

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 7:30pm

Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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1. Call to Order – Chair Nicholas MacInnis
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Approval of Municipal Council Minutes
 - a. December 10, 2024
 - b. January 7, 2025
 4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 5. Delegations
 - a. There are no scheduled delegations
 6. Correspondence
 - a. Provincial Department of Public Works – Response Regarding Highway 104 Twinning Letter
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. January 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report
 8. Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities
 9. Motions
 10. Miscellaneous Business
 - a. Proclamation of January as Alzheimer's Awareness Month
 11. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday December 10, 2024

7:30pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Councillors Present:

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Deputy Warden John Dunbar

Councillor Mary MacLellan

Councillor Adam Baden-Clay

Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin

Councillor Shawn Brophy

Councillor Wayne Melanson

Councillor Gary Mattie

Councillor Harris McNamara

Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets:

None

Staff Present:

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
(by Zoom)

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Chris Boyd, Solicitor

Also Present:

Gallery (in person and on Zoom)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:42pm

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. There was one addition of an in-camera item; Advice Eligible for Solicitor-Client Privilege.

Min # 2024-171

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of October 8, 2024 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes included in the agenda package. Questions of clarification were asked regarding motions in the October 8, 2024 minutes.

Approval of the November 25, 2024 Municipal Council Minutes

Councillor Baden-Clay noted that there was additional information that he wanted included in the minutes to reflect the spirit of his remarks regarding the concern and response to the concern, specifically comments made in the statement regarding provision of a sidewalk, resident concerns about flooding, and comments thanking Mr. Smith for building much-needed housing in the community.

Min # 2024-172

Moved and Seconded

That the Municipal Council Minutes of November 12, 2024 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mrs. Donovan reviewed request brought forward by Council at their last meeting directing staff to look into seasonal donations made to charities in the community. Mrs. Donovan noted past donations made seasonally, the opportunity for support via the Special District Grants. Mrs. Donovan also noted that the Emergency Fuel Fund had recently advertised regarding the challenges they were facing without being able to mail out their donation requests to their regular donors.

Min # 2024-173

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council provide a \$500 donation to the Antigonish Community Pantry, and a \$500 donation to the Havre Boucher Community Pantry.

Councillor Baden-Clay brought forward a request to amend the motion to make an additional donation to include a donation of \$3000 to A Roof Over Your Head.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council provide a \$500 donation to the Antigonish Community Pantry, a \$500 donation to the Havre Boucher Community Pantry, and \$3000 to A Roof Over Your Head.

Amendment to motion approved

Motion Carried as Amended

Delegations

People for Antigonish Recreation Centre (PARC)

Paul Curry and Trudy Delorey presented on behalf of PARC, providing a history of the organization and presentations and meetings to support their initiative made to date. Information about community population, and feedback from the community was shared. Current gaps noted in current infrastructure were shared.

Questions from Council included an enquiry regarding the status of the project since the request was made of Council to issue an RFP, and the details of the discussion with the former CAOs and the YMCA in early 2024 as noted in the presentation. Questions were asked to clarify the request being made by PARC and what the scope of the evaluation was expected to be, and what information about operation budgets could be gleaned from the meeting with the representatives from the Pictou Wellness Centre. Concerns were raised regarding costs. Warden MacInnis noted that evaluation of the utilization of existing facilities be a factor in the review.

Min # 2024-174

Moved and Seconded

That Council direct staff to allocate a staff member to the PARC working group from early January to the end of March 2025.

**Motion Carried
(9 in favour, 1 opposed)**

Min # 2024-175

Moved and Seconded

That Council allocate one to two councillors to be members of the PARC working group from early January to the end of March 2025.

**Motion Carried
(9 in favour, 1 opposed)**

Councillor Baden-Clay and Councillor McNamara both put forward their names to fill those membership positions. Councillor MacLaughlin asked to be involved as well.

Min # 2024-176

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council direct staff to liaise with the PARC group and prepare a report for presentation at a future meeting on what would be involved in a needs assessment for a community, sports, and recreation centre, including a study of existing facility utilization, and how much that needs assessment might cost.

**Motion Carried
(9 in favour, 1 opposed)**

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Committee Reports

December 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2024-177

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council adopts the model Code of Conduct for Municipalities prescribed by the Minister under subsection 520(1) of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the Municipal Government Act, as outlined in Schedule A of N.S. Regulation 219/2024, as amended to include a section following subsection 3(1) noting that the Code of Conduct applies to elected officials at all times and in all locations, including in-camera sessions, and to renumber previous subsection 3(2) to 3(3).

Motion Carried

Min # 2024-177

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the Standing Committee Appointments as proposed.

Motion Carried

Min # 2024-178

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the deferral of the 2024/25 Community Partnership Grant in the amount of \$2000 awarded to the Antigonish Skatepark Association to the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

Min # 2024-179

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council direct staff to prepare a report on the history and current status of the request for a crosswalk crossing Route 337 between the western Mount Cameron entrance and the Bethany walking trail for presentation to the Committee at a future meeting, with recommendations, in order that we can determine an appropriate course of action.

Motion Carried

Min # 2024-180

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council direct staff to prepare a report detailing all existing water and sewer infrastructure in the Municipality.

Motion Carried

Reports

Deputy Warden Dunbar shared that he attended the NSFM Conference, where Pam Mood was announced as the new President and Amanda Mombourquette is one of the Strait Area representatives. The Santa Tour in District 7 was well received. The Museum Board meeting took place earlier this month. Deputy Warden Dunbar attended a senior staff training session for Council at the office, and the Pomquet Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Party. He also attended the Arena Board meeting and shared that he is the new chair.

Councillor MacLellan shared that she attended the ACALA meeting. She shared that there was a visit from Santa in District 1.

Councillor Mattie shared that ACTS has added some new vehicles to their fleet, and Richie Connors is their new Manager.

Councillor McNamara also attended the NSFM Conference, as well as the senior staff training meeting. He attended governance training by AMANS in Port Hawkesbury on December 7th. The Havre Boucher holiday celebration had 32 floats and excellent community turnout. Details were also shared about a senior's dance, fundraising auction, and fire department training in the community.

Councillor Melanson shared that there was a senior's dinner at the Pomquet Community Centre. He also attended Governance training in Port Hawkesbury and the Pomquet Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Party.

Councillor Garvie shared that he attended governance training in Port Hawkesbury, as well as an Arena Board meeting.

Councillor MacLaughlin attended the governance training in Port Hawkesbury. On December 8th there was the first monthly Lochaber Breakfast, and she attended the St. Joseph's Crossroads County Christmas.

Councillor Baden-Clay attended the Santa Claus Parade on December 7th.

Councillor Brophy attended the NSFM conference, as well as senior staff training. There is a RK MacDonald Board meeting coming up on Thursday December 18th.

Warden MacInnis attended the St. Andrews Seniors Housing Authority tree lighting. He also attended the governance session in Port Hawkesbury. Warden MacInnis also thanked the new Council and staff for all of their hard work over the past several weeks.

Motions

There were no motions.

Miscellaneous Business

Presentation of Staff Long-Service Award

Warden MacInnis presented Beth Schumacher with a certificate in recognition of her ten years of service with the Municipality. Photographs were taken.

New Years Levee

Mrs. Donovan shared that staff has been working with representatives from the Town of Antigonish and the Royal Canadian Legion to organize the annual New Years Levee. Details and advertisements will be shared once they are ready.

Additions to the Agenda

Councillor McNamara asked that the in-camera item be deferred to a future meeting due to the time.

Adjournment

Min # 2024-181

Moved

That the Council meeting adjourns at 8:54 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Special Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday January 7, 2025

5:30pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Councillors Present:

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Deputy Warden John Dunbar

Councillor Mary MacLellan

Councillor Adam Baden-Clay

Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin

Councillor Shawn Brophy

Councillor Wayne Melanson

Councillor Harris McNamara

Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets:

Councillor Gary Mattie

Staff Present:

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Special Council meeting agenda.

Min # 2025-001

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

In-Camera Items

Min # 2025-002

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss Personnel Matters at 5:35 pm.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-003

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 6:40 pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

The Council meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

December 9, 2024

Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Municipality of the County of Antigonish
285 Beech Hill Road
Beach Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Dear Warden MacInnis:

We received correspondence from Warden McCarron, dated September 16th, 2024, regarding the twinning of Highway 104 through Heatherton, and the desire for direct access to the community.

In addition to this letter, we received numerous community letters and responded to each of them. The three main issues we heard from the community were:

Issue 1. Proposed Tunnel, and Impacts to the Community Centre property

Through the design process and further consultation with the community centre, we are now looking at bridges over Summerside Road (no tunnel) and building up the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 104) to keep Summerside Road at its current location and minimize the impact to the Heatherton Community Centre.

Issue 2. The Connection of Heatherton Village to Bayside Road

The connection of Heatherton Village Road to Bayside Road is a result of the planned elimination of the New France Road / Highway 104 intersection. It will enhance accessibility for emergency responses to and from Heatherton. It will be a local gravel road, similar to New France Road that will receive year-round maintenance.

Issue 3. Desire for Ramps

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has considered several options for a full interchange along the project corridor, including the area around Exit 36 (Summerside Road). An interchange in the Heatherton area would have significant direct impacts to either the community centre, or to nearby residential properties. The current plan is to locate the interchange between the east end of Dagger Woods Road and Pomquet Monks Head Road, resulting in reduced travel times for the maximum number of commuting residents. This configuration balances the needs for access and connectivity, and safety for all road users.

Due to construction staging, the highway overpass over Summerside Road is scheduled to be designed in spring of 2026. Once the detailed design is further developed, more information will be publicly shared prior to construction beginning in 2027. The Community Liaison Committee for the Hwy 104 Antigonish Bypass project was a condition of approval through the Class II Environmental Assessment process. In the absence of this committee, DPW will continue to dialogue with the community, and Municipal and Provincial elected officials as the project progresses.

For additional questions or comments, please reach out to us via the project specific e-mail address at Highway104Twinning@novascotia.ca

Sincerely,



Dwayne Cross
Manager, Highway Planning and Design

c: Honourable Michelle Thompson, MLA, Antigonish
Honourable Greg Morrow, MLA, Guysborough-Tracadie

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

PROCLAMATION

Alzheimer’s Awareness Month – January 2025

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 16,000 people living with dementia in Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS, it was projected that the number of people living with dementia in Nova Scotia will increase by 87% with nearly 30,000 people likely to be living with dementia by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia is committed to alleviating the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias and to promoting the search for the causes and cures; and

Therefore, be it resolved that I, Nicholas MacInnis, Warden of the Municipality of Antigonish County, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as

“Alzheimer Awareness Month”

in the County of Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to be affixed this 14th day of January, 2025.

Nicholas MacInnis

Warden of the Municipality of the
County of Antigonish

