MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 6:00pm
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 Meaghan MacNeil, Physical Activity Coordinator Denise Dunn, Housing Accelerator Fund Coordinator
Others Present:	Gallery (by Zoom and in-person)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. Mrs. Donovan asked to add an item regarding R.K. MacDonald Board Appointments.

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 6:05pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee adjourns the in-camera session at 6:27 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council enter into an easement agreement in perpetuity with the property owner at PIDs 10118768 and 10118750 for the purpose of constructing a connector trail and provide a one-time payment of $60,000 for the use of the land, contingent on both property owners agreeing to the easement.

Motion Carried

Ms. MacNeil left the meeting at 6:30pm.

Consideration of the May 26, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of May 26, 2026. Deputy Warden Dunbar noted an error on page three in the minutes regarding the NSCC residence letter item. Staff noted that the text would be updated to reflect that Mrs. Donovan reviewed correspondence on the matter. Hearing no further concerns, the minutes were accepted as amended.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

New Business

Regional Letter Regarding Cellular Service

Mrs. Donovan spoke to a letter that has been put forward by the Strait Area Chiefs, Mayors, and Wardens regarding concerns with cellular service access in the region.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves approve signing the joint letter from the Strait Area Chiefs, Mayors, and Wardens to Minister Fred Tilly, Minister of Public Works, regarding cellular service concerns in the region.

Motion Carried.

Audit Committee Appointment

Mrs. Donovan spoke to the memo from staff recommending the re-appointment of Mr. Mattie to the Audit Committee. Questions followed regarding the term of the appointment.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council re-appoint Robert Mattie as a member of the Municipal Audit Committee for a one-year term, effective until July 2027.

Motion Carried.

Housing Accelerator Fund – Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant Policy Spring 2026 Awards

Ms. Dunn spoke to the applications that were received for funding in the spring 2026 round of grants for non-profit affordable housing program.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council awards a grant in the amount of $95,245.90 to the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society as part of the Spring 2026 round of the Housing Accelerator Fund Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant program.

Motion Carried.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council awards a grant in the amount of $54,754.10 to the Naomi Society as part of the Spring 2026 round of the Housing Accelerator Fund Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant program.

Motion Carried.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Donovan provided a detailed review of the summary of events and initiatives that were listed in the staff report that was included in the agenda package. She noted that the RCMP monthly summary for April was also included for the committee's information.

Community Events

- Councillor Mattie shared that he attended the ceremony at St. FX where the Jeffery Murray Award for Accessible and Inclusive Communities was given to Randy Crouse for his contributions to inclusion and his leadership with the *Antigonish Challenger Baseball* program. He also attended an RK MacDonald Meeting, and a Happy Cities community transit update meeting. An upcoming meeting regarding the proposed design of bus routes is scheduled and councillors were encouraged to attend.
- Councillor McNamara that on June 30th there will be second Summer Kick Off for children at the Havre Boucher Playground at 5pm, where there will be a bouncy castle, barbeque, face painting, and a foam party for the children. A Daryl

MacLean Beach Party is happening on July 11th at the community centre, starting at 7pm and running until midnight. He noted that this event was sold out last year and is expected to also be sold out this year. He also shared that there is a wellness day on June 13th at the Havre Boucher Community Centre starting at 10am with over 40 exhibitors expected. This event is a free event. Finally, the third annual Havre Boucher Fire Department Picnic is on Saturday July 4 from 10am-3pm with a parade, barbeque, activities, games, and a draw for a Blackstone grill.

- Councillor MacLaughlin shared details about the St. Joseph's Community Centre planning a Father's Day Breakfast on June 21st.
- Councillor Brophy shared that the Lion's Club had their last breakfast for the season, and will be back in the fall.
- Warden MacInnis shared that the Fireman's Breakfast was held in St. Andrews on June 7th. A roast beef dinner is being planned to support a community resident on June 20th.

Additions to the Agenda

R.K. MacDonald Board Appointments

Mrs. Donovan summarized a request received from the R.K. MacDonald Board regarding two seats for municipal councillors that are expiring at the end of the month. Staff spoke to the two councillors whose terms are ending this year, and they indicated that they are interested in sitting on the board again. Staff suggested reappointing the two members to the board again for continuity where the new building construction project is at a critical stage.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council re-appoint Councillor Shawn Brophy and Councillor Harris McNamara to the R.K. MacDonald Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That Committee of the Whole meeting adjourn at 6:58 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO