

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday October 24, 2023, 6:30 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 Shawn Brophy  
Councillor Remi Deveau  
Councillor John Dunbar  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart  
Councillor Donnie MacDonald

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

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 6:50pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. A request was made to add a request to send a letter to the Minister of Public Works and local MLAs regarding the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Trunk 4 and Trunk 16 in Monastery.

Moved and Seconded

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Approval of October 10, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 10, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

*That the minutes of October 10, 2023 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

### **Continuing Business**

#### Update on Requested Consolidation with the Town of Antigonish

Mr. Horne provided an update to the committee, noting that the request for consolidation legislation was not expected to proceed to the fall sitting of the Legislature as the Province is waiting for the outcome of the court action heard earlier in the summer. Questions from the committee included a question of clarification regarding the impact of the court action on the Province's ability to make a decision on the request, the Town's decision at their meeting last week to stop work with Iris Communications, questions about the boundary review, and the 2024 municipal election. A question was also asked whether the UARB timelines for the boundary review and the upcoming election would mean that time is running out for consideration of consolidation. Discussion followed.

### **New Business**

#### Legislation Affecting Municipal Government

Mr. Horne spoke to two bills before the Provincial Government regarding municipalities. Bill 329, to amend the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, has no immediate bearing on Antigonish County but has had quite a bit of media coverage over the last few weeks. The second matter, the Municipal Reform Act, was introduced and addresses the Municipal Service Exchange matters discussed earlier in the year with the exception of the "Part B" proposal regarding roads.

If this legislation passes, the Municipality will no longer have to collect and remit the mandatory contributions for public housing or corrections. Clarification regarding education funding, which was not a part of the most recent service exchange discussions, was provided. Two schools in the county, St. Andrews Consolidated and HM MacDonald, would be impacted by proposed amendments included in the

Municipal Reform Act where they would remain with the Province if closed instead of reverting back to the Municipality. Correspondence from Minister Lohr and the NSFM were distributed to the committee for further information.

### **Community Events**

- Councillor Dunbar shared that on Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> the Heatherton Parish Bazaar will be held at the Heatherton Community Centre. There will also be a hot roast beef dinner being held that evening.
- Councillor Deveau noted that planning is underway for the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Pomquet, and the Senior's Christmas Dinner on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Deputy Warden MacFarlane attended the Chamber of Commerce dinner and attended the Pomquet School fundraiser held in St. Andrews over the past weekend.
- Councillor MacLellan provided community centre updates about a new shuffleboard courtyard, floor curling, and planning for a dinner and dance planning. Councillor MacLellan also shared an article in an international art magazine featuring local artist Jaye Ouellette and asked that a letter of congratulations be sent from Council.
- Councillor Mattie noted that a Hallowe'en Dance is taking place in his community on Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Councillor McNamara has made arrangements for a mobile flu vaccine clinic in Havre Boucher. He also noted that on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, a performance was held at the community centre. Remembrance Day ceremony planning is underway for November 5<sup>th</sup>, and December 9<sup>th</sup> is the planned date for the holiday parade.
- Warden McCarron noted that the poppy campaign kickoff will take place on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Antigonish Women's Resource is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>, and Remembrance Day ceremonies are planned to take place in Town at the Cenotaph on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The NSFM Conference will take place later next week in Halifax. Later this week, a meeting of the Community Health Board is scheduled. A Veteran's Dinner is taking place at the Legion on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and a flu shot clinic in St. Andrews is taking place on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

#### **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

- The board met on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The new outdoor sign has been installed, the board is looking for a new Treasurer, a volunteer event is planned in late



November, the annual meeting is planned for April, and the next Board meeting is on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Antigonish Arena Association

- The board met on October 11<sup>th</sup>. A report was given to the board on the condenser and chiller. Cost overruns on the condenser and chiller are expected to be brought before Council. Phase one of accessibility upgrades are nearly complete, and accessible doors and a design for an accessible washroom and dressing room are underway. A suggestion was shared to look at the new accessible seating area installed at the arena.

Eastern District Planning Commission

- Waiting for the next meeting to be scheduled.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

- Nothing to report.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- At the last Board meeting, staff provided presentations on the various programs that are offered by the library. Councillor MacLellan provided an overview of the summary prepared by the library.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- The Board is meeting on Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

- Mr. Horne noted that Paqtnkek recently held nominations for Chief and Council, with elections being held later in the fall. Mr. Horne also noted that former Councillor Darlene (Dolly) Prosper passed away, and condolences were expressed. Mr. Horne also noted that Daryl Macdonald has left Paqtnkek and is now the Chief Executive Officer at Potlotek First Nation in Richmond County. Warden McCarron shared that Bayside Centre won an award at the recent Chamber dinner.

Consolidation Steering Committee

- Nothing to report.

Community Navigation and Physician Retention Services Association

- Nothing to report.

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**Additions to the Agenda**

Letter Regarding the Roundabout as a Priority on at Trunk 4 and Trunk 16 in  
Monastery

Councillor Mattie raised a concern with the information shared earlier in the evening by the Department of Public Works team at Asset Management, when it was noted that the roundabout planned at the intersection of Trunk 4 at Trunk 16 would be deferred for a third time. A letter to the Minister, MLAs, and Warden Pitts was requested, to express concern with the continued deferral of this project when it is a priority to the community to address safety concerns.

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Minister Masland, MLAs Thompson and Morrow, and Warden Pitts regarding concern with the deferral of the construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Trunk 4 and Trunk 16 in Monastery, due to its priority to the community to address safety concerns.*

**Motion Carried**

**In-Camera Items**

There are no in-camera items.

**Adjournment**

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:32pm.

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO