

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Deputy Warden John Dunbar
Councillor Mary MacLellan (by Zoom)
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay (by Zoom)
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
Allison Duggan, CFO
Alisha Bowie, Administrative Assistant
Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk (by Zoom)

Others Present: Gallery (by Zoom)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. Mrs. Donovan asked that In-Camera item Advice Eligible for Solicitor-Client Privilege be removed from the agenda. Mrs. Donovan also asked under New Business to add Fireloch Partnership Agreement.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee move into an in-camera session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property at 5:35pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee adjourns the in-camera session at 6:18 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee of the Whole recommends that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Corporation to sell the facility (i.e. the RK) as outlined in the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care Replaced Facility Disposal Policy, Version December 22, 2025.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the March 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of March 24, 2026. Hearing no concerns, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no Delegations

Continuing Business

Discussion Regarding Library Funding Concerns

Mrs. Donovan started by reading a letter sent by Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian.

The meeting was recessed from 6:25 to 6:31pm in order to allow staff to assist Councillor MacLellan with reconnecting to the Zoom meeting platform.

Discussion followed on how the Municipality could help the library. Motion was put forward by Councillor Baden-Clay that the eight municipalities that are a part of PARL support the library with their funding, but following discussion there was no seconder for the motion. Past funding contributions by the municipalities and how best to engage the other member units were discussed. Making a decision on how best to support the library was tabled to the next meeting to allow staff to find out more information for the Committee.

New Business

EDPC Appointments

Mrs. Donovan read the appointments for EDPC to the Committee.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee of the Whole recommends that Municipal Council approves the annual appointments of Eastern District Planning Commission staff to Municipal positions, as proposed.

Motion Carried.

Policy Review – Council Remuneration Policy (Policy #14)

Mrs. Donovan provided a recommendation for updates to the Council remuneration policy, following the KBRs compensation review done in 2025 and to update language in the document. Discussion followed with some councillors opposing the annual cost-of-living allowance as reflected in the proposed compensation amounts noted for fiscal 2026-2027. Discussion followed regarding annual cost-of-living increases vs. market value reviews only done every 4-5 years. Mrs. Donovan was directed to get more information and schedule the policy to return for further discussion at the next committee meeting.

Fireloch Partnership Agreement

Mrs. Donovan spoke to a partnership agreement that has been put forward to the Municipality, to receive funds from The Leblanc Foundation on behalf of Fireloch, to allow charitable funds from the foundation to be used by Fireloch for specific activities. The Municipality entered into a similar agreement with Fireloch to allow them to access monies from the Wingspan Fund in 2023/2024.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to municipal Council that the Partnership Agreement between the Municipality and Fireloch be approved.

Motion Carried.

Community Events

- Deputy Warden Dunbar shared information about the Heatherton Community Center Spring Fling, and community appreciation night music by Ty Wallace.
- Councillor Mattie shared that a fish cake dinner was held in Tracadie on Good Friday.
- Councillor McNamara shared that the Havre Boucher Fire Department is having a Fireman's Breakfast Sunday, April 19th from 8 to noon at Havre Boucher Community Center. The 50-Plus Club is putting on a concert on April 25th from 8 to 11 by the Turnbull Brothers at the Havre Boucher Community Center. Hank's Jamboree April 26th at 1 at the HB Community Center.
- Councillor MacLaughlin shared that the Lochaber Community Centre had a community breakfast.

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That Committee of the Whole meeting adjourn at 7:16 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

DRAFT