

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 10, 2023, 7:00 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Acting Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau (by Zoom)
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Others Present: Gallery

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 7:00pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

Approval of September 26, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 26, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of September 26, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Dunbar asked for an update on commissioning an engineering review of the stormwater systems in the Pine Ridge subdivision. Mr. Horne noted that staff have contacted the engineer and arrangements are being made for that work.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

New Rules for Off-Highway Vehicles in Effect

Mr. Horne noted that this was an update to the information received by the committee back in the spring regarding a pilot program regarding off-highway vehicles and the Road Trails Act. Mr. Horne noted that the Road Trails Act is now in effect. Councillor McNamara shared a question asked by a resident regarding what the Municipality would be able to do to designate roads as road trails. Mr. Horne clarified that the Municipality could only designate municipal roads as road trails but could request that the Province consider provincial roads as road trails. Warden McCarron noted that he has also fielded a lot of questions about the Road Trails Act and suggested inviting a representative from the Department of Public Works to speak about the Act and provide further information.

Discussion about Bell Fibre Internet

Councillor McNamara raised a concern with the timelines being provided by Build Nova Scotia for the upgrades to broadband services in the County, in light of repeated delays to the project over the last several years. Mrs. Donovan provided clarification based on the latest timelines provided to her in regular project updates. The Committee agreed to send a letter to Build Nova Scotia to request clarity on the timeline and consistency in communicated timelines for residents.

Councillor Dunbar expressed his appreciation for the work done to get residents connected to Fibre over the last few weeks, and thanked staff for their help with advocacy and providing updates over the past several years.

New Business

Provincial Comprehensive Policing Review

Mr. Horne provided the committee with an update on the provincial policing services review that was recently announced. This review comes from a recommendation from the Mass Casualty Report released earlier in the year. Mr. Horne noted that if there are any questions or concerns from Council now or as the review progresses, to please let him know.

Community Events

- Councillor Dunbar shared that on Friday, December 1st is the Heatherton Group Home Concert.
- Deputy Warden MacFarlane noted how much progress has been made in the construction of the Active Transportation Trail.
- Councillor McNamara had twenty residents come to the fire hall and apply to the Senior Care Grant. The Over-50s Club is holding a dinner and dance. Plans are underway for the Havre Boucher Christmas Parade.
- Councillor Deveau reported that on October 21st Pomquet students travelling to Europe are holding a fundraiser in St. Andrews, which includes a dinner and silent auction.
- Councillor Mattie shared that the Rock-a-thon event is coming up in his district, and details will be in the County Connect
- Warden McCarron shared that the Naomi Society will be holding a 40th Anniversary Dinner, the Chamber Gala Dinner is upcoming, and that Chase the Ace has started up again in St. Andrews. He also noted that the ice is being installed at the Curling Club in St. Andrews.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne noted that the staff reports are in the agenda package.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

In-Camera Items

There are no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:24pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO

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