

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart, Chair
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Rémi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane (left at 7:30pm)

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Sean Fraser, MP for Central Nova
Nicole LeBlanc, Director of Communications for Sean Fraser

Regrets: Warden Owen McCarron
Councillor Mary MacLellan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Deputy Warden Stewart, at 6:13pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Fire Reduction Request
- Discussion About Graffiti in Monastery

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Warden Stewart called three times for any errors or omissions in the February 20th Committee of the Whole minutes.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 20th be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

IN-CAMERA: CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

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

Moved by MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Contract Negotiations at 6:16pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the amendment of the ESREN Inter-Municipal Agreement to include the Town of Mulgrave. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:31pm. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES DOCUMENT

Staff reviewed the Strategic Priorities Document that has been prepared as a summary of the planning sessions that were held with Council and staff in December. The Committee was asked for any questions or comments in advance of approving the document.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald, Seconded by Councillor Corbett, that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopts the 2018 Strategic Priorities Update for continuous reference at each Council meeting, quarterly updates and annual strategic priority reviews. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar, Seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council requests the Clerk Treasurer to schedule an annual Priority Setting update session prior to the start of the annual budget process. Motion carried.

INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the list of accounts identified by staff as being inactive, and brought forward for write-off.

Moved by Councillor Deveau, Seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council write off the following amounts on accounts deemed inactive:

Roll #	Balance	Background
05091438	\$638.96	moved mobile
05112478	\$65.25	wrongly assessed, changed to farm in 2013
07120850	\$55.67	moved mobile
07122896	\$2,136.20	uncollectable, includes tax sale fee from 2014, duplicate account
07129645	\$900.62	moved mobile
07140134	\$412.86	moved mobile
07153538	\$260.64	moved mobile
09018522	\$89.46	moved mobile
09218386	\$6.58	mapping error
09292209	\$1,206.32	Double assessed
09707093	\$817.74	Crown purchased land for highway

10259673	\$36.28	<i>moved mobile</i>
TOTAL	\$6,626.58	

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA ON-SHORE PETROLEUM ATLAS

Mr. Horne noted that staff and members of Council have been receiving correspondence and phone calls in response to the letter from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, which had requested a letter of support be sent to the Province. Discussion followed. Staff provided updates on the direction given by the Committee at their last meeting. This included reaching out to the staff at Guysborough, as well as municipal units in the basin areas identified in the Guysborough letter. Staff noted that arrangements were underway with the Departments of Energy and Environment to have experts on the subject to come and speak to members of Council at a future date.

MAYFEST VOLUNTEER REQUEST

Mr. Horne asked whether anyone would be interested in volunteering with security detail at this year's Mayfest event. Councillors Chisholm, Corbett, Mattie and Deveau offered to take shifts at this event.

COUNCIL REPORTS AT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A discussion was held on whether some committee reports might be better provided at the Committee of the Whole meeting, in the interest of facilitating discussion Committee matters instead of motions for ratification at Council. Staff was directed to look further into how this could be accommodated in the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Horne suggested also including an opportunity for Councillors to make note of upcoming events in the community, so that all of Council can be made aware of community events.

FIRE DAMAGE REQUEST

Mr. Horne reviewed a fire damage letter received from the PVSC. A refund of \$187.11 for property tax in 2017 is being requested as a result of the reassessment due to fire, in accordance with the provisions made in s.69A of the Municipal Government Act.

Moved by Councillor Deveau, Seconded by Councillor Chisholm, that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves a refund of \$187.11 to Assessment Account 02926547 for 2017 property taxes, due to reassessment of property destroyed by fire. Motion carried.


DISCUSSION ABOUT GRAFFITI IN MONASTERY

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a discussion regarding the graffiti in the community of Monastery earlier in the day. Mr. Horne provided an update regarding the information known to staff at the time about the incident. Mr. Horne noted that Warden McCarron had also reached out to Chief Prosper to offer support following the incident.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar, Seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council condemns the actions of those who applied the racist graffiti in Monastery, and extends their support to the Paq'tnkek First Nation. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:37pm. Motion carried.



Deputy Warden Stewart



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer