
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 30, 2023, 5:30 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 (by Zoom)
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
 Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works (by Zoom)

Others Present: Gallery
 Matt Draper, XFM

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 5:33pm.

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

Budget Deliberations

Mr. Horne introduced the draft agenda that was being presented to Municipal Council. He then thanked Mrs. Duggan for all the work that she and her team have put into the budget and handed the presentation over to her. Mrs. Duggan then reviewed the proposed budget, starting with the rates for streetlights and fire departments. She worked through explaining the detailed budget line-by-line, stopping at the end of each page to allow an opportunity for questions to be asked.

Mrs. Duggan also reviewed additional information about capital projects and funding, as well as the debt repayment schedule. She noted that the debenture for the Public Works Shop from Municipal Finance Corp (MFC) is coming due, and Finance is recommending that the debenture be paid out, at a cost of just under \$500,000, to retire that debt. Where this is an external loan through MFC, the interest payable is a true expense. If this debenture is retired, the Municipality will only have one remaining source of external debt, being a debenture for the Municipal Office, library, and Havre Boucher Treatment Plan, payable to MFC, remaining. That remaining debenture is due for renewal in 2026.

The floor was then opened for questions from councillors. A question was asked about the balance in the consolidated reserve funds, and Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the different reserve fund balances. A question was asked about what the decrease in a residential rate would mean for the overall revenue for the budget. Mrs. Duggan noted that each cent decrease represents about \$140,000 decrease in tax collections by the municipality while providing a tax bill reduction of \$25 for a residential homeowner with a \$250,000 assessment.

Mrs. Duggan, her staff, Mr. Horne, and representatives from the Senior Leadership Team were thanked for their work in preparing the budget. A thank-you was also provided to the municipality for their support to volunteer organizations, as well as the offerings to the community through the equipment loan program. Mr. Horne provided his thanks to members of Council for their involvement in the budget preparation process.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council accepts the 2023/204 Operating Budget as presented.

Motion Carried.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:28pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO