
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 23, 2024, 6:30pm
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 Shawn Brophy
 Councillor Remi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Councillor Hugh Stewart

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
 Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
 Marlene Melanson, Recreation Director
 Meaghan MacNeil, Active Living Coordinator
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

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 6:33 pm.

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 April 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of April 9, 2024.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of April 9, 2024 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Deputy Warden MacFarlane asked that the letter that that is being sent to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the West River, also be sent to Minister Thompson and the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Community Hubs Update

Ms. Melanson and Ms. MacNeil gave a background on the community hubs initiative. In the fall of 2023, recreation staff reengaged with the communities after a number of years. The goal of the meetings were to identify ways to increase movement and what we could do to support. A need was identified for enhanced communication between municipality and communities and communities themselves.

Ms. Melanson and Ms. MacNeil reviewed the next steps which included short term, medium term and long term actions.

Councillor Dunbar thanked them for their presentation and said he attended their session in Heatherton.

Councillor McNamara said he attended the meeting in Havre Boucher and it was awakening for him. He mentioned next time to include Aulds Cove.

Councillor Deveau said the Pomquet School gym has been open for the public the past couple of weekends and it has been extremely popular.

Councillor Mattie also mentioned about the Linwood Rink and how nice it is to see all the people using the facility.

Next Steps on Marketing Levy Bylaw & Tourism Strategy

Ms. Donovan reviewed the memo to the committee and asked for further direction on next steps.

Councillor Brophy said it seems like seasonal business owners are not in favour of it and the year round operators are in favour. A lot to be discussed before a decision can be made.

Councillor Dunbar think the committee needs to make a decision. He has heard loud and clear and he is not in favour of the levy.

Councillor Deveau would be interested in having Mary Tulle come down but the operators he has talked to are not supportive of it. Most bookings are done for this summer.

Councillor McNamara is ready to vote and reject it.

Councillor Mattie is ready to vote.

Councillor MacLellan has talked to a large number of people and many are not in favour.

Councillor MacDonald thinks it would be fair to have a presentation by Mary Tulle.

Deputy Warden thinks that we should move forward supporting the strategy but not go through with a marketing levy.

Warden McCarron believes council should support the Tourism Strategy, however he thinks it is the wrong time now for seasonal operators. He has heard from a variety of operators over the past 5 months. Could be a good idea to have Mary Tulle in to present in the fall as seasonal operators are just getting going. Is there a desire for Council to move forward with the Tourism Strategy and deferring the conversation of the Marketing Levy-Bylaw.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Horne stated no motion had been made regarding the bylaw to date so if Council does not wish to move forward then no motions have to be made. Mr. Horne asked the committee to approve the strategy so tourism related activities can be planned for.

The committee directed staff to invite Mary Tulle to the community to meet with the operators in the fall to discuss the strategy and the recommendations.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Tourism Strategy be endorsed with the exception of the marketing levy.

Motion Carried

Continuation of the Municipal Boundary Review

Mr. Horne spoke to information received from the Utility and Review Board requesting the decision of Council to move forward with the Boundary Review or Council could submit a status quo application.

Councillor Dunbar put forth a motion in fairness to the public and those running in the fall election for a status quo application.

Deputy Warden MacFarlane questioned if the UARB or Province would consider paying for some of the fees associated with the Boundary Review.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that an application be made to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to approve a status quo municipal boundary application for the 2024 municipal election and defer the ongoing boundary review until after that election.

Motion Carried

New Business

Consideration of e-Voting for 2024 Municipal Election

Mr. Horne review three scenarios for the voting options for the 2024 Municipal Election:

1. Paper Only Voting
2. Electronic Voting Only
3. Hybrid Paper & Electronic Voting

Consensus was made to go with option 1, Paper Voting Only for the 2024 Municipal Election.

NS Access Awareness Week Proclamation

Mr. Horne read the proclamation for May 26-June 1

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council proclaim May 26-June 1, 2024 as Access Awareness Week in Antigonish County.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Councillor Brophy said the Jr. B Bulldogs are on fire and heading to Newfoundland.
- Warden McCarron said he and Mayor Boucher met with the some of the Jr. B team members and provided a little contribution for them to head to Newfoundland. Municipal Council wishes them luck in Newfoundland.
- This past weekend there was Trivia Night at Heatherton Community Centre and Saturday was a Birthday Celebration for Ms. Rogers 90th Birthday. Congratulations Paqtnkek on a very successful Powwow.
- Councillor Deveau said the Pomquet gym is open on Sunday mornings for children age 2-7pm, lots of pickleball happened at the gym. Community clean up will be taking place in May.
- Councillor MacDonald, Community Clean up in North Grant in May
- Councillor MacLellan, Arisaig group hosted a community dinner as a fundraiser for the ballfield. There will be take out lobster roll dinner for Mothers Day.
- Councillor Mattie – Last weekend there was a Blue Grass concert at the hall in Tracadie last weekend and community clean up coming up
- Councillor McNamara – they had the blessing of the boats on the weekend, line dancing is going well at the centre.
- Warden McCarron – Chase the Ace, lots of pickleball happening.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

- The Board will meet the first Monday in May.

Antigonish Arena Association

- Nothing to Report.

Eastern District Planning Commission

- Meeting coming up.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

- Meeting on April 25th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- Had a meeting, there is going to be one new library and an older library will be remodelled.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- AGM is June 27th, open to the public. Meeting April 25.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

- Committee will soon see information on community signage in Mi'kmaw.

Community Navigation and Physician Retention Services Association

- There will be a session in June.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss the Acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property and Personnel Matters at 7:46 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:30pm

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:31

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO