

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 14, 2023, 5:30 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 Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Shawn Brophy
 Councillor Remi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Harris McNamara (by Zoom)

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart

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

Others Present: Gallery
 John Heseltine, LPP MCIP, Stantec
 Jamie Burke, RPP MCIP, Stantec

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 5:30pm.

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 October 24, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 24, 2023. Councillor MacDonald noted that he was not present at the October 24, 2023 meeting. Staff will make that correction to the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of October 24, 2023 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne noted that both the Municipal Reform Act and Bill 329, regarding amendments to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, passed by the Legislature earlier in the month.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Boundary Review Phase One Summary Report

Mr. Heseltine provided a review of the Boundary Review project to date, providing background on past boundary reviews, the existing boundaries, the results of the comparative scan of other municipal units, and the results of the Council interviews and public survey. Members of the Committee asked for copies of the maps of the options on a larger scale to allow for review in greater detail.

Questions from the Committee regarded requests for clarification on what areas were proposed to move. Discussion regarding the suggested number of districts followed. Some members of the Committee felt that the strength of the public feedback supporting 10 districts should mean that the 10-district options should be the options carried further in the process. Through discussion it was noted that putting forward an 8-district option provided an alternative for discussion in the second phase of consultation. A suggestion was made to look at putting forward multiple 10-district scenarios instead of alternative council sizes.

Direction was provided to have the consultant provide larger-scale maps for each of the scenarios that were created for the report, as well as a digital copy of the map to allow for further detailed review.

New Business

Winter Parking Regulation

Mrs. Schumacher introduced the annual winter parking regulations, which restrict the on-street parking on municipal roadways during certain hours between December 1st

and April 15th. Councillor Brophy suggested early notifications and ticketing to encourage compliance later in the season when heavy snowfalls can be more frequent.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves the signing of the Order for Winter Parking Regulations for 2023-24 setting out the period from December 1, 2023 to April 15, 2024 as the time in which Winter Parking Regulations will be in effect on roads/streets under the jurisdiction of the County of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

2020-2024 Strategic Priorities Update

Mr. Horne reviewed a brief review of the detailed summary of updates to the strategic priorities of Council that were established earlier in the current Council term. The progress for broadband connectivity were shared, and the recent provincial announcement about cellular connectivity was discussed. Infrastructure funding and water utility development were reviewed. An update was provided on the first phase of the Active Transportation project, which is nearing completion.

Deputy Warden MacFarlane expressed an appreciation for staff and Council for getting so progress on the many projects on the priorities list so far along. Mr. Horne noted his thanks to Council for providing such clear direction with their priorities.

Authorization of Arena Capital Over-Run

Mr. Horne spoke to the arena's replacement of their chiller and condenser over the past year. The tendered price for the project, and the delay between tender and installation, including some additional components that were identified during work, resulted in a project cost overrun of \$55,000. The Arena Commission Board is looking for the Town and County to split the cost over-run, which the Town has already agreed to cover their portion.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves a contribution of \$27,730 toward the cost overrun on the replacement of the Antigonish Arena chiller and condenser, with the same amount being provided by the Town of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Councillor Dunbar shared that on Friday, December 1st the Antigonish Group Home will have a concert.
- Councillor Deveau shared that on the first weekend in December there will be the Pomquet Senior's dinner, with meals delivered to their door. Seniors 65+ are

invited to call in their order. The Pomquet Remembrance Day ceremony had very good attendance and a meal followed at the school.

- Deputy Warden MacFarlane noted that Catherine Novaks is doing a fundraiser for the hospital. An Antigonish Community Food Bank letter, requesting support from the community over the holidays, was read out loud for the Committee.
- Councillor MacDonald shared that he attended the November 10th Remembrance Day ceremony at Antigonish Education Centre.
- Councillor MacLellan noted that a holiday dance will be taking place at Arisaig Hall on November 25th and will include a dinner. On November 15th an Emergency Measures meeting was held in Arisaig. Floor curling has started again at the Arisaig Hall.
- Councillor Mattie attended the Remembrance Day at the high school. He shared details about the upcoming Rock-A-Thon in Monastery.
- Councillor McNamara attended the November 5th Havre Boucher Veteran's Day activities, which included a meal. November 18th over-50s are having a dinner and dance, to encourage community involvement and a membership drive. November 26th, Hank Boucher will be performing at a monthly concert at the community centre. Last month 130 people attended the concert. November 13th there was a flu-shot clinic held in Havre Boucher, and 62 people came for their shots. Updates also provided about card play and exercise classes being held in the community.
- Warden McCarron attended the November 5th Havre Boucher Veteran's Day activities, as well as the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony at Columbus Field. He also attended the Legion's poppy campaign kickoff and shared that there was also a Veterans' Dinner at Legion. He shared that the Legion did an exceptional job on their events over the past few weeks. Warden McCarron also noted that Chase the Ace is running again in St. Andrews. Christmas activities in the community are upcoming, including Christmas on Main, Parade, Santa Tour, Lights of Love at the RK MacDonald.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne reviewed

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss
Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations at 7:11 pm.*

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:14 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council excuses Deputy Warden
Stewart from the Municipal Council meeting of November 14, 2023.*

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

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

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole meeting was reconvened at 8:15pm

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss
Contract Negotiations at 8:15 pm.*

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:53 pm.


Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:53pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO