MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 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 (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
Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk (by Zoom)
Alisha Bowie, Administrative Assistant

Also Present:
Corey LeBlanc (by Zoom)
Gallery (in person and online)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda.

Min # 2026-31
Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the March 10, 2026 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of March 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

Antigonish Golf & Country Club celebrating their 100th Anniversary

Warden MacInnis presented representatives of the Antigonish Golf & Country Club a Certificate in commemoration of their 100 years in business.

MacIsaac Funeral Home celebrating their 100th Anniversary

Warden MacInnis presented representatives of MacIsaac's Funeral Home a Certificate in commemoration of their 100 years in business.

Caleb Marshall & Andrea Boyd, Festival Antigonish

Mr. Marshall and Ms. Boyd made a presentation to Council. They reviewed how the Bauer theatre needs significant fire upgrades. They are looking for support from the municipality to help complete the work. One fire door is $5,000. $15,000 is needed for operating and outreach.

Council will discuss and them know what is decided.

Bob Hale & Mark Chisholm, StFX Turf Field and Main Arena

Councillor Baden-Clay identified himself to be in conflict, and noted that he was recusing himself from the discussion.

Mr. Hale and Mr. Chisholm made a presentation to Council. They talked about how the STFX Turf Field and Track are at the end of their life and need to be replaced. Also, they would like to have accessible benches for the sledge hockey players, so they do not have to use the Zamboni door to get on and off the ice. The KMC needs A/C installed as they are looking to have more events there in the summer. The total ask to the municipality was $150,000. Council noted that they will consider the request as part of their budget deliberations, and a suggestion was made to write a letter to the Minister of ACOA.

Correspondence

Nova Scotia Power letter to Council

Mrs. Donovan read the letter to Council. There were no questions or comments

Emergency Management Department, Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO) Provincial Standards

Mrs. Donovan read the letter to Council.

Minister Tilley, NS Department of Public Works – Response to J-Class Roads Cost-Share Request

Mrs. Donovan read the letter to Council, nothing that this is the fifth year in a row that the municipality has had their cost sharing request denied. Council would like to know where the funding is going, specifically what municipalities were successful in their applications under the program, and asked staff to follow-up.

Committee Reports

March 24, 2026 Asset Management Committee Report

Min # 2026-32
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council awards the tender for project 26-03 Appleseed Drive Sidewalks to S.W. Weeks Construction Ltd. for the bid price of $205,735 + HST.

Motion Carried

March 24, 2026, Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2026-33
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council proclaim March 2026 as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Awareness Month.

Motion Carried

Min #2026-34
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council add AAN#01415026 and AAN#04710584 to Part 1 of Policy #35 - Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-35
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves the creation of a full-time position of "By-law Officer", for the purpose of providing administrative and enforcement support to municipal operations.

Motion Carried

March 30, 2026 Planning Advisory Committee Report

Min # 2026-36
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council give first reading and schedule a Statutory Public Hearing for a proposal to amend the County of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law as follows:

County of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy

1. Subsection 4.6.2 of the Energy Section of the Municipal Planning Strategy is amended by adding the following text to the preamble immediately before Policy 4-39:

In March 2025, the Province of Nova Scotia amended the Provincial Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations to establish maximum allowable setbacks for wind turbines within municipalities. Under the amended regulations, municipal planning documents are restricted with respect to certain wind turbine regulations to allow for a uniform approach to turbine development across the Province. The Municipality reviewed and amended their policies in alignment with these minimum planning regulations in 2026.

Policy 4-39: Council shall adopt wind turbine regulations consistent with the Minimum Planning Regulations of the Province of Nova Scotia to help encourage a uniform approach to wind turbine development across the Province.

2. Renumber Policies 4-39 to 4-49 accordingly.

The Land Use By-law for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish

1. Section 7.4.2(a) of the Land Use By-law is amended by removing the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in bold:

a. *"Minimum setback from all residences, except residences located on the same lot as the wind turbine, shall be 600 metres (1969 feet)* **four (4) times turbine height. There is no setback requirement from residences located on the same lot."**

2. Section 7.4.2(b) of the Land Use By-law is amended by removing the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in bold:

b. *"Minimum setback for larger turbines or wind farms requiring environmental assessment from all residences, except residences located on the same lot as the wind turbine, shall be 1000 metres (3280 feet)* **four (4) times turbine height. There is no setback requirement from residences located on the same lot."**

3. Section 7.4.2(f) of the Land Use By-law is amended by removing the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in bold:

f. *"The minimum setbacks from public* ***roads*** *highways shall be 60 metres or two* ***1.1*** *times the height of the turbine, whichever amount is greater."*

4. Section 7.4.2(g) of the Land Use By-law is amended by removing the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in bold:

g. *"Minimum setbacks from watercourses shall be 30 metres plus the blade length.***60 metres."**

5. Section 7.4.2(i) of the Land Use By-law is amended by removing the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in bold:

i. *"The mean value of sound pressure level from a wind turbine shall not exceed 40dBA or above the existing background noise, whichever is greater, at the nearest residence* **from the exterior of a residential dwelling."**

6. Section 30 of the Land Use By-law is amended by removing the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in bold in the alphabetical order they should appear within the definitions section:

Height of Wind Turbine refers to the distance from the bottom of the turbine to the height of a rotor blade in vertical position.

Height of Rotor refers to the diameter of the swept area of the rotor blades.

Public Road means ~~a public street or road as defined in the Subdivision By-law of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.~~ ***any street accepted and maintained by the Province of Nova Scotia or the Municipality as a public thoroughfare.***

Residence refers to a structure used for human habitation, whether for seasonal or permanent occupancy, and is assessed for taxation purposes.

Setback Wind turbine is measured from the base of the wind turbine tower.

Supporting structure of a wind turbine includes all structures accessory to the turbine itself, including guy wires.

Wind Farm refers to a grouping of more than one interconnected wind turbines on one lot or abutting lots used for the purpose of converting wind power to produce electricity. These typically require a central computerized monitoring system that monitors the operation of the turbines.

Motion Carried

April 14, 2026, Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2026-37
Moved and Seconded

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.

Min #2026-38
Moved and Seconded

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

Motion Carried.

Min #2026-39
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the partnership agreement between the Municipality and Fireloch.

Motion Carried.

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

- Deputy Warden Dunbar discussed Museum board meeting, board appointments. Mentioned that the Lego contest will be named after Jonas Tkacz
- Councillor Mattie – ACTS zoom meeting April 9th
- Councillor McNamara – RK Meeting
- Councillor Melanson – Police Advisory meeting on April 16th.
- Councillor Garvie – attended Arena meeting and ERSWM meeting
- Councillor Baden-Clay – AAHS meeting on Wednesday, EDPC on Thursday
- Councillor Brophy – attended Museum meeting, Police Advisory April 16th
- Warden MacInnis – Community Transit Meeting

Motions

Proclamation – May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Min #2026-40
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the proclamation of May 2026 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Motion Carried.

Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

Adjournment

Min # 2026-41
Moved and Seconded

That the Municipal Council meeting adjourn at 8:24pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO