

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Following Asset Management
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

Regrets: Councillor Hugh Stewart
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Harris McNamara

Staff Present: Shirlyn Donovan, Interim CAO
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Others Present: Gallery (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 6:15 pm. Warden McCarron noted that Councillor Mattie was absent from the meeting due to the recent passing of his mother. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Councillor Mattie’s mother.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. The following additions were made:

- Truth and Reconciliation Day Observance
- British Home Children in Canada Proclamation
- King Charles III Coronation Medals

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of September 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 10, 2024.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of September 10, 2024 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Continuing Business

Strategic Priorities

Mrs. Donovan spoke to the strategic priorities update included in the agenda package, providing specific updates about cellular and broadband, tourism, the housing accelerator program, and infrastructure projects identified on the priorities list. The different grants provided to the Municipality for several projects over the past four years was reviewed, and Mrs. Donovan thanked staff for the work done to secure that additional funding to facilitate many of the projects noted in the priorities update.

Mrs. Donovan noted that Next Generation Solid Waste Management is an area where further work is expected to take place. The status of the Active Transportation Corridor and community hubs was reviewed. Mrs. Donovan noted that the Community Buildings Net Zero Project is nearing completion.

Mrs. Donovan shared her thanks to Council for all of their work in undertaking so many of the projects identified on the priorities list, with many of those projects at or nearing completion. Warden McCarron also shared his thanks to Council and staff for all of their work on the projects.

A question was asked about whether any feedback was being received from the community regarding the Active Transportation Trail, and staff noted that no comments had been received on the County's social media posts. Discussion followed regarding the positive feedback received from the community about the corridor and efficiencies created by the roundabouts at the intersections.

New Business

Discussion About Dog Control and Responsible Ownership of Dogs By-law

Councillor Deveau spoke to concerns raised by residents in District 5 regarding the Municipality's dog control services. He spoke to a letter received earlier in the month from a resident, asking that more be done to inform members of the community of their obligation to keep their dogs under their care and control. Ms. Schumacher spoke to the specific concerns raised and noted that staff would look at opportunities to improve getting information to the community regarding the dog by-law.

Ms. Schumacher noted that the Dog Control position is currently vacant, and work is being done to look at options for the program, including discussions with the SPCA. Councillor Brophy asked about whether the municipality should consider a by-law officer to deal with dog control and other by-law matters requiring enforcement. Councillor MacLellan shared that in her district, there are often issues with dogs on the beaches.

Staff offered to put information together for the committee regarding opportunities for by-law officers as requested, and compiling some preliminary information regarding dog registration as suggested in the resident letter.

Community Events

- Councillor MacLellan – community spirit event on September 14th and everything went well. The event was attended by the Lieutenant Governor and their spouse, and they provided positive feedback.
- Deputy Warden MacFarlane also attended the community spirit event in Arisaig and provided positive feedback.
- Councillor Dunbar thanked Council for their support of District 7 residents who expressed their concerns with the proposed highway twinning design. Saturday October 26th is the Annual Heatherton Parish Bazaar.
- Warden McCarron shared that the St. Andrews community held their Fall Harvest Festival earlier in the month. Highlander Curling Club met earlier in the week and is making arrangements for the season to begin. Pickleball play at the St. Andrews School is also starting soon.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Heritage Museum

- Next meeting will be the first Monday in October.

Antigonish Arena Association

- The association met earlier in the month, and there is nothing to report at this time.

Eastern District Planning Commission

- Board meeting on September 26th.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management

- Meeting on September 26th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- No meeting this month. Discussion regarding the Pictou branch that is opening, and the links to the design at the library here in Antigonish

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- Meeting on September 26th.

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

- Nothing to report. Paqtnkek hired a new CAO earlier in September, so Mrs. Donovan will reach out to connect and welcome her to the role. Councillor Dunbar shared that a new sign has been installed entering Main Street with the Mi'kmaw community name included.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

- An update from the new navigator was shared, with a six month plan being established.

Additions to the Agenda

Recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day

Mrs. Donovan noted that September 30th was Truth and Reconciliation Day, and reviewed background information regarding the day of reflection and why orange shirts are worn.

British Home Child Day in Canada Proclamation

A proclamation was reviewed regarding British Home Child Day in Canada being recognized on September 28th.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the proclamation of September 28, 2024 as British Home Child Day in Antigonish County.

Motion Carried

King Charles III Coronation Medals

Mrs. Donovan noted that 20 of residents in the community were the recipients of King Charles the Third Coronation Medals, presented by Senator Mary Coyle. Warden McCarron read out the names of the community members who were recipients of the awards. Both Warden McCarron and Councillor MacLellan received awards. Photographs were taken.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss the Contract Negotiations at 7:07 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:09 pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:10pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO