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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 9, 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  
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

**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.

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Review of the April 25, 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 25, 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**

**Tender Award – Bulky Waste Collection**

Mr. Horne reviewed the one bid that was received for the 2023 Bulky Waste Collection.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that GFL Environmental Inc be awarded the contract for 2023 Bulky Waste Collection at a bid price of \$67,500 + HST.*

**Motion Carried**

**Consideration of Wingspan Partnership Agreement**

Mr. Horne provided members of the Committee with an overview of the operations at FireLoch, who provided a presentation on their operation about a year ago. FireLoch has approached the Municipality to request to enter into an agreement with the Community Foundations of Nova Scotia, to allow for charitable donations to be received through the Wingspan Fund through in partnership with the Municipality.

A question was asked about why the County would be involved in the arrangement as proposed. Mr. Horne noted that it was because the Community Foundations of Nova Scotia could not receive charitable donations, but municipalities can. Mr. Horne reviewed examples from other communities in the province that have made a similar arrangement.

Further questions of clarification were asked about whether other not-for-profit organizations could set up a similar arrangement with the municipality. It was noted that other organizations could request a similar arrangement but would need to work

with an intermediary organization like the Community Foundations of Nova Scotia or Farm Credit Canada, the latter of which the Municipality has worked with in the past.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Partnership Agreement between the Municipality and the Wingspan Fund be approved.*

**Motion Carried**  
(9 in favour, 1 against)

#### Presentation to Council and Committees Policy Discussion

Mr. Horne spoke further to the draft policy that is under development regarding protocols for requests to make presentations to Council and Committee. Specific feedback was requested on sections 25, 28, and 31. Questions of clarification were asked about consistency of the draft policy with policies used elsewhere in the province, referral of a decision not to hear a presentation to the Committee of the Whole for discussion, and the possible interpretation of the use of the phrase “legal proceedings”. A question was raised about how the interpretation would be made regarding whether a topic is within the jurisdiction of the municipality, and concerns were raised with the proposed timelines outlined in the policy. Feedback was also provided regarding clause 31, where a concern was raised about noting an encouragement to only have one speaker where organizations may have several individuals presenting.

Councillors with comments or questions about the proposed policy who wished to bring those forward to staff for further consideration in a future draft were encouraged to do so. Mr. Horne asked for commentary on the proposed length of presentations. Discussion followed.

#### Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy Amendment

Mr. Horne reviewed a memo from the Director of Finance, recommending an increase in the income threshold for the upcoming budget for the current fiscal year. Increasing the income threshold is expected to help more families in the community. Discussion about opportunities to raise public awareness about the program followed.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the value of the combined household income threshold from \$33,000 to \$36,000 for the Fiscal 2023/24 budget and maintaining the maximum \$300 tax reduction amount.*

**Motion Carried**

## **New Business**

### **Review and Approval of RK MacDonald Nursing Home Board Bylaws**

Mr. Horne spoke to the proposed revisions to the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Board By-laws, with particular focus on the suggestions made by staff to revise the articles regarding conflict of interest to ensure that they were not in conflict with the other clauses in the document.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the March 30, 2023, amendments to the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Corporation Bylaws be approved with the proposed changes to Articles III and IV related to Conflict of Interest.*

**Motion Carried**

## **Community Events**

- Councillor Brophy shared that a clean-up was held on the Back Road Brierly Brook, with a barbeque for the community afterwards.
- Councillor MacFarlane encouraged folks to fly the flag and suggested reaching out to the local MPs, MLAs, and the Town to encourage them as well.
- Councillor Deveau shared that a community cleanup was planned for Pomquet.
- Councillor Macdonald shared that the Mini-Trails Community Centre is holding a lobster dinner for Mother's Day
- Councillor MacLellan shared that the Arisaig community had a road cleanup with a chili dinner to follow. She also noted that Sean Fraser, Premier Houston, and MLA Michelle Thompson will be coming for the building opening.
- Councillor Mattie noted that a dance being held in the hall in Tracadie later in the month.
- Councillor McNamara shared that a walk for dementia research fundraising is being held in District 9 on May 28<sup>th</sup>. He also attended an Indigenous Tree Partners session held at the RK and suggested that a similar presentation be held for Council at a future date.
- Mr. Horne noted that today is Make Your Move Day Antigonish, and staff will be taking part in a staff walk over the lunch hour. The kick-off walk for the initiative was held at the H.M MacDonald school earlier in the day, and Warden McCarron shared how the staff and students walked four kilometres during the event focussed on incorporating movement in everyday activities.

**Staff Reports**

Mr. Horne noted that staff reports included updates from the Planning Commission on building permits, as well as RCMP updates.

**Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**In Camera Items**

There were no in-camera items.

**Adjournment**

Moved

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:21pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO