

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES**

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 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  
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Regrets:                   None

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:34pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Horne noted that item 6, *Further Discussion of Proposed C&D Changes*, was to be deleted from the agenda.

*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 both in the June 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 and June 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 Committee of the Whole minutes.

*Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor MacFarlane requested an update from Mr. Horne regarding the request from Guysborough for the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex. Mr. Horne noted that he was unable to get the exact amount that Guysborough had given for the Keating Centre at the University, but guessed the figure to be about \$50,000. Staff did not ask representatives from Guysborough what their expectation for a donation from the County might be; that amount was for the Council to determine. Other projects that the County has contributed to, which are outside of the boundaries but have benefits for County-residents

include the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre and the Port Hawkesbury Airport. Further discussion followed.

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a contribution of \$50,000 (\$10,000 a year over five (5) years) to the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex in Guysborough. Motion carried.*

Councillor MacDonald provided the Committee with an update regarding the direction given at June 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting. Councillor MacDonald noted that this business was discussed at the June OHS meeting, and the OHS Committee supports the idea. They are looking into developing a policy using examples from AMANS, and anticipate that work to take place in July.

Mr. Horne then asked the Committee whether there were any follow-up questions regarding the budget deliberations that occurred at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting. The Warden and Council expressed their thanks to staff for the work done to prepare the budget, and complimented Allison Duggan, Director of Finance, for her comprehensive presentation regarding the budget.

Mr. Horne noted that the Council stipends have not been reviewed in fifteen years, and staff is in a position for reviewing stipends and compensation to provide an update of where the County of Antigonish stands provincially with respect to this, providing an update later in the fall. Staff was given the go-ahead by the Committee to proceed with undertaking a review.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Antigonish Culture Alive**

Sarah O'Toole and Fenn Martin, on behalf of Antigonish Culture Alive, provided the Committee with an overview the economic impact of local arts initiatives (Antigonight, Art Fair, the ASAP Artist-Run Centre) over the past few years, and noted that, when looking comprehensively at the arts and cultural scene, the area was missing a dedicated staff person to support the cultural development interests of the community, and was without a dedicated Community Performing Arts Centre. The presentation before the Committee tonight was to introduce the idea of *establishing the position of a Cultural Coordinator in the community who would research, coordinate, support, enhance, and develop the burgeoning creative sector in Antigonish*. A copy of the proposal submitted to the Committee is attached.

Questions asked by the Committee following the presentation included the structure of the position (anticipated to be a full-time position with either the Town or County), and a question regarding how many different arts groups are operating in the area. The example of the Inverness County Centre for the Arts was also discussed. Ms. O'Toole and Mr. Martin were thanked for their presentations, and the Committee was treated to a brief slideshow of community art festivals and installations that have taken place in the past few years.

## **CONSIDERATION OF AN APPROACH TO THE DISPOSAL OF DEAD WHALES**

Mr. Horne reviewed the staff memo provided for the Committee's consideration, which provided a summary of the 2016 experience with dead whales washing up on beaches within the County and offering options for dealing with similar situations going forward. Discussion followed regarding how whales have been dealt with in past years, the challenges of balancing the environmental considerations

of protected beaches vs. the realities of rotting whale carcasses, and the range of costs that could be incurred during the disposal of a whale depending on the species and location of a beaching.

Staff recommends that the Committee endorse the second option provided in the memo; that the Municipality deny responsibility for the removal and disposal of dead whales and/or mammals when they are reported. It is further recommended that the County work with other municipalities and the UNSM to see the province take responsibility for the disposal of such carcasses, when reported.

*Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Deputy Warden Stewart that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council reinforces that the Municipality is not responsible for the removal and disposal of dead whales on public beaches and lobby the provincial government to take this responsibility. Motion carried.*

### **DISCUSSION OF A MEMORIAL INITIATIVE FOR WARDEN BOUCHER**

The Committee discussed options for a memorial bursary or scholarship in memory of Warden Boucher. The group noted that a bursary is already provided to the Eastern Antigonish Education Centre, where Warden Boucher was once a student, and that the amount of this award could be increased. Mr. Horne stated that he would speak to a representative from the school about this option, as well as Warden Boucher's family, in advance of the graduation ceremony taking place at the school on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Further consideration of naming this award and/or setting selection criteria for recipients can be further discussed for future years. Consensus to proceed in this manner was provided by the Committee.

### **ARENA COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Horne requested nominations for a member of Council to replace Warden Boucher on the Arena Commission.

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee recommends that Deputy Warden Stewart be appointed to the Antigonish Building for Youth Commission (Arena Commission). Motion carried.*

### **IN-CAMERA: PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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.

*Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session at 6:32pm to discuss Personnel Matters. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council appoint Linda Arsenault as Returning Officer until August 25, 2017. Motion carried*

*Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:53pm. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Horne reviewed the staff reports noted in the Committee memo that accompanied the agenda, with particular mention of the Asset Management information and link provided.

Councillor MacLellan brought forward correspondence from the 4 Valleys Volunteer Fire Department, which she was copied on, regarding a request to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to purchase trucks deemed surplus by that provincial department. Councillor MacLellan requested that a letter be provided by the Municipality expressing support for the Fire Department's request to purchase this equipment.

*Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a letter of support to the 4 Valleys Volunteer Fire Department as they seek to purchase a surplus vehicle from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Motion carried.*

Councillor MacLellan also brought forward a request for the Municipality to provide gravel for the Municipally-owned Burnham Morrill Lane in Arisaig, which would be spread by the local harbor authority. The Committee agreed by consensus that this gravel would be provided.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:02pm. Motion carried.*

  
Warden Owen McCarron

  
Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer