

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, Following Committee of the Whole

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

1. Call to Order – Chair Nicholas MacInnis
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of May 14, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Committee Reports
 - a. May 20, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report
 - b. May 27, 2025 Asset Management Committee Report
 - c. May 27, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report
 - d. May 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report
6. Motions
7. Miscellaneous Business
8. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Wednesday May 14, 2025

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

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Others Present:

Gallery (in person and by Zoom)

Matt Draper, XFM

Doris Goodland

Corey LeBlanc (by Zoom)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda. Two in-camera items for Personnel were requested to be added to the agenda by staff.

Min # 2025-058

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of the April 8, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of April 8, 2025. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Statutory Public Hearings

Proposed Sale of Municipal Land on D. MacIsaac Road to the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works

Mrs. Donovan reviewed the Statutory Public Hearing Protocol. She then reviewed the proposal before Municipal Council, for the transfer of land to the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW). The Public Hearing was advertised as required by the Municipal Government Act on the municipal website.

Warden MacInnis asked whether there was anyone looking to speak against the proposed sale of land. No parties identified themselves. Warden MacInnis then asked for any parties looking to speak in favour of the proposed sale of land. No parties identified themselves. No questions were asked by members of Council.

Min # 2025-059

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council sell the municipally owned parcel of land on D. MacIsaac Road (PID 10078988) to the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works for the price of \$1.

Motion Carried.

Delegations

Recognition of Doris Goodland

Warden MacInnis provided a brief presentation of the accomplishments of Ms. Goodland, who won a gold medal in the 60-metre event and placed 4th in the 200-metre and 5th in the 300-metre races at the Athletics Canada 2025 Track and Field Championships held in Toronto in March. She also holds a provincial record for U16 60-metre sprint. He provided her with Council's congratulations, along with a certificate. Photographs were taken.

Correspondence

Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice – Adapting the Additional Officer Program

Mrs. Donovan noted that correspondence had been received from the Office of the Attorney General, noting changes to the Additional Officer Program are expected as the province and RCMP look to modernize the program.

Office of the Minister of Emergency Management – Fire Services Review

Mrs. Donovan reviewed correspondence from the Office of the Minister of Emergency Management outlining that a fire services review would be taking place. Mrs. Donovan noted that as the County's Emergency Management Coordinator, Blaise MacDonald is aware of this services review exercise and is in continuous discussions with the county's fire chiefs.

Office of the Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 12-months' Notice

Mrs. Donovan provided a review of the different provincial and policing initiatives identified in the 12-months notice letter from the Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs to NSFM that could have an impact on the municipal budget.

Office of the Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs – Reprofiling of the Beautification and Streetscaping Program (BSP) and the Community Works Program (CWP)

Mrs. Donovan noted that correspondence regarding the two named funding programs would be moved into the PCAP funding program, which has annual limits on the number of applications that a municipality can make. She noted that the municipality has had several projects that have received funding from the Beautification and Streetscaping Program in the last few years.

Municipality of Colchester – Letter to the Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations Affecting Wind Turbine Setback

Mrs. Donovan reviewed a letter from the Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester to the Minister of Municipal Affairs expressing disappointment with the minimum regulations for wind turbines.

Letter of Thanks – Antigonish Community Food Bank

Mrs. Donovan noted that a thank-you letter from the Antigonish Community Food Bank for the donation made at by the Municipality at the end of 2024 was included in the agenda package.

Committee Reports

April 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-060

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves the annual appointments of Eastern District Planning Commission staff to Municipal positions, as proposed.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-061

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Antigonish Jr. B Bulldogs team to assist with their travel to the Atlantic Canadian Championships, Don Johnston Cup, in New Brunswick.

Motion Carried

April 22, 2025 Asset Management Committee Report

Min # 2025-062

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve a resolution noting that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Finance be authorized to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2024-001.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-063

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council award the tender for the 2025 Bulky Waste Collection to GFL in the amount of \$54,900 + HST.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-064

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council directs staff to proceed with the design and costing phase of the Florence Circle Connector Pathway if the finding application for that phase is successful.

Motion Carried

April 22, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-065

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the proposed increase to the tourism strategy budget to \$70,000 annually for a period of four years; endorse the partnership agreement with the Antigonish Tourism Association; and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the agreement on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-066

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council appoint Charlies Thompson of Burchell MacDougall LLP as their investigator under subsection 23C(1) of the Municipal Government Act to receive and investigate complaints received under the Municipal Code of Conduct for Elected Officials.

Motion Carried

April 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole E-poll Report

Min # 2025-067

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council consents to an application being made by the Municipality to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for \$50,000 for work related to the Inflow and Infiltration Report.

Motion Carried

May 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-068

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council amends the *Tax Exemption Policy for Low-Income Tax Payers* by changing the combined household income threshold noted in clause 2.4 from \$36,000 to \$40,000.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-069

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council receives the proposed amendments to the By-law Respecting Local Improvements, for First Reading at their May 14, 2025 meeting.

Motion Carried

Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities

- Deputy Warden Dunbar provided an update regarding the Heritage Museum Board, noting that the Peace by Chocolate building was now a display at the museum. He also provided an update regarding the NSFM conference that took place earlier in the month.
- Councillor Mattie noted that the Antigonish Community Transit Society meeting will be coming up shortly.
- Councillor McNamara shared that the RK MacDonald Board will be meeting later in the month, where the impact of tariffs on the new build project will be discussed. A walk in support of dementia awareness will be held on May 25th in Havre Boucher.
- Councillor Garvie provided updates from the Eastern Region Solid Waste Management board.
- Councillor MacLaughlin noted that a community navigator meeting was scheduled for next week but postponed. A dance called “Let’s Dance for Morgan” is being held in St. Josephs at the Community Centre on Saturday May 17th as a fundraiser for Cathy’s Place.
- Councillor Baden-Clay provided updates from Antigonish Affordable Housing, noting that their AGM is upcoming.
- Councillor Brophy noted that the RK MacDonald Board would be holding its AGM in June.
- Warden MacInnis noted that this weekend the Antigonish Legion is hosting the Nova Scotia / Nunavut conference, with a parade to the Cenotaph from the Legion on Sunday May 18th. The AREMO Planning Advisory Committee had a meeting and received updates on the fire training facility, with the Minister of Emergency Management is looking to tour the facility in the future. He also attended Mayfest, and the Chamber of Commerce President’s Dinner where Paul Curry was sworn in as the new president of that organization.

Motions

Min # 2025-070

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council proclaims May 2025 Gaelic Awareness Month in the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

Recess of Council Meeting

Min # 2025-071

Moved and Seconded

That the Municipal Council meeting recesses at 8:40pm.

Motion Carried

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting back to order at 8:49pm

In-Camera Items

Min # 2025-072

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss Personnel Matters at 8:49 pm.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-073

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 9:02 pm.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-074

Moved and Seconded

That Mike MacEachern, Ron Pumphrey, and Fred Allen be appointed to the Planning Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Mrs. Donovan noted that a special committee of the whole meeting is being planned for Tuesday, May 27, 2025 for the purpose of budget deliberations. Further details will be provided shortly by email. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: Shirlyn Donovan, CAO
SUBJECT: **May 20, 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**
DATE: May 28, 2025

The Committee of the Whole was convened on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. The following Councillors were present:

Warden MacInnis
Deputy Warden Dunbar
Councillor MacLellan
Councillor Baden-Clay
Councillor MacLaughlin
Councillor Brophy
Councillor Melanson
Councillor Mattie
Councillor McNamara
Councillor Garvie

The following recommendations were made:

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to NSFM, FCM, and AMANS will all municipalities in Nova Scotia copied, advocating for more consideration being given to accessibility when planning conferences, including the selection of a facility.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: Deputy Warden John Dunbar
SUBJECT: **May 27, 2025 Asset Management Committee Report**
DATE: May 28, 2025

The Asset Management Committee was convened on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. The following Councillors were present:

Deputy Warden Dunbar, Chair
Warden MacInnis
Councillor MacLellan
Councillor Baden-Clay
Councillor MacLaughlin
Councillor Brophy
Councillor Melanson
Councillor Mattie
Councillor McNamara
Councillor Garvie

The following recommendation was made:

The Asset Management Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to the Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works as well as Minister Morrow raising concerns with the condition of Old Wharf Road.

The Asset Management Committee recommends that Municipal Council renames the private laneway off Highway 245 in Doctor's Brook, as shown on the attached map, to "Tony's Lane".

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: Shirlyn Donovan, CAO
SUBJECT: **May 27, 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**
DATE: May 28, 2025

The Committee of the Whole was convened on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. The following Councillors were present:

Warden MacInnis
Deputy Warden Dunbar
Councillor MacLellan
Councillor Baden-Clay
Councillor MacLaughlin
Councillor Brophy
Councillor Melanson
Councillor Mattie
Councillor McNamara
Councillor Garvie

The following recommendations were made:

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proclamation of May 25-31 as Access Awareness Week in the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter of congratulations to Brendan Doyle for being the first recipient of the Jeffery Murray Award for Accessible and Inclusive Communities.

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the inclusion of \$25,000 in the 2025/26 budget for a Recreation Needs Assessment, subject to the Town of Antigonish also contributing \$25,000 to the project, and for the municipalities to take the lead on the assessment.

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the inclusion of \$150,000 in the 2025/26 budget for an accessible washroom at the Mini Pitch