

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 26, 2025, following Asset Management Committee
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Nicholas MacInnis
 Deputy Warden John Dunbar
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Adam Baden-Clay
 Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin
 Councillor Shawn Brophy
 Councillor Wayne Melanson (by Zoom)
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Harris McNamara
 Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets: None

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

Others Present: Gallery (by Zoom)

Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Nicholas MacInnis

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden MacInnis, at 6:45pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of February 11, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 11, 2025. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

2025 Boundary Review

Ms. Schumacher spoke to the staff report outlining the actions taken by staff based on the direction given by the committee at their meeting on January 14th. She noted that staff had provided background information to the committee via email and had contacted several mapping contractors to obtain a range of pricing. Staff reviewed a preliminary outline of how staff thought that the boundary review process might proceed, and how they could utilize as much of the information gathered during the 2023/24 review if at all possible. The option of looking to carry forward with applying the first phase of the review done in 2023/24, confirming status quo of ten districts, was suggested due to how overwhelming the public support was for that option when that phase of the review took place.

The floor was then opened for questions from the committee. Councillors asked for clarification regarding the use of information from the previous review, staff workplans to handle the expected workload vs. utilizing a consultant to undertake the review, and comments were shared by several councillors regarding their experiences during the 2023/24 boundary review process. Discussion followed regarding the Warden or Mayor system, and the committee felt that could be reviewed and discussed later in their term separate from this boundary review process.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council utilize the results of the first phase of the 2023/24 boundary review and proceed with ten districts for the second phase of the review.

Motion Carried

New Business

2025 Football Canada Cup & Eastern Regional Challenge Sponsorship Request

Mrs. Donovan reviewed the request for sponsorship submitted for the 2025 Football Canada Cup & Eastern Regional Challenge. Where the sponsorship amounts are higher than what are typically higher than what is usually approved internally, the request is being brought forward to the Committee. Mrs. Donovan noted that the Town approved a donation for the same event following a presentation to their council. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a sponsorship for the 2025 Football Canada Cup & Eastern Regional Challenge in the amount of \$5,000.

Motion Carried

Meeting Recess for Council

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting recess at 7:37pm and resume following the Special Municipal Council meeting.

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole was reconvened at 8:26pm.

Community Events

- Councillor MacLaughlin shared that a breakfast was recently held in St. Joseph's and shared details about a number of other events taking place on a regular basis at the community centres.
- Councillor Melanson gave updates about Carnivale in Pomquet and the Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser
- Councillor McNamara shared that March Break activities are planned at the Havre Boucher Community Centre. The Havre Boucher Fire Hall will also be holding a breakfast.
- Councillor Mattie noted that Fire Hall event details will be shared at the next meeting.
- Councillor MacLellan shared that pickleball activities are underway in Arisaig.
- Deputy Warden Dunbar shared that on February 15th a volunteer appreciation night was held at the Heatherton Community Centre. He also attended the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser and expressed his thanks to staff that organized the municipal team's participation.
- Warden MacInnis also attended the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Heritage Museum

- Next meeting will be on Monday March 3rd. February meeting was cancelled.

Antigonish Arena Association

- Next meeting will be on March 4th.

Eastern District Planning Commission

- The personnel committee will be meeting to address a complaint.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management

- An online session didn't take place as planned, but a meeting is planned on February 27th to learn more about Extended Producer Responsibility.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- Meeting was held by Zoom because of weather. Budget information is resulting in a number of cuts to libraries and a letter is expected to come to the next Council meeting.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- Next meeting will be on February 27th

County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

- Nothing to report.

Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

- Meeting was held on February 22nd. Susie Doucet will be leaving for a maternity leave in a few weeks, and her replacement has been hired and attended the last meeting.

PARC

- The committee has met and is working on identifying priorities for their requests to come before the municipalities. The group is looking to reach out to Paqtnkek.

AREMO

- Nothing to Report

Antigonish Community Transit

- Two of the buses for the fixed route have broken down, and a new vehicle is being obtained. The fixed route service has not been operable for the past few weeks because of this. Councillor Mattie explained how the different buses in the fleet are limited in what runs they can be used for because of the funding for the vehicles.

Deputy Warden Dunbar shared information about the upcoming NSFM Spring Conference scheduled to take place in Truro.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:42pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO