

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 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, Municipal Clerk

Also Present:

Matt Draper, XFM

Corey LeBlanc

Gallery (in person and online)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:59pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda.

Min # 2025-114

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of the August 6, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of August 6, 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.

Correspondence

Mrs. Donovan provided a summary of the letter from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice regarding the outcomes of the comprehensive policing review, as well as the information session that was held earlier in the summer that was attended by herself and several members of Council. Discussion followed. Concerns were raised regarding the loss of autonomy for municipalities that have their own police service, loss of ability to negotiate with the RCMP regarding contracts, the potential for the loss of jobs if municipalities cannot have their own police services, bail reform concerns, and whether the proposed changes address other supports that are needed in the community as identified in the process that produced the Mass Casualty Report (2023).

Mrs. Donovan spoke to the correspondence from the Municipal of Municipal Affairs regarding the value-for-money audit of the Nova Scotia Fire School, noting that the province has ended its relationship with the school.

Mrs. Donovan highlighted the L'Arche Day Camp Thank-you card with photographs included in the agenda package.

Finally, Mrs. Donovan noted the correspondence from the RCMP providing a link to the Annual Report from the RCMP.

Committee Reports

August 19, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-115

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approved the updates to the agreement titled *Inter-Municipal Agreement Creating the Strait Municipal Technology Services Association* as presented.

Motion Carried

September 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-116

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the request from SAFE for a contribution in the amount of \$6,000 for their 10th anniversary celebration taking place on November 15, 2025.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-117

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council write-off the taxes for AAN 00746509, which was destroyed by fire, in the amount of \$885.30.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-118

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council write a letter to MLA Michelle Thompson, as well as representatives from the NS Department of Public Works and the NS Department of Environment, regarding concerns with stormwater travelling across Appleseed Drive onto Theresa MacIlsac's land.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-119

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council extend the timeline of a lease on a five (5) acre parcel of land at PID 10073716 to the Antigonish Area Fire & Rescue Training Centre for a 25-year term, rather than the ten (10) year term initially approved.

Motion Carried

September 8, 2025 Planning Advisory Committee Report

Councillor MacLellan read the committee report. No motions were put forward by this committee.

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

- Deputy Warden Dunbar attended the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) meeting on policing and highlighted that the NSFM fall conference is coming up in Halifax.

- Councillor Mattie noted that there is an upcoming meeting for Antigonish Community Transit Society (ACTS).
- Councillor McNamara noted that work is progressing well on the new RK MacDonald building.
- Councillor Garvie attended an Arena Board meeting, where they were provided with a tour of new dressing rooms and referee room. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management (ERSWM) meeting will be taking place on Sept 25. He also assisted with regrading the Cape George Lighthouse Road with the local NSDPW crew.
- Councillor Baden-Clay has an Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS) meeting on September 10th but won't be attending as he'll be participating in the municipal infrastructure tour taking place at the same time. He noted that he will be travelling to Ottawa to a David Suzuki Foundation lobby session to promote climate issues. Discussion followed regarding the policy direction regarding the use of the County's logo, and whether a policy should be created.
- Councillor Brophy attended a Museum Board meeting on September 8th, where updates on the work being done on the original Peace by Chocolate building was shared. An RK MacDonald Board meeting is scheduled for September 23rd.
- Warden MacInnis attended a Helping Healthcare Antigonish Q2 meeting on September 4th. He provided a summary of events that have been well-attended. Several new physicians have come to the community, with more to come. On September 20th Seniors for Climate Change having a rally at the Warren Gardens at the Coady Centre. Also on September 20th in Bayfield, Paqtnkek will be hosting an eel ceremony. In the evening on September 20th the Antigonish County Fire Department is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. On September 21st at the John Paul Centre the NS Working Woodlands Trust is holding an information session.

Motions

Proclamation of September 20, 2025 as Seniors for Climate Day

Warden MacInnis read the proposed proclamation document as included in the agenda package.

Min # 2025-120

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve to proclamation of September 20, 2025 as Seniors for Climate Day in Antigonish County.

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

Adjournment

Min # 2025-121

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council meeting adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Nicholas MacInnis



Shirlyn Donovan, CAO