

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Thursday, October 5th, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron, Chair
 Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Neil Corbett

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Marlene Melanson, Recreation Director
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Regrets: Councillor Vaughan Chisholm

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:35pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Horne advised Council that the Road Name Change Petition for Capeview Drive has been removed from the agenda. The following items were added to the agenda:

- Potential Sale of Municipal Property
- Position on the REN
- Street Light Request
- Street Light Request

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warden McCarron called three times for any errors or omissions in the September 19th Committee of the Whole minutes.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 19th be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING THE SHARED STRATEGY FOR ADVANCING RECREATION IN NOVA SCOTIA

Ms. Melanson reviewed the history of the recreation department including the MPAL program which is currently in second 5 year term with the provincial MPAL program. In Spring 2018 that plan expires and a new 5 year MPAL plan must be developed. Renewing the Municipality's MPAL partnership in 2018 will require the Municipality to update its five year physical activity plan. The development of this new plan is also an ideal opportunity to obtain community input to update the recreation department's operational plan. Developing a new Recreation/MPAL plan will provide us with a better understanding and increased knowledge of the recreation needs of Antigonish County residents by providing accurate information in order to make strategic decisions on the future development of recreation in Antigonish County.

The Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia was adopted by the province of Nova Scotia in 2015. The strategy aligns nicely with Canada's national framework "A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 – Pathways to Wellbeing". The national framework was endorsed by Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation and supported by the Government of Canada in February 2015.

Ms. Melanson recommended to the Committee that Municipal Council adopt the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia to help guide the development of a new Recreation/MPAL plan.

There is no cost associated with adopting the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia. The development of the a new recreation/MPAL will plan will cost between \$10,000 to \$12,000 with 50% cost sharing available through NS Communities, Culture and Heritage planning assistance program. Costs include the securing the services of a consultant.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there is any progress or interest in providing walking trails or sidewalks along the 337. Ms. Melanson said there was an active transportation workshop in June and she would like to have some recommendations before Council from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee by December.

Councillor Mattie asked about the accessibility legislation and how that ties into the plan. Ms. Melanson said that one of the goal areas is inclusion and access. When the recreation department creates their plan, they will look at the accessibility legislation and see how they can incorporate the accessibility into the plan.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council adopt the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY ENERGY PROPOSAL

Ms. Feltmate informed the Committee that on September 28th staff submitted an application to participate in the ***The Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program 2017***. The Committee was provided with a document with the details of the submission. Originally, staff reviewed three (3) potential sites for the project, and settled on submitting one site proposal. Each municipality or organization is permitted to submit a proposal for a maximum of 50kWh system; staff felt that it made sense to contain a project to one site to save on installation costs, panel upgrades and maintenance. The two (2) buildings proposed at the Solid Waste Management Site were selected in part because they allow the system to be wired and feed into one panel.

Based on feedback gathered from other municipal units, solar installers and municipal energy colleagues

along with the finances of this project we submitted a bid of \$.235/kWh, with max production of 65MWh/year this would provide us with a payback of \$15,275/year.

The total cost is estimated to be \$158,010. Payback would take approximately 11 years. The life of the panels would be about 35-40 years.

All applications will be reviewed in October and successful projects proponents will be notified the week of November 7, 2017. Once notified whether the Municipality has a successful pilot project, staff will request a decision from Council as to whether to move on the project and plan in the 2018-19 fiscal or in 2019-2020 budget year. Each approved project has 24 months to reach completion and be producing power.

Councillor MacLellan asked why it doesn't need three phased power. Ms. Feltmate said with this project there is a different type of meter that doesn't require the three phased power.

Councillor Mattie asked if each panel has to be insured. Ms. Feltmate said there is an insurance package for equipment. Mr. Horne said they are all rolled into our general insurance.

Warden McCarron thanks Ms. Feltmate for her work on this project.

EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE REQUEST

Municipal Clerk Treasurer, Glenn Horne, has applied and been accepted into the Executive Certificate in Local Government program offered by Dalhousie University and is looking for Councils approval to enroll. This program is offered online and provides an opportunity to learn from and share real world challenges and opportunities from senior municipal officials across the country. It runs from October – December, 2017. The cost of the program is \$2495.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve the request for Municipal Clerk Treasurer, Glenn Horne to enrol in the Executive Certificate in Local Government program offered by Dalhousie University. Motion carried.

TOWN & GOWN COMMITTEE

The Antigonish Town and Gown Committee has been reconstituted after a brief hiatus. This committee includes representatives from the Municipality, Town, University and Students Union. Mr. Horne presented the official terms of reference for the committee for consideration and approval. The committee is currently made up of the Warden, Clerk Treasurer, Town CAO, Town Mayor, University President, Vice President, Students Union President and Vice President.

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Town and Gown Committee. Motion carried.

HEATHERTON SKATEBOARD PARK

A community information session was held at the Heatherton Community Centre on Thursday, September 21, 2017 for a skateboard park proposal. They are looking at building a skateboard park close to the community centre. The piece of land adjacent to the centre has to be granted to the community group (Heatherton and Area Recreation and Skateboard Association) to use for the skateboard park. Turnout for the community meeting was very good. There are residents that are in favor and residents against and some that just have questions and comments. There were presenters from the District of Chester.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there was any interest in working with the group in town who is looking for a skate park as well. Councillor Dunbar stated that the group in town is only looking to have a skateboard park in town and this group is committed to building in Heatherton.

DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY SIGNAGE

In 2015, discussions were held with the Committee of the Whole regarding community signage throughout the County. Out of these discussions came the Municipal Signage Program, the first phase of which resulted in the new identifier signs at either end of the County on Highway 104, as well as matching signage at municipally-owned buildings.

Councillor Deveau has asked that further discussion take place regarding community signage. At the most recent Pomquet and Area Cultural Recreation Development Association meeting the topic on community signage came up. Councillor Deveau wants to know if Council is still interested in pursuing.

Councillors discussed the topic. Councillor MacLellan asked how the signs from Guysborough hold up in the winter. Most of the signs are off the road and hold up pretty well.

A concern was brought up about finding the exact location where communities start. Councillor MacDonald suggested touching base with Brian Ross from TIR, he has a book called The Gazette which identifies where each community begins.

Councillor Corbett expressed concern over the Highway sign coming from Cape Breton entering Havre Boucher, the sign is missing, and there is an Exit 38 sign but nothing saying "Havre Boucher".

Staff will revise the memo regarding community signage and take it back to Council.

POLICY 35 AMENDMENT - ARISAIG GLEBE HOUSE AS A TAX EXEMPT PROPERTY

A request has come forward to consider the addition of the Arisaig Glebe House (AAN01413996) for tax exemption. Part 1 of Policy 35 (Tax Exemption Policy for Non-Profit Organizations), would need to be amended to include this property for exemption.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council amend Policy 35 to include Arisaig Glebe House as a tax exempt property. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council refund the property taxes which have been paid by the Arisaig Glebe House for 2017-2018 in the value of \$1626.70. Motion carried.

POTENTIAL SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

Mr. Horne reviewed the potential sale of the former reservoir property in St. Andrews. The property is now considered surplus and the building is conserved decommissioned. The property is about 12,000 square feet. Mr. Horne looked at other holdings to figure out a fair market value for that property and worked it out to be about \$2000 based on the assessed value of ten comparable properties the Municipality owns. The purchaser would be responsible for all the transaction and migration fees and the demolition of the reservoir.

An agreement will come to Council in full detail on October 17th for consideration and approval.

Councillor MacFarlane asked how much property the Municipality owns. Staff can look into the property that the Municipality owns and provide a report to Council.

POSITION ON THE REN

Councillor MacFarlane is the County's representative on the Regional Enterprise Network and is having trouble getting to the REN meetings. They often meet during the day and he cannot make it. Deputy Warden Stewart said that he would like to sit on the Committee.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council appoint Deputy Warden Stewart as the County's Representative on the REN Oversight Committee. Motion carried.

STREET LIGHT REQUESTS

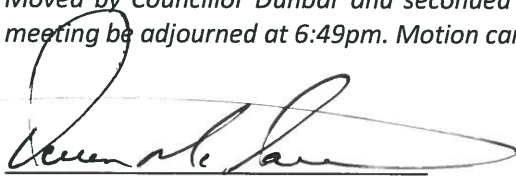
Councillor MacFarlane requests a street light on Lower West River Road. He will give civic address to Joyce.

Deputy Warden Stewart requests a street light at the end of the driveway at the entrance to the Keppoch.

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve the street light requests on Lower West River Road and at the entrance to the Keppoch. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:49pm. Motion carried.



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer