

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 29, 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 Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Councillor Hugh Stewart

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Others Present: Gallery (in person and on Zoom)

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 5:33 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. The following additions were made: Burnham Morrow Lane; Leave of Absence for Councillor Stewart.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of May 14, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 14, 2024.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of May 14 26, 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

Budget Deliberations

Mrs. Duggan provided the Committee with a page-by-page overview of the 2024/25 budget. Additional detail regarding returns on investments, capital expenditures, and internal borrowing were reviewed. Discussion regarding the garbage truck fleet led to a suggestion to have the Director of Public Works to come to a future Asset Management meeting to review the maintenance schedule.

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the impact of anticipated revenue based on assessment if changes to the tax rate were considered. A discussion regarding rate options followed, with Councillors noting that years of being fiscally responsible have put the municipality in a position where residents and businesses that are experiencing higher costs and assessments can be supported by a reduction in the tax rate. Consensus was that a reduction in the residential rate of three cents and a reduction in the commercial rate of one cent was desirable.

Mrs. Duggan was thanked by members of the Committee for the work that she and her team have done in preparing this budget.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council that the 2024/25 Operating Budget be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council adopt the budget and strike the tax rate as per the resolution presented and attached.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the borrowing resolution as presented and attached.

Motion Carried

New Business

Tax Write-Offs

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of tax accounts that were deemed uncollectable. A request was made to write-off those accounts.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve inactive account write-offs in the amount of \$1,057.30.

Motion Carried

Trunk 4 Signage and Landscaping Contract Award

Mr. Horne noted that the contract is for landscaping work planned along the AT Corridor. Mr. Horne noted that the contract amount is fully funded through the Connect2 and Make Your Move programs.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council award the contract for Signage and Landscaping of the Antigonish Trunk 4 AT Corridor to WSP for the bid amount of \$32,320.00 + HST.

Motion Carried

Additions to the Agenda

Burnham Morrow Lane Request

Councillor MacLellan read a petition from residents along Burnham Morrow Lane who are looking for year-round maintenance and maintenance upgrades. The road is maintained by the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. Mr. Horne noted that the concerns about the condition of the roadway have been forwarded to the NS Department of Public Works, and he will send further details to Councillor MacLellan.

Leave of Absence for Councillor Stewart

Mr. Horne noted that the Special Council Meeting scheduled for later in the evening will be the third consecutive meeting that he has sent regrets for and will require an excusal from Council.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a leave of absence to Councillor Stewart for the May 29, 2024 Special Council Meeting for medical reasons.

Motion Carried.

Congratulations to Councillor Mattie – Provincial Award

Warden McCarron took the opportunity to provide his congratulations to Councillor Mattie on his receipt of a provincial accessibility award, recognizing his ongoing advocacy for the improvement of accessibility in the community. On behalf of himself and Council, he thanked Councillor Mattie for everything he has done to bring attention to and improve accessibility.

In-Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:58pm.

Motion Carried


Warden Owen McCarron


Glenn Horne, CAO