

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 12, 2023 6:00pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Hugh Stewart
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: None

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

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 6:02pm.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss
Advice Eligible for Solicitor Client Privilege at 6:02 pm.*

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 6:38 pm.

Motion Carried

A short recess was taken. The open session was called back to order at 6:41pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. One addition was requested: Recognition of Dennis Bonvie.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of November 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 28, 2023.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of November 28, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Mattie spoke to the boundary review issue that was discussed at the last meeting. He was curious to know whether Stantec would be joining the Committee in person or joining by Zoom. Mr. Horne noted that the suggestions made by Council in previous discussions are being incorporated into a revised map, which is in the process of being prepared to be provided to Council for their review. Councillor McNamara reviewed correspondence sent previously to the UARB regarding timelines, and asked whether Stantec could come to speak to Council in advance of the holidays. Mr. Horne provided an explanation of the different events that have resulted in the revisions to the project timeline.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Consideration of Proposed Recreation Facility Feasibility Study

Mr. Horne spoke to the presentation provided by staff at the Joint Council meeting at the end of November and welcomed further discussion about the topic. A question was asked about whether any work had been done about finding a location for a

potential facility, and staff provided clarification that location would be one of the variables being analysed in the study. A question was also asked about whether the University would be involved, or if it would just be the Town and County; staff noted that only the Town and County would be involved. Questions about potential facility sizing were also asked, and Ms. Melanson explained how community engagement as part of the feasibility review would determine what size of facility would be required for what activities.

Statements were shared about concerns with the expense and the unanswered questions, the potential for costs in line with what the Pictou Wellness Centre incurs, and whether the facility would be for a unique use, like the mini-pitch project. Concern with the cost of the proposed feasibility study were there is so little definition of what uses would be considered. Concern of drawing business or events from community centres throughout the county were shared as well.

Other comments noted that the feasibility study would provide more clarification to the questions being asked, and a suggestion was made to have the County do its own inventory of infrastructure instead of committing to a study at the expense noted when there are two other major recreation developments underway. Some preliminary information space needs for certain recreational amenities, and general pricing for this kind of development, was also requested. A question was also asked about potential staffing for any future building, and a statement was made about the importance of having a pool in the community for swimming lessons.

Warden McCarron summarized to say that he was hearing that the Committee felt that some additional work needed to be done regarding a recreational facility in advance of putting out a Request for Proposals to narrow the scope of the analysis being requested. He reiterated the suggestion to do internal analysis and future discussions to review what is already in the community.

Consideration of a Community Transit Service Review

Mr. Horne spoke to the memo in the agenda package and the recommended scope of the Request for Proposals being suggested for the review. Discussion about the proposed review and the benefit of the service to the community followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that a RFP be issued for a Community Transit Service Review in collaboration with the Town of Antigonish and Antigonish Community Transit.

Motion Carried

New Business

Annual County / Town / Legion New Year Levee

Mrs. Schumacher provided the Committee with an update regarding the annual New Years Levee that is jointly hosted by the County, Town, and Legion. The event will be held from noon until 2pm at the Legion, and the Town and County's contribution of \$2,000 each is the same as it was in 2022. Advertisements for the event are lined up to be posted online and in the local paper. Consensus was provided to make that contribution.

Appointment of Sgt. Warren McBeath as Traffic Authority

Mrs. Schumacher requested that the Committee appoint Sgt. Warren McBeath as the Municipality's Traffic Authority, as part of a records update with staff at the provincial Department of Public Works.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council appoint Sgt. Warren McBeath as the Municipality's Traffic Authority.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Councillor Brophy noted that he would be attending the New Years Levee.
- Councillor Deveau shared that on December 3rd there was a Senior's Dinner in District 5 that was delivered to members in the community by volunteers. December 3rd was also the Santa Tour through District 5 and was well received.
- Councillor MacLellan shared that the Santa Tour on was in her district on December 2nd. There was good attendance despite the weather, and good reception to have Santa stop at the school in Maryvale. Good attendance at Christmas dance.
- Councillor Mattie shared that the Rock-A-Thon was held in Tracadie on Dec 2nd. Santa and Mrs. Claus were in Tracadie on December 10th. New Years Event in Tracadie planned and already sold out.
- Councillor McNamara shared that the Light Tour in Havre Boucher happened over the weekend, with 32 floats, but it rained during the event. On December 9th a Food Drive was organized by the Fire Department, and Fire Department 50/50 draw getting bigger around the Christmas holiday. Information was also shared about the community centre toonie draw, and a variety of different activities happening at the community centre.
- Deputy Warden MacFarlane attended the fall convocation ceremony at St. FX.

- Warden McCarron shared some highlights from the Santa Tour through the County, the St. Andrews Tree Lighting, and the St. Andrews Fire Department Holiday get-together.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne highlighted updates from the staff report, including an update on the renovations at the courthouse, the audit, and information about the low-income tax relief programs and their deadlines. Mr. Horne also noted that the Recreation Department has made arrangements for transit service support, providing free transportation on the fixed route service for the month of December. Mr. Horne also noted that services are connected to the 337 Waterline.

Additions to the Agenda

Recognition of Dennis Bonvie

Deputy Warden MacFarlane asked that County Council put something in place to recognize local resident Dennis Bonvie for his accomplishments in sport and the recognition that it has brought to the community.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that a sign recognizing Dennis Bonvie be erected in Frankville.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:33pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO