
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 13, 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
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
 Kaytland Smith, Municipal Intern

Others Present: Gallery (in person and by Zoom)

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 5:30 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Horne noted an addition: Meeting with Premier Houston

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of May 23, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 23, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of May 23, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of May 30, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 30, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of May 30, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of May 23, 2023 or May 30, 2023.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Continuing Business

Further Discussion of PARC Request

Mr. Horne reviewed the presentation that was made by representatives from PARC at the Joint Council meeting on Monday June 5, 2023. Mr. Horne a brief update on process, and to give Councillors the opportunity to discuss the proposal further. Mr. Horne noted that Town and County staff has been asked to prepare a draft RFP to determine what a feasibility study would cover and cost. Contact has also been made with St. FX University.

The floor was then opened for questions from Council, and comments included praise for the work that the group had done to prepare their proposal. Questions were asked regarding payment for a recreation centre, and accessibility for peripheral communities. Mr. Horne noted that it was expected that a feasibility study would look at subjects such as capital funding, maintenance funding, amenities in a centre, user groups, and community consultation. A large component of a feasibility study would also be an assessment of existing facilities and programming. The draft RFP will be presented to the Committee when it is ready.

ARMEO Emergency Shelter Generator Discussion

Mr. Horne reviewed the presentation that was made by Mr. Blaise MacDonald, EMC, at the Joint Council meeting on Monday June 5, 2023. Mr. Horne noted that in order for the two locations that were identified in that presentation to be properly equipped to operate as emergency shelters, back-up power would be necessary. Mr. Horne reviewed the amount of funding secured by each location to date and asked for direction from the Committee regarding a cost-share agreement being arranged between the Town and County for the remainder of the funding needed to purchase and install the generators. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council support the establishment of emergency shelters at the Heatherton Community Centre and CACL.

Motion Carried

New Business

Information on the Road Trails Act

Ms. Smith spoke to a memo prepared reviewing the province's recently passed legislation regarding the designation of roadways as trails to permit the use of off-road vehicles. She noted that regulations and a designation request process are currently under development by the Province and are expected in Fall 2023. Discussion followed. Councillors shared examples of enquiries that they've received since the legislation was passed in March, and their thoughts on the information presented. Ms. Smith was thanked for her presentation.

Correspondence from Honourable Brad Johns, Minister of Justice and Attorney
General re: Joint Antigonish Town and County Police Advisory Board

Mr. Horne reviewed correspondence received from the Minister of Justice regarding Police Advisory Boards, as well as the response sent by Mr. Horne providing details on the Town and County Joint Police Advisory Board.

Mi'kmaw Place Names on NSDPW Community Signs

Mr. Horne noted that a Joint Council between Paqtnkek, the Town of Antigonish, and the County of Antigonish on Monday, June 26th. During the planning meeting held for that Joint Council meeting, an item that came up during discussion was a desire to acknowledge Mi'kmaw place names in the same manner as is done in Gaelic around the province. Staff reached out to NSDPW and learned that the province does have a policy to support posting Mi'kmaw place names on road signs. Members of the committee were very supportive of staff working with NSDPW and Paqtnkek to get this signage in place.

Community Events

Members of the Committee shared the following community events:

- Councillor Deveau:
 - Chez Deslauriers Friday meals starting,
 - Acadian Days happening in August,
 - Pomquet Fire Services Chicken BBQ in early August.
- Councillor MacFarlane:
 - Williams Point Community Association will be putting out Canadian Flags in Williams Point.
- Councillor Dunbar:
 - Visitors to Bayfield Beach will be happy to know that the ice cream parlour is now open
- Councillor McNamara:
 - Walk for Alzheimer's in Havre Boucher earlier in the month and was a great success.
 - Monastery Fire Hall Car Show is scheduled for July 8th
- Councillor Mattie:
 - Annual Fireman's Meal took place, where Johnny Duykers was awarded the Jubilee award.
- Councillor MacLellan:
 - North Shore Development Association planning their annual fundraising concerts at the Tuna Centre and at the Arisaig lighthouse.
- Councillor MacDonald:
 - Antigonish Affordable Housing having their AGM on June 21st at their Appleseed Drive location.
- Deputy Warden Stewart:
 - The community centre has a new manager and programming is being planned.
- Warden McCarron:
 - Attended the St. FX President's Dinner,
 - Participated in the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament,
 - Attended the NSCC convocation on June 8th in Port Hawkesbury,
 - Participated in a Commonwealth Study Group meeting June 9th.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne reviewed the staff reports that were included in the agenda package. He highlighted the EA binders being in the office for Weaver's Mountain. AREMO is monitoring the wildfire activities around the province and offered support to the Provincial EMO if needed. Mr. Horne also noted that tax bills were mailed shortly after the budget was passed, and collections are underway. Recreation summer programming is ongoing, and planning is in the works for Canada Day activities. The tender for the Active

Transportation Corridor has been awarded, work is underway with the water expansion projects, and curb and gutter on Vincent's Way is expected to start shortly.

Mr. Horne also reviewed some staffing updates, noting that Linda Arsenault was assisting in Reception during the tax collection period, and that Laurie O'Connor has provided notice and will be leaving in a few weeks. The Receptionist position was posted for internal and external competition earlier in the week.

Mr. Horne also highlighted staff milestones that were being celebrated, which included:

5 Years

- Amy Leigh George

10 Years

- Matt McKeen
- Tracey MacEachern
- Glenn Horne

15 Years

- Tammy Feltmate
- Shirlyn Donovan

35 Years

- Denise Fougere

Additions to the Agenda

Meeting with Premier Houston

Warden McCarron noted that earlier in the day, he and Mayor Boucher met with the Premier, MLAs Thompson and Morrow, and Minister Lohr to discuss consolidation.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole move to an in-camera session at 6:33pm to discuss Litigation/Potential Litigation and Personnel Matters.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:43pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Carroll MacAdam and Carleton MacNeil be appointed to the Joint Town and County Police Advisory Board.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:45pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO