

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Monday, June 12th, 2017 at 4:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron, Chair
 Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
 John Beaton, ESREN

Regrets: Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 4:40pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Horne noted that a discussion regarding the request made by the District of Guysborough for the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex would be included as a sub-item under agenda item 3.

Moved by Deputy Warden Stewart and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

TOWN OF ANTIGONISH CANADA DAY REQUEST

Mr. Horne re-introduced the request received last week from the Town of Antigonish regarding the County's contribution to their Canada Day Celebration. The Town has asked that the County increase their contribution from \$4000 to \$8000, and a copy of the Town's event budget has been circulated to the Committee for information. Staff has also provided the Committee with a copy of the County's budget for the County's Canada Day activities; the County's expense for this event is \$10,850 of a \$28,500 budget, with the difference in the funding coming from grants. The Town is requesting that the County contribute \$8000 towards their \$35,000 event. Mr. Horne noted that the Town has confirmed that they will be contributing the requested \$24,500 towards the Capital Legacy project (the pavilion) proposed by the County. The Committee agreed to the one-time

expense increase, and noted that the expectation is that next year the County's expected contribution would return to the \$4,000 provided in previous years. The Committee suggested that a request be made to the Town that the professional photographer covers both the Town and County events.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a contribution of an additional \$4,000 to the Town of Antigonish Canada Day Celebrations, for a total contribution of \$8,000. Motion carried.

GUYSBOROUGH CHEDABUCTO LIFESTYLE COMPLEX

Mr. Horne reviewed the request that had been discussed at the June 6th Committee of the Whole meeting, noting that he had gone back to confirm that the District of Guysborough had made the same pledge to the St. Martha's Foundation campaign as the County, had not contributed to the Central Sports Turf Fields (but were not asked), and when Mr. Horne asked neighbouring units that had been solicited, they indicated that they have not contributed to the Lifestyle Complex (Mulgrave, Town of Antigonish, and St. Mary's).

Councillor Deveau asked for clarification regarding the contribution that the County made to the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre; \$100,000 was the contribution from the County for that project. Councillor MacLellan asked what was being offered to the County in exchange for the contribution. Mr. Horne indicated that the facility will be offering running track, outdoor skating facility, FOAL will have an office in this complex, and primarily this complex will provide outdoor recreation facilities. Of question is whether this facility will be of any benefit to Antigonish County residents; the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre is considered to be a facility that serves residents living in the east and that was the reason for the County's contribution to that project. Councillor Mattie indicated that a number of residents in his district were likely to utilize this facility instead of driving into Town or to Port Hawkesbury. Discussion followed.

Staff was directed to look further into numbers, and ask the District of Guysborough what their expectation for a contribution would be, for further discussion at the June 20th Committee of the Whole meeting.

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Mrs. Duggan, Director of Finance, introduced the first draft of the budget that was before the Committee for consideration. As presented, there is no proposed rate increase in this budget. Property tax rates remain the same; while streetlight expenses for those on NS Power accounts are decreasing, expenses for those streetlights on the Town of Antigonish Electric Utility have increased. One cent on the residential tax rate represents \$93,637 in revenue, while one cent on the commercial rate is \$8,742 in revenue. Sewer rates were also reviewed.

Mrs. Duggan noted that the low-income tax relief has increased, as then reviewed the impact of the water rate studies on the fire protection rates in terms of how the calculation is done. While there is a desire of a consolidated approach to charging these fees, the amount going to the local Fire Department (the levies) would remain unchanged. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Duggan then went through the revenue and expenditures noted in the budget in detail for the Committee. Explanation was provided where the organization of the budget has changed for ease of interpretation, although the final figures remain the same. Detailed discussion was held regarding the

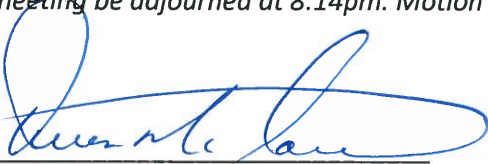
RCMP expense increase, expenses for waste collection and transportation, the Havre Boucher Village Commission, the Arena Commission, and the library.

Councillor MacFarlane asked about the internal principal repayment; garbage principal debt repayment, and the library debt being retired. Mrs. Duggan noted that staff looked to target the largest debts that impact the most County residents to the greatest extent when there are any funds at the end of a fiscal year. This led to an explanation of the benefits of the Municipality borrowing from itself utilizing reserves that are built for operating and capital expenditures instead of utilizing the Municipal Finance Corporation.

Members of the Committee were asked to submit any further questions to Mr. Horne and Mrs. Duggan by Friday, June 16th to permit circulation and a staff response in advance of the meetings on June 20th. Staff was thanked for the work done to date on the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:14pm. Motion carried.



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer