

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Russell Boucher, Chair
 Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Angus Bowie
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Shirlyn Donovan, Interim Deputy Clerk
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Regrets: Councillor Hughie Stewart

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:00pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Pomquet School Letter of Support
- Street Light Request
- Minimum Standards By-law
- Grant Approval
- Senior Safety Funding Request

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole minutes May 3rd, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (IN-CAMERA)

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as a matter that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session.

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Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that Municipal Council adopt the report from SPL Consulting. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the position description for Strategic Initiatives Coordinator be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the following staff appointments be approved:

- *Andrew Jessens be appointed to the position of Public Works Supervisor.*
- *Tony Giesbrecht be appointed to the position of Mechanic.*
- *Shirlyn Donovan be appointed to the position of Strategic Initiatives Coordinator.*

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee recommends to Municipal Council that a public competition be initiated for the position of Collection Vehicle Operator. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:35pm. Motion carried.

CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Committee was provided with a preliminary list capital projects for Fiscal 2016/17. Ms. Duggan went through the list line by line for the committee's approval. The capital budget will be approved with the overall budget on May 24th.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee was provided with recommendations for the Community Partnership Grants. The floor was opened up for questions from Councillors.

Deputy Warden McCarron asked about the Care Van funding. Ms. Duggan said that the County committed to 5 years of funding at \$1000 per year and that term is up. She also highlighted that there are other financial asks that come throughout the year and that we have a miscellaneous budget that the funding can come out of.

Councillor MacLellan asked about Our Food Store, who this organization is. Councillor MacLellan would like more information on this group.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Community Partnership Recommendations be approved as presented. Motion carried.

There are 3 applications which staff would like to Council to consider as they do not fit under the current policy (attached) and make recommendations.

4H Exchange – Council would like to obtain a list of all the participants and what district they are from.

Strait Antigonish Immigrant Support – Council has decided not to fund this project.

Challenger Baseball – Each Councillor would like to give \$50 out of their district grants towards their trip to Toronto.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING: STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The committee was provided with the funding request from Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Association. They presented to Municipal Council in June 2015 requesting \$10,500 for the initial purchase of the building and \$3,000 per year tax levy for maintenance and operation of the building to be disbursed monthly or in biannual payment. They are requesting funds from the Municipalities of Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness and Richmond, The Towns of Antigonish, Mulgrave and Port Hawkesbury and the District of St. Mary's.

The Committee would like to find out if the other municipal units will be contributing to the funding. Mr. Horne said he would look into this.

FUNDING REQUEST FROM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

We have received a funding request from the Veterans Memorial Park. There was damage done by weather to the front of the Cenotaph and they have to buy 2 panels (one large and one small) to replace the damaged ones. The cost of the panels is \$3600 and they are requesting to funding to help cover this cost from the seven municipalities within the quad counties.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Municipality contribute \$514.29 to the Veterans Memorial Park contingent on all other municipal units contributing equally. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

A request was received from a resident for a property tax reduction due to income and disability for property tax account number 09707956. For the past number of years this resident has received a 30% reduction in their taxes which translated last year into \$179.53.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council grant a reduction of 30% to the 2016 amount owing for tax account #09707956. Motion carried.

POMQUET SCHOOL LETTER OF SUPPORT

Councillor Deveau is requesting a letter of support from Municipal Council stating that Municipal Council is willing to lease the land of the old Pomquet School to the Pomquet Community Centre for \$1.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that Municipal Council send a letter of support to the province stating that if the Pomquet Community Centre project moves forward, they will lease the land to the group for \$1.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST

Councillor Chisholm is requesting a street light at the end of Trotters Lane. There was previously one there but the light was removed and residents would like it replaced.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that Municipal Council approve the request for a street light in the cul-de-sac of Trotters Lane. Motion carried.

MINIMUM STANDARDS BY-LAW

Councillor MacFarlane asked that the Committee take another look at the minimum standards by-law. Mr. Horne provided the committee with a Minimum Standards By-law from Wolfville which they felt was a little bit too broad. Councillor MacFarlane is suggesting something similar but focusing mainly on abandoned buildings in residential areas.

GRANT APPROVAL

Councillor MacLellan has received a grant request from the Holy Rosary Church in Ballentynes Cove to celebrate community heritage for \$1000. Because this is a religious organization the funding request must be approved by Council. Council agreed to approve this request.

SENIOR SAFETY FUNDING REQUEST

Senior Safety is looking for funding to purchase a mascot and is requesting funding from the Town and the County. Councillor Deveau will get more information and bring it back to the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Bowie that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:58pm. Motion carried.

Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer