MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 28, 2026, following Asset Management Committee
Council Chambers
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 (by Zoom) Councillor Sterling Garvie
Regrets:	None
Staff Present:	Shirlyn Donovan, CAO Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk Allison Duggan, CFO Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Others Present:	Gallery (online and in-person)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 8:38pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the January 13, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of January 13, 2026. Hearing none, 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

Policy Review – Proposed Repeal of the Policy Regarding the Handling of Tire Fluff

Ms. Schumacher noted that no further comments or questions were received after the discussion at the January 13, 2026 meeting regarding the suggestion to repeal the policy regarding the handling of tire fluff. Staff provided a recommended motion for consideration by the committee.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council repeal Policy #24, being a Policy Regarding the Handling of Tire Fluff.

Motion Carried

New Business

2026-2027 Community Partnership Grant Allocation

Mrs. Donovan spoke to the Community Partnership Grants program that is preparing to open for applications for the 2026/2027 budget rate. Past process has been that the grants are set at 3% of the estimated revenue based on preliminary assessments. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council set aside 3% of the estimated tax revenue based on preliminary assessment and 2026/27 property tax rates, which is estimated to be $483,441, for the Community Partnership Grants in the 2026/2027 budget.

Motion Carried

Letter of Support for Road Access to St. Martha's Regional Hospital

Warden MacInnis spoke to the letter that was received from the Town's Mayor, asking neighbouring municipalities to send a letter to local MLAs asking for consideration of the construction of a secondary access to the .

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Minister Thompson requesting consideration of a permanent alternate access route to St. Martha's Regional Hospital and Highway 337.

Motion Carried

Request for Tax Write-off of One Water Account and Inactive Tax Accounts with Balances

Mrs. Duggan provided background to the various accounts that are being put forward by staff for write-offs of tax accounts, for reasons of those amounts being uncollectable. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council write-off a balance on one water utility account and the taxes on inactive accounts from the 2026 PVSC Tax Roll, in the total amount of $1,458.86.

Motion Carried

Discussion Regarding the Consideration of a By-law Officer Position

Ms. Schumacher provided the committee with an update regarding past conversations about the Noise By-law, Dog Control, and the idea of looking at the by-law officer position. She asked members of the committee for preliminary ideas and feedback on the idea, to help to guide staff in preparing a proposal. She noted that the current contract with the SPCA for dog control services would be expiring on March 31, 2026. A suggestion was made to look at options for contractors to supplement elements of the dog control portfolio. Discussion followed.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards

Heritage Museum

- The next meeting will take place on February 2nd

Antigonish Arena Association

- Meeting to be scheduled

Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

- Workshop scheduled for February 11th.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management (ERSWM)

- Meeting January 29th

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

- Received free books and those are being divided between the seven branches, as well as being distributed to groups and individuals in need. Event on February 2nd at the library regarding the dedication of the community room. No update on funding concerns.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

- Meeting on January 29th

Helping Healthcare in Antigonish

- Meeting in April

Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS)

- Meeting on January 28th

Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA)

- Met earlier in the day and talked about library programs and policies and services.

Antigonish Community Transit Society (ACTS)

- Meeting yesterday cancelled due to weather.

Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Office (AREMO)

- Met earlier in the month.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

- Meeting on February 6th

In-Camera Items

There were no in-camera items.

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That Committee of the Whole meeting adjourn at 9:01 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO