage costs. NSFM information shared that Municipalities are going to be receiving an invoice via the Province, and that outstanding balance will be due on April 1, 2025. NSFM has prepared a template motion to send to federal representatives to express concern with the way that the retroactive RCMP costs are expected to be handled.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to local MPs, as well as the Federal Minister of Public Safety and the Prime Minister expressing opposition and disappointment in the federal governments decision to make municipalities responsible for retroactive RCMP policing costs.*

**Motion Carried**

#### *Municipal Insurance Renewal*

Mr. Horne noted that there is again an increase in the quoted costs of insurance for the Municipality for the upcoming budget year. This is in keeping with the trend experienced with this expense over the last few years and by other municipalities in the province.

#### *Sustainable Services Growth Fund*

Mr. Horne noted that the Municipality has received notice from the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs that a grant has been allocated to the Municipality in the amount of \$744,268.

### *Provincial Mandatory Costs*

As expected, the mandatory provincial costs are expected to increase for the upcoming budget year. Mr. Horne shared that education costs are estimated to be \$4.3mil, and estimated figures for other mandatory payments were shared as well.

### Update on Consolidation

Warden McCarron shared that few additional updates have been received since the last update was provided. A letter has been sent to Minister Lohr requesting a meeting to be scheduled to discuss the topic with provincial representatives. Councillor McNamara commented that he felt that the Municipality should move on from the subject. Councillor Dunbar asked for some clarification regarding details about the meeting that was held with the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Warden McCarron provided details on the content of that discussion and noted that the Minister expressed that the spring sitting was expected to only focus on healthcare focussed bills.

Councillor Dunbar asked for additional details regarding when the letter requesting a meeting with Minister Lohr was sent, and for clarification regarding comments made by the mayor regarding a community recreation facility. Warden McCarron noted that he couldn't speak for the mayor but felt that it might have been an example being provided in context of joint projects for the community. Councillor MacFarlane shared a comment about past project ideas for joint recreation projects.

### **New Business**

#### Mayfest Sponsorship and Volunteer Request

Mr. Horne spoke to a request that has been received to sponsor the Mayfest event, taking place at St. FX over the Mother's Day weekend. The event raises funds for the St. Martha's Hospital Foundation, and this year fundraising efforts are going towards the purchase of new equipment at St. Martha's Hospital. Councillors who are interested in volunteering for the event were asked to contact staff at their earliest opportunity.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a Bronze Sponsorship of Mayfest 2023 in the amount of \$250.*

**Motion Carried**

#### Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Tournament Registration

Councillor Deveau provided an overview of the Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Tournament. This tournament supports a number of charities in the community. In the past, the Municipality has supported the event as a Tournament Friend.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the Municipality providing sponsorship as a Tournament Friend (\$2000) for the 2023 Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Tournament.*

**Motion Carried**

### CACL Ham and Bean Dinner

Mr. Horne reviewed a request to participate in the CACL Ham and Bean fundraising dinner, which raises funds for programming opportunities for CACL clients.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council purchase a table of eight seats at the 2023 CACL Ham and Bean Dinner at a cost of \$200.*

**Motion Carried**

### Community Events

- Councillor MacFarlane attended the Paqtnkek PowWow at the beginning of the month. He noted what a great event it was, and how well attended it was.
- Councillor Dunbar shared that he also attended the PowWow and looks forward to it continuing at that scale in the future.
- Councillor Brophy expressed his amazement at the craftsmanship of the regalia and how wonderful it was to experience.
- Councillor McNamara shared that he also attended and expressed his excitement with the opportunities for relationship building.
- Councillor Mattie also attended PowWow and enjoyed being at the event.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Chief Jullian, Trevor Gould, and other PowWow organizers to express their congratulations on the success of the 2023 PowWow.*

**Motion Carried**

### Staff Reports

Mr. Horne reviewed information from the memo attached to the agenda, with particular focus on the EMO tabletop exercises that were undertaken over the past month. He also reviewed project and training updates and noted that bulky waste collection is expected to take place later in May.

**Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**In Camera Items**

The in-camera business will take place after Council.

**Adjournment**

Moved

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:26pm.*

**Motion Carried**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called back to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 8:19pm following the regular meeting of Municipal Council.

**In Camera Items**

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole move to an in-camera session at 8:20pm to discuss Personnel Matters.*

**Motion Carried**

Moved and Seconded

*That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:58.*

**Motion Carried**

**Adjournment**

Moved

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:59pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO