

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 5:30pm
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
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets: None

Staff Present: Shirlyn Donovan, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk
Allison Duggan, CFO
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Public Works (Acting) and Sustainable Communities
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
Sam Gorman, Make Your Move Antigonish Coordinator

Others Present: Gallery (by Zoom and in-person)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. Mrs. Donovan asked for three additions: two in-camera items, one item under new business being letter request regarding NSCC residences.

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 5:47 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council purchase the property at PID 01247824 for \$127,000.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council purchase the properties at PIDs 10124360 and 01298249 for \$130,000.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the May 25, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of May 25, 2026. Hearing no concerns, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Continuing Business

Budget Deliberations

Mrs. Duggan invited members of the committee to bring forward any further questions or discussion regarding the budget. Mrs. Donovan spoke to the rain barrel program that is included in the budget, and discussion followed. Questions were asked about streetlight rates and how streetlight areas are named.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the 2026/27 Operating Budget as presented.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the budget and strike the tax rate as per the resolution presented and attached.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the borrowing resolution as presented and attached.

Motion Carried

New Business

Request from the Town of Antigonish – James River Watershed Stewardship Board Representation

Mrs. Donovan spoke to correspondence received from the Town of Antigonish asking for representation from the County on the James River Watershed Stewardship Board.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the appointment of the Warden (or designate) as a voting member and the CAO (or designate) as a non-voting member on the James River Watershed Stewardship Board.

Motion Carried

Request for Tax Write-off for Home Destroyed by Fire

Mrs. Duggan spoke to a request to have the taxes on a property destroyed by fire written off by Council.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee of the Whole recommends that Municipal Council write-off the taxes for AAN 00584223, which was destroyed by fire, in the amount of \$167.79.

Motion Carried.

Make Your Move Community Challenge

Mr. Gorman introduced the Make Your Move Antigonish program to members of the committee. He spoke to a number of upcoming events in the community that are focussed on encouraging county residents to get out and get moving. He spoke to community hubs and recreation opportunities throughout the county. Details about the Make Your Move Community Challenge were shared, and videos that have been produced locally to encourage the initiative were viewed. Discussion followed.

Councillor McNamara shared details about the upcoming Wellness Fair that is taking place at the Havre Boucher Community Centre on June 13th starting at 10am. Mr. Gorman noted that he would be attending that event. Councillors suggested sharing social media posts about sharing the road with pedestrians and cyclists in the community.

Strait Campus NSCC Sister Residence Letter of Support

Mrs. Duggan spoke to a request to have the taxes on a property destroyed by fire written off by Council.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee of the Whole recommends that Municipal Council approve signing the joint letter from the Strait Area Chiefs, Mayors and Wardens to Minister Nolan Young regarding the Strait Campus NSCC Sister Residence.

Motion Carried.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

Meeting on Monday June 1st.

Antigonish Arena Association

Met on May 21st – Chair provided wrap-up of the year. Construction projects and funding at the arena were discussed. When ice comes out, pickleball courts will be painted on.

Eastern District Planning Commission

Meeting on June 18th.

Eastern Solid Waste Management Committee

Meeting on May 28th.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

No report.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

Board is meeting on May 28th. Councillor McNamara is meeting on Friday with the new consultant heading up the capital campaign to raise money for the things Nova Scotia Senior and Long-Term Care are not funding as part of the new Build (example garage for vehicles / equipment and a gazebo) and legacy going forward. We want to make this building a home for the residents. The new RK is on budget and on schedule to date so far.

Helping Healthcare in Antigonish

Meeting in June. Jamie Mattie finished his term coverage, and was thanked for doing an excellent job in the role. Susie Doucet is back.

Antigonish Affordable Housing (AAHS)

Meeting on May 27th.

Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA)

Meeting in the first week of June.

Antigonish Community Transit Society (ACTS)

Meeting later in June.

Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Office (AREMO)

Met last week. An update on the training centre was provided. Staff stressed the importance of checking the daily DNR burn maps, after a weekend with two fire incidents in the community. The firefighters' fundraiser campaign is underway. A request was made to have a discussion at the future meeting about planning for water shortages, as residents have already approached their councillors expressing concern about their wells.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)

Spring conference held from April 29th to May 1st, with an increase in delegates attending over last year. Copies of the presentations given at the conference were shared with Council by email.

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That Committee of the Whole meeting adjourn at 6:47 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

DRAFT