

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday October 20, 2015 at 6:30pm 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 Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hugh Stewart
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Shirlyn Donovan, Interim Deputy Clerk
 Tammy Feltmate, Director Environment, Safety and Community Relations

Regrets: Councillor Angus Bowie

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher at 6:31pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Dog Bylaw
- Woodlot Owner of the Year Recognition
- Chamber of Commerce Dinner Tickets
- Solar Energy
- Street Lights – Noah's Park

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee of the Whole minutes for October 6, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Courthouse Roof

A motion was made at the Committee of the Whole session on October 6th, 2015 to award the Courthouse roof tender to MMI Roofing and Carpentry. The company has indicated they would not be able to complete the work before the winter. The motion was rescinded and the tender was awarded to Mike Worth Construction for \$15,000 + HST.

Rescinded by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Courthouse roof tender be awarded to MMI roofing and Carpentry for \$16,387.50. Motion rescinded.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Courthouse roof tender be awarded to Mike Worth Construction for \$15,000 + HST. Motion carried.

Business Ability Banquet

The 2nd Annual Business Ability Banquet will be taking place on November 12, 2015. Municipal Councillors were asked to let staff know by October 20th who would like to attend the Banquet. Five Municipal Councillors have indicated that they would like to attend the Banquet.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Municipality purchase five (5) tickets to the Business Ability Banquet for Councillors to attend. Motion carried.

Consideration of Road Naming Policy

The process to name or rename a road in the Municipality is not currently formalized in policy. Further, the existing process is viewed as inconsistent and inefficient. The attached policy has been prepared by planning staff with input and support from municipal staff and seeks to clearly articulate process and responsibilities for the benefit of the public, council and staff. It is recommended that the Policy be adopted as presented.

Councillor MacLellan questioned section 2.1, the definition of "affected resident". In district 1 there are a lot of seasonal residents. Mr. Horne noted that all residents are considered residents because they pay taxes.

Councillor MacLellan also commented on section 5.3 that if the majority approval is not reached within 30 days, he or she may choose a name at his or her discretion in accordance with the Road Naming Standards and Guidelines. She is concerned that if neighbours are disagreeing they may name the road something trivial. Mr. Horne ensured her that all appropriate action would be taken to ensure that did not happen.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Municipality adopt the Road Naming Policy as presented. Motion carried.

Feedback on the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act

On September 17, the Municipality received a request for comment from the Minister of Agriculture concerning the Fences and Impounding of Animals Act and the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act. The Department of Agriculture has found these acts to be "repetitive and antiquated," and is proposing to amend or repeal both. Prior to proceeding, the

Department is soliciting input from municipalities as to how these acts affect them operationally. A draft response from staff was circulated to staff.

While we have no municipal bylaw, the Municipality makes use of the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act in instances where appropriate. Most often the municipality's intervention in such a case is to inform the owner of livestock about which we have received a complaint that we have the ability to arbitrate a resolution if one cannot be arrived at privately. In our experience this practice of facilitation has served our needs.

If the legislation were repealed it could necessitate an overhaul of our animal control by-law enforcement. There would be an impact on our financial and human resources.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Municipality submit a letter to the Minister of Agriculture outlining the Municipality's position that the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act NOT be repealed and that any amendments be considered in consultation with all municipalities. Motion carried.

Discussion of Regional Government

At its September meeting, Port Hawkesbury Town Council approved a motion to explore the opportunity for regional government with neighboring municipalities. We understand that a formal letter is forthcoming and this topic is likely to be raised at a Strait Area Mayors & Wardens meeting or other such forum. At this point no details have been shared or discussed among staff or elected officials. Acknowledging we have no formal request or information, time will be provided at the meeting for Councillors to share their thoughts on the concept of regional government.

Deputy Warden McCarron wonders about the effectiveness of a Regional Government for the residents. If a regional government were to be formed they would first want to look at a town-county amalgamation. Several Councillors were in agreement that they do not think it would be beneficial to the residents of Antigonish County.

Councillor MacLellan suggested that the other Regional Governments in the province haven't been successful other than the Lunenburg-Queens model.

Dog By-Law

Councillor Boucher would like a review conducted of the By-law Respecting the Control and Regulation of Dogs. Specifically he would like there to be a better definition of "attack" and under the Restricted Dogs heading, he would like any dog that is considered a dangerous dog to be restricted.

Ms. Donovan said staff will strike a committee of community stakeholders to conduct a review of the By-law and bring it back to Council for review.

Woodlot Owner of the Year Recognition

Councillor Stewart informed Municipal Council that Lochaber resident Martha Brown received an award from the province as a Woodlot Owner of the year. She had initially won Woodlot Owner of the Year for the Eastern Region and went on to win the Provincial Award as well. Councillor Stewart would like to have a plaque done up for her and presented at November Council.

Solar Energy

Photovoltaics (PV) or solar power is used to convert the sun's energy directly into electricity.) In 2012 a feasibility study exploring the potential of installing photo-voltaic solar panels at the Municipal Administration Centre was completed. It provides in-depth information gathered and analyzed by My Generation Inc & Appleseed Energy and provides 3 options for investment in PV solar panels, providing information for an 8-14 year return on investment (ROI), dependent on system size selected.

Photovoltaic is modular in nature so a system can be customized to meet the energy offsetting goals set. Antigonish Community Energy Co-operative (ACE Co-op) offers a unique opportunity to become a member and join a group of local residents and businesses in bulk purchasing.

A solar project would impact capital investment plan 2016-2018; amount would be dependent on project size. Based on the current information and opportunities it would be recommended to go with a 20-25 kWh system with a current estimate of cost at \$55,000. Initially there would be a comprehensive tender package developed at an estimated initial cost of \$5000 based on previous projects in scope in partnership with our engineering firm.

Based on the commissioned 2012 solar feasibility study by My Generation & Appleseed Energy, Council's identified priorities, ACE coop options and ongoing development of a long term capital investment strategy; it is timely to make a decision regarding solar energy and our municipal investment of resources. Installation of a solar energy system with a capacity of 20.2-25 kWh would significantly decrease our annual energy consumption and costs.

If Council moves forward with a solar PV energy project, a motion is requested to support further exploration of at 20-25kWh system for installation at 285 Beech Hill Rd for the 2016-17 fiscal year. This would include moving immediately to the development of a project tender package.

Mr. Horne stated that one of the prime considerations for Municipal Council is to use a capital investment to reduce our operating costs over the long term. This can be seen with the capital investment of the Business Automation System which has dramatically reduced our power costs since January. The purchase of solar panels would be an investment which would allow us to see another dramatic decrease in our power consumption and costs.

Mr. Horne thanked Tammy for all the work she put into the project.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Municipality move forward with a municipal solar energy project, system size 20-25kWh for fiscal 2016-2017. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Dinner

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual dinner on Thursday, October 22. Municipal Councillors have been asked who would like to attend. Three Municipal Councillors will be attending.

Street Lights

The residents of Noah Park subdivision would like to put in three (3) street lights. They are willing to pay for the lights but need approval from Municipal Council to get them.


Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the owners of Noah's Park subdivision be permitted to install three (3) street lights. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:11pm Motion carried.



Warden Russell Boucher



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer