

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 13, 2024, 5:30pm
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 (by Zoom)
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: None

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Alisha Bowie, Administrative Assistant
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 5:30pm.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss
Litigation and Contract Negotiations at 5:33 pm.*

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 6:24 pm.

Motion Carried

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 January 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of January 23, 2024.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of January 23, 2024 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 the Municipal Boundary Review

Mr. Horne reviewed the letter sent by staff to the UARB to inform them of the status of the Boundary Review. A response has yet to be received from the UARB regarding what activities need to take place for the County's boundary review given this update. Discussion followed.

Update on Marketing Levy By-law Engagement

Mrs. Donovan provided update on Levy By-Law. Letters were mailed to owners of fixed-roof accommodations. Thirty-five information packages were returned-to-sender, and those returned packages were all re-mailed to proper addresses and given more time to provide feedback before council goes any further.

Discussion followed. Councillor Dunbar read a letter submitted by a constituent regarding their concerns with the proposed levy. Warden McCarron shared that he has heard from five operators, of which four were not in favour of the proposed levy. He noted that this consultation stage will help Council to hear from operators in the

community. Councillor Deveau shared comments received from two operators that he spoke with in his district. Councillor MacLellan shared comments received from operators in her district. Deputy Warden MacFarlane suggested looking at alternatives to a marketing levy to fund the initiatives in the Tourism Strategy. Both Councillors Mattie and McNamara noted that they have had concerns expressed to them by operators in their districts about the proposed levy.

Discussion followed regarding the process of remitting the levy being proposed. Councillor MacLellan spoke to the Tourism Strategy and her concerns with many of the tourism attractions in the county not being mentioned in the document.

New Business

Antigonish Arena Recreation Facility Development Grant Request

Mr. Horne provided a summary of the work that is planned at the arena, for which they are preparing an application for a Recreation Facility Development Grant. Financial support from the Town and County is also being requested to support the planned renovations.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Antigonish Arena be provided a letter of support for the Recreation Facility Development Grant program and the County commit \$57,500 to the project in FY 2024/25 if the application is successful.

Motion Carried

RK MacDonald Board Recruitment Policy Discussion

Councillor McNamara spoke to the recruitment policy put forward by the RK MacDonald Board. The Board is looking for board members with experience in specific fields (e.g. finance/health care/legal), and appointments made by councils for representation from their areas can be members of Council or individuals in the community. Councillor McNamara asked the committee if they had any feedback on the proposed policy that they can provide at a future meeting.

February 2-5 Snowstorm Debrief

A brief discussion regarding the snowstorm was held. Councillor Dunbar noted how good it was to see the Town, County, and Province work together on snow removal. Councillor Dunbar mentioned Pine Ridge and the snow clearing concerns raised in the subdivision. Warden McCarron shared that he heard that snow removal calls to areas where there were concerns were more responsive than in past events. Deputy Warden MacFarlane thanked Mr. Horne for his work to assist with coordination of efforts. A question was asked about power outages, and Mr. Horne noted that there were no significant or extended outages in Antigonish.

Staff Reports

- Mr. Horne attended PVSC Board Meeting. The appeal period for assessments is now closed.
- RFP Community Transit Service review closed February 1st, and submissions are under review.
- The tender for accessible washrooms closed February 13th.
- In the final stages of generator hook up, the municipal office will be closed Tuesday February 20th as the power will be shut down. Staff will be attending development sessions off-site.
- Low-income tax exemption program ended December 31st, and 220 households used that program. This was an increase of 22% over the previous year.
- Mini Recreation Grants are now available for application.
- Water & sewer relocation planning for the roundabout at Trunk 4 and the Church Street Extension is in the final phase.

Community Events

- Councillor Dunbar shared that the first Club 500 draw in Heatherton on February 23rd.
- Councillor Stewart shared that a new manager has been hired in Lochaber at the community centre, and the gym there is doing quite well.
- Councillor Deveau shared that the 50th anniversary of the Pomquet Winter Carnival will take place this year, with events starting on Saturday February 17th, finishing with a parade on Saturday February 24th.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:12pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO