

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024, Following Asset Management
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Harris McNamara

Regrets: Councillor Hugh Stewart
Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Shirlyn Donovan, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation (by Zoom)

Others Present: Lise Roy, Strategic Initiative Coordinator, Town of Antigonish
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 6:32 pm.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 6:33 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:01 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council enter into a one-year agreement with the SPCA as proposed in their quote dated September 29, 2024 for Kennel Services and Animal Control.

Motion Carried

Approval of Agenda

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

- Presentation by Lise Roy – Green Energy Retrofit for the Antigonish Arena
- Leave of Absence for Councillor Hughie Stewart
- CACL Cost Sharing for Highway 337 Service Lateral
- Letter to the Minister of Justice Regarding Break-ins in Antigonish County

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of September 24, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 24, 2024.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of September 24, 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

Follow-up Regarding Pine Ridge Stormwater Concerns

Mrs. Donovan spoke to the concern that was raised at the Asset Management meeting on September 24, 2024. She noted that she joined the Director of Public Works on a tour of the area and observed where public works staff had removed vegetation that was

impeding water movement in the ditches. Operational measures to observe water levels after rain and snow events were reviewed. No further action has been taken regarding the size of the culvert, with the engineer having deemed that the size of the culvert was sufficient for the cross-culvert size and the flow of the water through the area.

A question was asked about the ability for having staff prepare with machinery if severe weather is expected in the area, so that quick action can be taken to clear culverts if needed. A question was asked about the ability to continue to pile snow along the sides of the roadway without filling the ditches after several snow events without constricting the roadway too much, and whether it would be better to have staff removing snow throughout the winter, with an example of the sidewalk plough snowblower being able to move snow over the ditches into adjacent yards.

New Business

Approval of the Statement of Estimates F24/25 Budget Submission to the Province

Mrs. Duggan spoke to the requirement for the submission of the Statement of Estimates to the Province. This document is the Municipal Budget, entered into the Province's online template.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the 2024/25 Statement of Estimates A&B.

Motion Carried

Write-Off Request for PVSC Fire Letter

Mrs. Duggan spoke to correspondence received from PVSC following their assessment of a property after a fire on a property. The revised assessment would warrant a write-off of taxes for the property in the amount of \$355.16 based on the change of value.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends Municipal Council write-off the taxes for AAN 00489875, which was destroyed by fire, in the amount of \$355.16.

Motion Carried

Additions to the Agenda

Presentation by Lise Roy – Green Energy Retrofit for the Antigonish Arena

Mrs. Donovan noted that Lise Roy was in attendance from the Town to provide a presentation to Council, having made the same presentation to Town of Antigonish Council the night before, regarding a proposed application to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings fund for a retrofit/repair/upgrade project at the arena. Ms. Roy reviewed a summary of the upgrades that are proposed to take place at the arena

should the funding be secured, including upgrades to electrical systems, architectural upgrades, accessibility upgrades, plumbing and HVAC upgrades, and upgrades to equipment including cold water ice resurfacing, and electric Zamboni, and an electric ice edger. The total funding request is up to \$2,999,999, eligible for up to 80% funding, leaving \$600,000 in costs to be split between the Town and County of Antigonish. Questions followed regarding the proposed work.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the submission of a funding request to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund for work at the Antigonish Arena in partnership with the Town of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Leave of Absence for Councillor Hughie Stewart

Ms. Donovan noted that Council Stewart would be absent from tonight's Municipal Council meeting and would require a motion of Council to approve this leave.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a leave of absence to Councillor Stewart for the October 8, 2024 Council Meeting for medical reasons.

Motion Carried

CACL Cost Sharing for Highway 337 Service Lateral

Mrs. Donovan provided an update to the business discussed on September 24th regarding direction given to explore opportunities for cost-sharing for the installation of a servicing lateral on Highway 337 to service the proposed development adjacent to Parkland, which will house developments by CACL, Antigonish Affordable Housing, and a medical facility.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council support the proposed lateral crossing of services across Highway 337 to the development adjacent to Parkland to a maximum cost of \$17,500 + HST.

Motion Carried

Letter to the Department of Justice

Mrs. Donovan noted that concerns have been raised by residents and councillors regarding an increase in break-ins in the community, and the ability of the RCMP to hold those accountable for those break-ins. A suggestion was made to send a letter to the

Minister of Justice expressing concerns. The floor was opened up to members of Council to share some information about what they have heard from residents in their districts. Councillor McNamara shared some information about experiences in his district, and the meeting that was held with the RCMP for residents there in September.

Warden McCarron noted that he had attended a community information session in James River earlier in the October. A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of getting a meeting with the Minister of Justice. Councillor Mattie shared feedback that he has received from his community, where residents are looking to have a community information meeting to learn more about what they are able to do to protect themselves and their property. Councillor McNamara asked if the RCMP to attend that meeting as well.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council writes a letter to the Minister of Justice, copied to Minister Thompson and Minister Morrow, requesting a meeting regarding ongoing crime in the Antigonish County area.

Motion Carried

Staff Reports

Mrs. Donovan provided a brief overview of the information that was outlined in the staff report, noting broadband progress in the County, staff attendance at the AMANS conference, Building Nova Scotia RFP for cell towers being advertised, updates on the emergency shelters, numbers for billing from the Finance department, EMO training updates, and progress on the Mini Pitch project was shared. It was noted that the Tax Sale is planned for November 6, 2024.

Community Events

- Councillor Dunbar shared that the Heatherton Parish Bazaar will be held on Saturday October 26th , with a roast beef dinner being held that evening.
- Councillor Deveau noted that students travelling to Europe will be holding a fundraising dinner on October 19th at the St. Andrews Community Centre.
- Councillor MacLellan shared that cell service and broadband concerns in her district continue to be an issue, so she has has arranged a meeting with Build NS at the Arisaig Hall.
- Councillor McNamara attended the RCMP meeting in Havre Boucher, where 275 residents attended. On November 3rd will be a church service in Havre Boucher for Remembrance Day.

- Warden McCarron shared pickleball and curling activities are starting in St. Andrews. Fire Prevention week happening throughout the community.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:39pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron

Nicholas MacInnis



Shirlyn Donovan, CAO