

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday September 26, 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 Shawn Brophy (by Zoom)  
Councillor Remi Deveau (by Zoom)  
Councillor John Dunbar  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart

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

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 6:34pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Approval of the Statement of Estimates was added to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

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**Approval of September 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 12, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

*That the minutes of September 12, 2023 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr. Horne noted that the Town approved Mini-Pitch funding for Option D, which was the same design configuration and funding level that Municipal Council selected.

**Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**Continuing Business**

**Consideration of Warden and Deputy Warden Policy**

Mr. Horne spoke to the proposed amendment to the Warden and Deputy Warden policy, to provide guiding language for the appointment of an Acting Deputy Warden.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council amend the Position of the Warden and Deputy Warden policy as proposed.*

**Motion Carried**

**Environmental Scan of Volunteer Fire Department Funding**

Mr. Horne provided a detailed review of the staff memo included in the agenda package, which gave an overview of the funding arrangements for volunteer fire departments in Antigonish County and across the province. He noted that the data was being provided for Council's information.

Mr. Horne also noted that a review of the Community Partnership Grants records back to 2009 was done in response to a question that was raised earlier in the summer. The results of that review found that the only request from a volunteer fire department was from Aulds Cover VFD in 2023.

**Mount Cameron Speed Study and Crosswalk Request Follow-up**

Councillor MacDonald shared that representatives from a resident group in Mount Cameron have requested that a follow-up letter be sent to the Department of Public Works to request the policy referenced in the Minister's letter to the Warden earlier this

year and speed review information for Highway 337 that was requested several years ago.

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee recommends that Municipal Council sends a letter to the Minister of Public Works to follow up to a previous request made for a crosswalk on Highway 337 at Mount Cameron, requesting copies of policy regarding the crosswalks and data from the Highway 337 speed study, with copies being sent to Minister Thompson as the local MLA, and Basil Pitts and Paul Colton from the local Nova Scotia Department of Public Works office.*

**Motion Carried**

### **New Business**

#### **Antigonish Community Transit Discussion**

Mr. Horne spoke to a report prepared regarding the fixed route service currently provided by Antigonish Community Transit. He noted that the Town and County have a proposal put forward to the Housing Accelerator Fund to do a detailed assessment of the fixed route system, to identify the service delivery models and sustainable financial structures to address the need for transit in the community not currently being met by the fixed route system. Several examples of feedback and community awareness and utilization of transit were shared by the Committee.

The success of the summer pilot for the use of the transit system for access to recreational facilities was shared, and Mr. Horne noted that the pilot would be extended for weekends into October, with final ridership numbers available after that. Discussion regarding general service hours of operation, seasonal shutdowns, and examples from other small communities followed. A suggestion was made to include advertising about the service where the vehicles are parked at the mall, and Mr. Horne noted that he would pass that along.

#### **Renaming of a Section of Mill Road**

Mrs. Schumacher spoke to a proposal to rename the section of Mill Road between Highway 104 and Trunk 4 to Old Mill Road, in order to help to distinguish the two sections of roadway from each other now that they are no longer connected due to the twinning of Highway 104.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council renames the section of Mill Road between Highway 104 and Trunk 4 to "Old Mill Road".*

**Motion Carried**

### Discussion of Removal of HST from New Apartment Construction

Concerns that have been brought forward regarding the HST rebate that the federal and provincial governments have recently enacted for developers to encourage development of rental properties. The concern is that the program excludes those undertaking small housing developments or individuals building additional housing units in their own homes. Concern was also raised that it appears that there is no rent protection for those renting considered in the program, meaning that large developers can get an HST rebate and then still charge market rental rates. Consensus was received to send letter to provincial and federal Ministers of Housing, as well as the local MLAs and NSFM.

### In-Camera Items

There are no in-camera items.

### Community Events

- Councillor Dunbar noted that the Provincial Department of Public Works would be holding an information open house in Heatherton regarding the future twinning of Highway 104.
- Councillor MacDonald shared his experience earlier in the week attending the Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony.

### Committee Reports

#### Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

- Nothing to report.

#### Antigonish Arena Association

- A meeting is expected soon.

#### Eastern District Planning Commission

- Waiting for the next meeting to be scheduled.

#### Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

- A meeting is expected later in the week.

#### Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- The last meeting was held September 21<sup>st</sup>, which conflicted with a Joint Council Committee meeting that evening.

#### RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- Nothing to report.

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County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

- Nothing to report.

Consolidation Steering Committee

- Nothing to report.

Community Navigation and Physician Retention Services Association

- Nothing to report.

**Additions to the Agenda**

Approval of the Statement of Estimates

Mr. Horne noted that the Statement of Estimates is a reporting form that accompanies the Water Utility Budget, which was approved by Municipal Council earlier in the summer.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the 2023/24 Statement of Estimates A&B.*

**Motion Carried**

**Adjournment**

Moved

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

**Motion Carried**



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Warden Owen McCarron



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Glenn Horne, CAO