

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday March 25, 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 Shawn Brophy  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Harris McNamara  
Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets:

Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin  
Councillor Wayne Melanson

Staff Present:

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk  
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance  
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities  
Blaise MacDonald, AREMO

Others Present:

Adam McAllister (by Zoom)  
Gallery (in person and 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 7:01pm.

Deputy Warden Dunbar read a few words in memorial of County resident Johnny Rogers. Mr. Rogers had been a member of the municipality's Accessibility Committee, and his funeral had taken place earlier in the day in Heatherton. A moment of silence was observed.

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### **Approval of Agenda**

Warden MacInnis called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. A request to add an item, Streetlight Request, was put forward by Deputy Warden Dunbar.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

**Motion Carried**

### **Approval of March 11, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 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 scheduled delegations.

### **Continuing Business**

There was no continuing business.

### **New Business**

#### **Climate Risk Assessment Update**

Mr. MacDonald provided an introduction for Mr. McAllister and provided the committee with some background to Mr. McAllister's involvement in bringing his proposal to the committee. Mr. McAllister provided the committee with a detailed presentation on his proposal to work with the municipality to obtain funding from the Green Municipal Fund for the purpose of undertaking a Climate Risk Assessment and Prioritized Adaption Plan project for the County of Antigonish.

Mr. McAllister reviewed the proposed scope of the climate risk assessment, which is proposed to involve:

- Municipality-wide all-hazards mapping
- Social vulnerability mapping, including equity-deserving groups
- Physical vulnerability mapping, including critical infrastructure and cultural heritage
- Information aggregation into a comprehensive climate risk assessment, and
- Prioritized climate adaption planning, including integration into our existing municipal service models.

The floor was then opened to question from the committee. Mr. McAllister was asked about format of the report, and whether it would provide a list of action items for the municipality to follow, whether there was a template to rank the identified risks,

examples of what kinds of community engagement would be utilized, and whether Mr. McAllister was working with any other municipalities in Nova Scotia on undertaking similar projects. Mr. McAllister was thanked for his presentation, and it was noted that the discussion on the proposal would continue at the April 8, 2025 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

#### Anti-Hate, Anti-Racism, and Equity Plan

Ms. Feltmate introduced the *Nalikitquniejk Antigonish Equity, Anti-Hate & Anti-Racism, Plan* to the committee. She reviewed the mandated timeline for the adoption of the plan and listed many of the provincial resources that were utilized in the development of the document. The plan was developed in partnership with the Town of Antigonish. Ms. Feltmate noted that the actions in the plan would be undertaken separately by each municipal unit, but creating a joint plan allowed them to be able to do more with tight resources when they are serving the same population. Ms. Feltmate also stressed that the plan is considered a working document.

The floor was turned over to the committee for questions, and discussion followed. Ms. Feltmate was thanked for her work on the plan and her leadership on the subject.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves and endorses the *Nalikitquniejk Antigonish Equity, Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Plan* as presented and submit the plan to the province of Nova Scotia.

**Motion Carried**

#### Community Events

- Councillor Brophy shared that the Lions Club will be hosting their monthly pancake breakfast fundraiser. He also celebrated how well the Bulldogs hockey teams have done this season.
- Councillor Baden-Clay shared information regarding an upcoming fundraiser on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Candid Brewing to support arts and culture programming in the community called All You Need is Cake. He also shared details regarding the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for Festival Antigonish.
- Councillor Garvie noted that the U13AA Bulldogs are still in the playoffs.
- Councillor McNamara shared that there is a benefit dance happening in Havre Boucher on March 29<sup>th</sup>. March break events in Havre Boucher were successful thanks to having a lot of community volunteers. A St. Patrick's Day dance was held as well.
- Councillor Mattie shared that the community centre in Monastery is still having issues with their heating system.

- Councillor MacLellan shared that there is good participation in the Active Living online fitness program in Arisaig. She also shared an update regarding fundraising efforts in the community for an accessible playground.
- Warden MacInnis shared that the new Off-Highway Vehicle Club has been accepted into the ATVANS organization.

### **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

#### Heritage Museum

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Antigonish Arena Association

- The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

#### Eastern District Planning Commission

- The Board will be meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management

- Nothing to report.

#### Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- The next meeting will be held in April. Information has been shared from PARL by email regarding funding updates.

#### RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- The Board will be meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

- Nothing to report. Warden MacInnis has reached out to Chief Julian.

#### Community Navigation & Physician Retention Services Association

- Nothing to report.

#### PARC

- The committee met last week and are working on presentations for Town and County Councils. Their focus has changed and they are now looking at what is out in the community and identifying gaps.

#### ACALA

- Next meeting will be on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### AREMO

- Next meeting in April.

Deputy Warden Dunbar reminded members of the committee of the upcoming NSFM spring conference in Truro. Discussion followed regarding concerns with the accessibility of the conference venue. Deputy Warden Dunbar noted that he would bring those concerns to the NSFM Board.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

#### **Streetlight Request**

Deputy Warden Dunbar made a request for the consideration of the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of the Summerside Road and the Old Ferry Branch Road, noting that the intersection is on a curve and can be dangerous in inclement weather. A map and street view of the intersection was brought up on the screen and discussion followed. Deputy Warden Dunbar asked for the streetlight to be as close to being over the stop sign on the Old Ferry Branch Road as possible, which may require a pole to be installed where the existing hydro poles and lines are on the opposite side of the Summerside Road.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Summerside Road and the Old Ferry Branch Road.

**Motion Carried**

### **Adjournment**

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:44pm.

**Motion Carried**

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Warden Nicholas MacInnis

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Shirlyn Donovan, CAO