

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 5:30 pm
Board Room
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

1. **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:32pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Horne noted an addition: In-Camera, Personnel Matters.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan
Seconded By Councillor Deveau

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of May 15th Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron asked for any errors or omissions in the minutes of May 15th, 2018.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 15th, 2018 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Warden McCarron asked for any business arising from the minutes. Councillor MacDonald asked for an update on the meeting being scheduled with the local MP and MLAs. Mrs. Schumacher provided an update on the steps taken by staff to date.

5. **Budget Deliberations**

Mrs. Duggan provided the Committee with an overview of the rates, noting the \$2 increase in the streetlight rate for Crockett Court. The Committee was asked whether they would consider increasing the residential sewer flat/unit rate by CPI, which this year is 1.7%, to offset the CPI increase in expenses for this utility. Consensus was provided to proceed with this increase.

The question was then asked regarding whether the commercial and industrial sewer rates should also increase; an increase of 1 cent per square foot is proposed. Consensus from the Committee was to proceed with this increase.

a. **Review of Complete Operating Budget**

Mr. Duggan then provided the Committee with a copy of the full budget, and began a detailed review of items not reviewed in the previous deliberation meetings. The Committee was taken through line-by-line, and explanations were provided for any figures that varied from the previous year's expenditures.

A detailed review was then provided for the internal borrowing from capital reserve, and the operating fund external borrowing from the Municipal Finance Corp. Mrs. Duggan provided an explanation about how the Municipality borrows from itself, by paying interest on those funds back to the Municipality's operating reserve instead of borrowing and paying interest to an external lender. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Duggan and her team were thanked for all of their work done to prepare the budget document.

Mrs. Duggan asked to maintain the low-income exemption threshold and combined household income to remain as they are, with the interest rate to remain the same, and due date to be set for June 29, 2018.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council maintain the Low-Income Exemption Threshold at \$125.00 with a minimum combined household income of \$25,000 for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor Mattie

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve maintaining the interest rate on unpaid taxes at a calculation of 6% per annum.

Motion Carried

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council set the due date for 2018/2019 municipal taxes for Friday, June 29, 2018.

6. Low Income Tax Exemption Requests

Mrs. Duggan reviewed the two low-income tax exemptions that have been requested. An explanation was provided regarding how these exemption requests fits in to the budget, and how these requests differ from the regular low-income tax exemption.

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a reduction of \$183.72 on the 2018/2019 Municipal Taxes for AAN#09707956

Motion Carried

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor Mattie

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a reduction of \$176.13 on the 2017/2018 municipal taxes, and a reduction of \$177.56 on the 2018/2019 municipal taxes, for AAN#071115679.

Motion Carried

7. **In Camera – Personnel Matters**

Warden McCarron asked for a motion to move to an In-Camera session to discuss personnel matters.

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Personnel Matters at 6:33pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor MacFarlane

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council hire Craig Chisholm for the position of Collection Vehicle Operator.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:36pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Warden McCarron asked for a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Moved By Councillor Deveau

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:36pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer