

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 7:00pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

1. Call to Order – Chair, Warden Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of September 26, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
 - a. There are no scheduled delegations.
6. Continuing Business
 - a. New Rules for Off-Highway Vehicles in Effect
 - b. Discussion about Bell Fibre Internet
7. New Business
 - a. Provincial Comprehensive Policing Review
8. Community Events

This item provides Councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.
9. Staff Reports
10. Additions to the Agenda
11. In-Camera Items
12. Adjournment

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART (amended October 2022)

COUNCIL PRIORITIES	
<u>NOW</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WATER UTILITY DEVELOPMENT <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion & Renew Aging Infrastructure Securing Long-Term Source Water Long-Term Financial Plan 2. DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT AN EVENTS & TOURISM PLAN 3. CONNECTIVITY – CELLULAR AND BROADBAND 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY 5. NEXT GEN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 	
<u>NEXT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: Update & Implementation ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Implementation COMMUNITY HUBS: Plan & Implementation 	<u>ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS</u> <i>Connectivity Funding (Prov & Feds)</i> <i>TIR Service Provision (Prov)</i> <i>Long-Term Care Facility Funding (Prov)</i> <i>Aging In Place Program (Prov)</i> <i>Accessible/Affordable Housing</i>
ADMINISTRATION	FINANCE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CELLULAR & BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY 2. EVENTS & TOURISM 3. ASSET MANAGEMENT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: Plan & Implementation - Ongoing
PUBLIC WORKS	RECREATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WATER UTILITY DEVELOPMENT 2. NEXT GEN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION 2. COMMUNITY HUBS
SUSTAINABILITY	PLANNING
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RENEWABLE ENERGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MANDATORY MINIMUM PLANNING: Development & Implementation 2. EASTERN ANTIGONISH PLANNING STRATEGY & BYLAW: Complete Review

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

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 twining 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 21st, which conflicted with a Joint Council Committee meeting that evening.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- Nothing to report.

County Paqtnekek 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

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO

New Rules for Off-Highway Vehicles in Effect

[Public Works \(.../search?dept=191\)](#)

September 29, 2023 - 8:59 AM

A pilot project that allows off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to access trails and services via designated road shoulders and roadways will become permanent today, September 29.

“After a successful pilot project, off-highway vehicle operators have demonstrated they can use their vehicles safely and responsibly on designated public roads,” said Public Works Minister Kim Masland. “By making this project permanent, we are helping riders get from one trail to another safely and supporting economic development in rural areas by giving better access to services like gas stations and restaurants.”

The Road Trails Act, which includes the same requirements as the pilot project, requires riders to have a valid driver’s licence, insurance, registration and a licence plate.

It also outlines rules and penalties, and gives municipalities the ability to designate local streets for off-highway vehicle use through bylaws.

New regulations under the Road Trails Act also set out requirements for vehicle equipment, helmets and road signage for designated roads.

Quick Facts:

- the off-highway vehicle pilot project started in 2018
- the Road Trails Act applies to all-terrain vehicles, including multipurpose off-highway utility vehicles and

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- recreational off-highway vehicles, as well as dirt bikes
- the new act was introduced in the spring sitting of the legislature

Additional Resources:

Road Trails Act:

https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/3rd_read/b273.htm
(https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/3rd_read/b273.htm)

Off-highway vehicle pilot project and reports, including designated roads: <https://novascotia.ca/ohv-pilot/>
(<https://novascotia.ca/ohv-pilot/>)

Department of Public Works on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter: https://twitter.com/NS_PublicWorks
(https://twitter.com/NS_PublicWorks)

Province to Conduct Comprehensive Policing Review

[Justice \(../search?dept=20\)](#) / [Mass Casualty Commission Response \(../search?dept=205\)](#)
September 29, 2023 - 11:23 AM

The Province will conduct a comprehensive review of the policing structure in Nova Scotia and potentially recommend changes for how policing services are delivered.

"We are committed to making our communities safer, and a big part of that work is ensuring our policing services are effective, efficient and structured in a way that best serves Nova Scotians," said Attorney General and Justice Minister Brad Johns. "I'm pleased that this important work will include a committee of people representing the diversity of our communities, ensuring that local voices are reflected in this review."

A request for proposals for an external consultant to conduct the comprehensive, technical review of policing was issued today, September 29.

The selected consultant will work closely with a police review advisory committee, which will include people from equity-deserving groups, the provincial government, police agencies, subject matter experts and diverse community representatives.

The committee is co-chaired by Clare MacLellan, retired Nova Scotia Supreme Court justice, and Hayley Crichton, Executive Director of Public Safety and Security with the Department of Justice. Letters have been sent to policing agencies and

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community organizations seeking nominations for committee members. Other police review advisory committee members will be announced at a later date.

Quick Facts:

- there are currently 11 police agencies in Nova Scotia – 10 municipal police agencies and the RCMP serving as the provincial police agency – with almost 2,000 police officer positions
- the final report of the Mass Casualty Commission recommended a multi-sectoral council be established to review the structure of policing in Nova Scotia and make recommendations that can be implemented before the 2032 expiration of the Provincial Police Services Agreement (Recommendation P.67)
- the review is expected to be completed by 2025

Additional Resources:

Request for proposal: <https://procurement-portal.novascotia.ca/tenders/Doc1647262593>
(<https://procurement-portal.novascotia.ca/tenders/Doc1647262593>).

Turning the Tide Together - Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission: <https://masscasualtycommission.ca/final-report/> (<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/final-report/>).

Directory of police agencies in Nova Scotia:
https://novascotia.ca/just/policing_services/agencies.asp
(https://novascotia.ca/just/policing_services/agencies.asp).

MEMO FOR INFORMATION

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: GLENN HORNE, CAO
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 2023 STAFF REPORT
DATE: 10/10/2023

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

- The County Connect will be going to the printer shortly and should arrive in mailboxes by the end of the month.
- ICIP- Net Zero for Community Buildings
 - Final heat pumps are being installed, 85% of lights are complete.
 - Solar supplies are on order and work on the renewable component will be planned for August.
 - Project is on schedule for completion by early 2024.
- EMP & Generator
 - Light retrofits of municipal buildings as outlined in our Energy Management Plan are ongoing.
 - The generator has arrived onsite, and staff is waiting on a connection date and the switch over to the new underground system, which is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks.
- CAO Glenn Horne and Councillor Gary Mattie attended the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce Accessibility Lunch & Learn on Monday, September 25.
- Staff met with Provincial representatives to discuss the twinning of Highway 104 from Taylors Road to Paqtnkek, in advance of the NS Department of Public Works' community meeting held on September 27th at the Heatherton Community Centre.
- Municipal staff recognized Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 29.
- CAO Glenn Horne will be attending the Association of Municipal Administrators Fall Conference from October 17 – 20 in Digby.
- Occupational Health and Safety & Wellness- 2nd annual Safety Day is booked for November 22nd.
- REMC Blaise MacDonald is preparing an application to ACOA for the recently announced \$9 million fund to help improve the readiness of designated comfort centres in areas impacted by Hurricane Fiona for future climate-induced weather events.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Provincial financial reporting is a work in progress.

- As per our Tax Sale schedule, Preliminary Notice of Tax Sale (14 Day Notice) were mailed out to residents at the end of September. Those notices are sent out to property owners who have two or more years' tax arrears, as of Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- Sport Hub
 - Staff is working closely with Sport Hub to move our facility bookings (St. Andrew Junior School and East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy) to the platform, to allow groups to go online and see what times/spaces are available. Once complete, they will be able to request times right on the Sport Hub website. This is ongoing with improvements made to the site daily to get it to where we want it to be.
 - Staff is also looking to move the Equipment Loan Program bookings to Sport Hub, to make this process more accessible by allowing residents to book online from home.
- Construction of phase 1 & 2 of the Antigonish AT Corridor is ongoing and will continue until late fall. This phase of the project includes the re-purposing of Trunk 4 add a multi-use active transportation path extending from Spruce Lane to Church St. It also includes the realignment of the James St./Trunk 4 intersection and the installation of a round-about at the West St./Trunk 4 intersection.
- Make Your Move Antigonish (MYMA)
 - Our new Project Navigator, Megan MacIsaac, started on September 18th.
 - MYMA is also looking to hire a Communications Assistant through the Coop Student Program and have applied for subsidy through the provincial grant program.
 - We are gathering baseline data from our community to support the MYMA initiative and are currently looking for residents 45+ to participate in a fall evaluation program.
- Community Hub Project – staff has a series of upcoming meetings to check in with community groups and organizations to learn more about what they are doing and how County Recreation can support them with their activities.
- Director Marlene Melanson and Active Living Coordinator Meaghan MacNeil will be attending the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference in Digby in October. Marlene will be making a presentation with Sport Nova Scotia representatives about the Antigonish Facility Allocation project.
- The Free Recreation Transit for August project was extended to continue on weekends into October.

PUBLIC WORKS

- The St. Joseph's Waterline Extension construction has been completed, with the exception of the water tower, which is expected for delivery in Spring 2024.
- Construction of the Highway 337 Waterline Extension is complete, and the line is expected to be tested and operational later in the fall.
- Curb and gutter installations in Vincent's Way is nearly complete.
- Information sessions facilitated by the NSFM on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) are ongoing; staff is preparing to bring information forward to Council for consideration in the coming months.

Antigonish RCMP Monthly Report for September 2023

Occurrence and Crime Reporting- Calls for Service

Type of file	Town	County	Paqtnkek	Totals
Crime against Person	10	14	0	24
Crime against Property	32	28	2	62
Impaired Driving	2	9	1	12
Traffic Collisions	12	12	1	25
Traffic Complaints	14	65	2	81
Drug Complaints	0	2	0	2
Other Municipal	19	1	0	20
Mental Health/Wellness	14	10	3	27
Other Criminal Code	8	12	2	22
Assist Other Gov't Agency	3	4	0	7
Crime Prevention	6	2	0	8

Antigonish detachment members responded to a total of 494 calls for service during the month of September including the categories noted above.

Notable Events

Back to school! Multiple SAFE school plans were updated and code Blue practices were held during September. Extra attention was given to crosswalks and safe busing of the returning students. At the end of the month RCMP members participated in the Helping the Helpers Softball tournament.

Community Policing/School Resource Officer

CPO Activity – Has injured herself and will be off-duty for the foreseeable future.

Impaired Driving Charges

On 2023/09/05 at approximately 8:00 pm an off duty and happened upon an accident along highway 104. The member spoke with all the parties and identified the driver who he noted to be intoxicated. Uniformed members attended and arrested the driver who provided samples of 170 mg% and 170Mg%. The investigation is currently before the courts.

On 2023/09/09 As the result of a vehicle stop on highway 104, a 40-year-old male was arrested for impaired operation of a motor vehicle and he subsequently provided samples of 140 mg% and 140mg%. This investigation is before the courts.

On 2023/09/30 as the result of a traffic stop on James Street a 27-year-old male was arrested after producing a FAIL the roadside screening device. He was arrested for Impaired Operation of a motor vehicle and he subsequently provided samples of 90 mg% and 80 mg%.

Traffic Enforcement

Septembers traffic focus was “Back to School” and after receiving multiple complaints concerning people not obeying crossing guards our members spent some time in the hotspot locations around our local schools. Education was key as members stopped drivers and pointed out the offences and the dangers of not obeying crossing guards, school bus lights and failing to yield to pedestrians.

Human Resources

Two positions remain vacant.

1 Soft vacancy – Maternity leave.

1 ODS



Cst Lyle Reid, Cpl Dennis Munroe and Cst Arnold Murphy as part of the RCMP King's Cowboys Softball team!

Antigonish County**Building Permits (January 1 - August 31)**

	Permits		Value	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Residential				
New	28	45	\$ 14,767,650	\$ 18,212,334
Mobile Homes	16	25	2,941,698	4,537,650
Additions, Alterations and Renovations	29	35	3,879,058	3,092,039
Garages and Accessory Buildings	40	44	1,324,441	2,540,900
Multiple Units	1	18	9,433,000	6,421,500
	114	167	\$ 32,345,847	\$ 34,804,423
Agricultural, Commercial or Industrial				
Agricultural	1	7	\$ 100,000	\$ 958,285
Commercial	15	9	2,962,144	1,235,250
Industrial	0	0	-	-
	16	16	\$ 3,062,144	\$ 2,193,535
Institutional Buildings				
New	1	0	\$ 2,300,000	\$ -
Additions and Alterations	0	0	-	-
	1	0	\$ 2,300,000	\$ -
Other	14	3	\$ 305,111	\$ 2,200
Total	145	186	\$ 38,013,102	\$ 37,000,158

