

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 12, 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
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Others Present: Gallery (in person and by Zoom)
John Heseltine, Stantec (by Zoom)
Jamie Burke, Stantec (by Zoom)
Maria Fraser
Trevor Reddick

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 5:33 pm.

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

Approval of July 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of July 11, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of July 11, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of July 11, 2023.

Delegations

Antigonish County Boundary Review Presentation; John Heseltine, Stantec Consulting Limited

Mr. John Heseltine and Mr. Jamie Burke from Stantec Consulting provided members of the Committee with an overview of the electoral boundary review process that has commenced. The slides reviewed gave background information on the last review and provided some preliminary elector numbers to be used in this review. Where Antigonish County sits relative to other rural municipalities in terms of Council size, district size, and number of constituents per district were shared. Criteria that the UARB requires to be outlined during a boundary review were outlined.

Councillors asked questions about factors considered when grouping communities if boundaries are adjusted, and a concern was expressed about the use of an online surveys in areas where Internet connectivity may be a concern. Mr. Heseltine noted that he would follow-up with staff to ensure that appropriate measures are taken.

The presentation ended with questions to the Committee to get their feedback on council size, and whether there are any issues with the existing district boundaries. Warden McCarron opened the floor to members of the Committee to provide their feedback. Members of the committee expressed an interest in hearing from the public on their thoughts throughout the process. Councillor Deveau highlighted the Acadian community within his district. A suggestion to look at the boundaries of Districts 1 and 2 and where the public meeting is held in that area, to which Mr. Home shared that in past reviews, the public meetings were held in the areas where changes to the boundaries were proposed.

A suggestion was also made to look at French-speaking communities in other districts. A question was asked about whether the report prepared by Stantec would be submitted to the UARB. Mr. Heseltine reviewed the purpose of the report and noted that if Council accepted their recommendation, that report could be used as part of the submission to the UARB. A question was asked about whether there was enough time to complete the necessary reviews required under the Municipal Government Act

(MGA), and Mr. Heseltine noted that he felt that there was still time to be able to complete the work. Clarification was asked about whether this review was connected to the review being done by the Town, who are undertaking their own boundary review at this time.

Mr. Heseltine and Mr. Burke were thanked for their presentations.

Continuing Business

Mini-Pitch Project Update

Ms. Maria Fraser and Mr. Trevor Reddick provided the Committee with an overview of the mini-pitch proposal. The location under consideration sits behind Antigonish Education Centre, between Appleseed Drive and D. MacIsaac Road. Ms. Fraser noted that Scotiabank has offered to purchase and install a single Mini-Pitch for a quoted price of \$286,000CAD + tax. They have a deadline of October 31, 2023 to confirm if they will be making this contribution.

Ms. Fraser reviewed the work done to date to evaluate the proposed site, including engineering to determine necessary ground prep work, access roads, parking, and the location of easements. Four options to complete the funding for different levels of development were put forward for Council's consideration, ranging from a contribution of \$480k to \$956k. She noted that the timeline for development would be May 2024, which would provide additional time to seek additional grants for amounts exceeding the contribution offered by Scotiabank, and that a presentation would be made to Town Council with a similar contribution request.

The floor was then opened to the Committee for their comments and questions. Comments were made about how exciting it is to have proposals in the community, examples of mini-pitches in other communities, the inclusion of bathrooms with recreational facilities in the community, as well as questions about the expense, whether funding from the Province has been sought, and what plans there are for the management and maintenance of the facility between the Town, County, and School Board. Ms. Fraser provided detail about discussions that had taken place about looking to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the facility between the partners, with scheduling primarily managed by the County's Recreation Department.

A question was asked about timelines for a decision on the funding request. Mr. Horne noted that a 60/40 split of the requested funding between the County and Town, and that if option D was selected, the funding amount would be up to \$583,000.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee recommends that Municipal Council supports Option D for a Mini-Pitch development, contingent on a funding contribution being made by the Town of Antigonish and up to \$583,000.

Motion Carried

In the interest of addressing the in-camera business in advance of the regular Council meeting, the committee decided to advance to the in-camera items and continue with continuing business after the Council meeting.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole move to an in-camera session at 6:54pm to discuss the Acquisition of Municipal Property and Personnel Matters.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:38pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee recommends that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish endorse the recommendation of the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Board of Directors related to an Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the whole meeting adjourn at 7:39pm.

Motion Carried

Warden McCarron called the meeting back to order at 8:17pm.

Continuing Business, Continued

Discussion of the Proposed Renegotiated Service Exchange Agreement

Mr. Horne provided a brief overview of the information included in the agenda package, discussing the changes proposed for grants, mandatory contributions, and the proposed infrastructure program. Discussion regarding the proposed changes to the roads arrangements as proposed in the service exchange agreement followed, with staff noting that Program B for roads as proposed would create substantial risk to the municipality due to the existing conditions of the roadways and the expense for their

maintenance. Concern with this option was flagged by many of the rural municipalities during nearly every consultation session. Discussion followed.

Road Name Change Recommendation – D-38, Greenwold

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed a staff report, outlining the process of the selection of the proposed name to rename “D-38 Road”.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council renames D-38 Road to Sears Ross Drive.

Motion Carried

New Business

There was no new business.

Community Events

Community events were shared at the Council meeting.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne noted that the staff report was included in the agenda package.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:39pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO