MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
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 Richelle MacLaughlin
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Wayne Melanson
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets:
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay

Staff Present:
Shirlyn Donovan, CAO
Allison Duggan, CFO
Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Also Present:
Corey LeBlanc (by Zoom)
Gallery (in person and online)
Matt Draper, XFM
Drake Lowther, Strait Area Reporter

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda.

Min # 2026-024
Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the February 10, 2026 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of February 10, 2026. Hearing none, the minutes were considered accepted as presented.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Group

Mr. Martin provided Council with an update on the Eigg Mountain renewable energy project that the RES Group is undertaking. He reviewed the details expected for the development, estimated to included 22 turbines with a total installed capacity of 154 MW with a transmission line and switching station connected to Addington Forks.

Mr. Martin reviewed what is new, and what is expected, as part of their project. He noted that the Environmental Assessment is underway, and a decision is expected in early April. He spoke to community engagement measures that are underway and noted that the geotechnical investigation and land survey is happening. Permits for zoning have been submitted to the Eastern District Planning Commission, and more community engagement is planned.

The floor was then opened for questions from Council. Questions were asked about the anticipated carbon return on the project, shadow flicker, noise impacts, and impacts on wildlife with particular interest in the mainland moose. Further details about the path of the proposed transmission line over Brown's Mountain was also requested. A suggestion was made to have RES share more information about the project with the community, through a mailout, to provide more insight into the scope of the project. The concerns raised by the local snowmobiling community regarding their use of utility roads in the area was raised.

The representatives from RES were thanked for their presentation.

Correspondence

Mrs. Donovan spoke to the letter included in the agenda package from Eric Stackhouse regarding library funding concerns following the Province's proposed budget. The letter was put forward for Council's information.

Committee Reports

March 4, 2026 Asset Management Committee Report

Min # 2026-025
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council authorizes the Warden and CAO to sign Cost Sharing Agreement 2026-002, being the three-year cost share agreement between the Province and the Municipality for J-Class Roads applying to fiscal years 2027-2028, 2028-2029, and 2029-2030.

Motion Carried

March 4, 2026 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2026-026
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council awards a grant in the amount of $170,375.94 to the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society as part of the Fall 2025 round of the Housing Accelerator Fund Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant program.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-027
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council awards a grant in the amount of $29,624.06 to the Naomi Society as part of the Fall 2025 round of the Housing Accelerator Fund Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant program.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-028
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council deny the request from Antigonish Affordable Housing to provide an exemption from property taxes.

Motion Carried

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

- Deputy Warden Dunbar noted that heritage museum board met on Monday evening. The are looking to fill some vacancies on the Board. He noted that the Arena Board meeting was postponed to March 18th due to the Bulldogs making it into the playoffs.

- Councillor MacLellan attended a library meeting where information about a new program was shared, which is being offered to local schools and daycares.
- Councillor Mattie noted that he attended an ACTS meeting where funding was discussed regarding the proposed Provincial budget.
- Councillor McNamara shared details about an RK MacDonald meeting. He gave further updates about community events in his district, including music bingo, a photography session, online sales safety, card play, and an upcoming concert on March 21st by the Ceildhmen at the community centre.
- Councillor Garvie noted that there will be an Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management meeting later in the month.
- Councillor MacLaughlin noted that on Friday March 6th Helping Healthcare Antigonish met – recruitment is going well. A number of new healthcare providers are arriving to the community soon. Feedback was received that the SRCE facilities and staff that attracted a medical professional and their family to come to our community. Eastern District Planning Commission Board meeting on March 12th. St. Patrick's Day events in St. Joseph's were noted.
- Councillor Brophy also attended the museum board meeting. RK MacDonald meeting on the 26th.
- Warden MacInnis shared that he attended the Helping Healthcare Antigonish. Jamie Mattie is wrapping up their year in the role and did an excellent job, and Susie will be returning from her maternity leave.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Motions

Min # 2026-029
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council cancel the RFP titled "New Accessible Washroom/Storage Building at Scotiabank Mini Pitch" and direct staff to revisit the project scope and reissue a new request for proposals.

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

Adjournment

Min # 2026-030
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council meeting adjourn at 8:20pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO