
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 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

Others Present: 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 5:48pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. The following change was requested:

- Streetlight Request – Chisholm Road

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Review of the April 18, 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 April 18, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

New Business

Presentation to Council and Committees Policy Discussion

Mr. Horne noted that recently, requests by delegations to speak at a Committee or Council meeting were turned down, based on various circumstances. Mr. Horne noted that staff is looking to receive direction from the Committee about whether a policy to provide guidance to staff when evaluating delegation requests is desired, and if it is, what kind of parameters should be included in that policy.

Councillors were provided with an opportunity to provide their comments. Councillors noted that there should be criteria for evaluating requests, and that any requests that are thought to be questionable should be brought to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. A suggestion was made to extend the time window for presentations to 15 minutes from the current practice of 10. Comment was also made that providing the public with an opportunity to speak at Council meetings is important.

Staff was directed to prepare amendments to the existing policy based on the discussion at this meeting and bring it back to the Committee for further discussion.

Community Events

- Councillor McNamara shared that a local towing company recovered an electric vehicle, which ended up catching fire and destroying two tow trucks. Havre Boucher and Tracadie Volunteer Fire Departments responded and were praised for their quick response to the incident. Warden McCarron noted that the issue was raised with the AREMO staff memo, and information is being prepared for a future discussion with the Committee.
- Councillor Mattie shared that a member of the fishing community found a letter in a bottle that had travelled in the water from Quebec, with contact information. Those who found the bottle plan to follow-up and contact the message writer to see how long ago it was put in the water.
- Councillor MacLellan provided an update on the work being done as the work is being finalized on the building in Arisaig.
- Councillor MacDonald shared that he attended the fire award ceremony held at the Town.
- Councillor Deveau shared that the new cultural centre should be open in June. On the May long weekend, Jeux L'Acadie will be held in in the community.
- Councillor Brophy shared that the Junior B bulldogs won the championship and asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to the team.
- Councillor Dunbar noted that the Heatherton Warriors won the rural league championship. He also noted that the Heatherton 4H club did a beach cleanup for Earth Day down at Bayfield Beach.
- Councillor McFarlane shared that with the good weather starting, it is the perfect opportunity to put out flags, and recalled how Williams Point had a number of Canadian flags flying last summer.
- Warden McCarron was a volunteer judge for a regional 4H event for public speaking. Ongoing congratulations for the work done by 4H volunteers and members for youth and in the community were shared. Warden McCarron also noted that St. FX Graduation is taking place starting in a week, with a phased approach to include students who missed their graduation ceremonies due to Covid.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum

Nothing to Report, next meeting Monday May 1.

Antigonish Arena Association

The next meeting is expected to take place early to mid-May.

Eastern District Planning Commission

Next Meeting on June 1st.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

Councillor MacDonald shared an update on topics including diversion credits, clean leadership intern application project, the purchase of two new computers for staff, and the compliance officer is looking to get a new vehicle. Representation for Mulgrave was also reviewed. C&D regulations is going to require an education component expected to start in July. Education with the fishing industry about reducing waste was also reviewed. The next meeting will be held on April 26th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

May 3rd the committee will meet to finalize the budget.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

The next meeting is on Thursday April 27th.

County-Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

A meeting with Town, County, and Paqtnkek leadership met on April 19th to discuss options for a Joint Councils meeting, with a tentative date of June 20th.

Consolidation Steering Committee

No updates.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

The Community Navigator vacancy has been posted and is in the screening process for applications, with interviews expected shortly.

Additions to the Agenda

Streetlight Request – Chisholm Road

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a request to install a streetlight at a sharp turn on Chisholm Road.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council installs a streetlight on Chisholm Road at the curve just west of Civic 295.

Motion Carried.

In Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:17pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO