

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Thursday, December 17th, 2015 at 6:00pm 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 Angus Bowie
 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
 Holly Glassford, RCMP Staff Sergeant

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher at 6:05pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Request for advanced funds from Antigonish Arena
- Request for street light on Beech Hill Road
- Consideration of Staff Training Opportunity
- Request to endorse a community energy forum
- Strait Regional School Board Fair Play Policy

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole minutes for November 24, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

PRESENTATION BY RCMP STAFF SGT. GLASSFORD

Staff Sgt. Glassford reviewed with Municipal Council information about the check stops which will be taking place over the next couple of weeks. The local RCMP have partnered with MADD and Crime Prevention to set up these check points.

Staff Sgt. Glassford reviewed her monthly report with Council for the month of November.

She indicated that they will be hiring for a Corporal position which she expects to be filled before April. They also hope to hire a Constable position to fill a vacant position. This will not happen before April 1st, 2016.

Staff Sgt. Glassford asked Council if they have any priorities they would like the RCMP to focus on.

Warden Boucher asked how often Constable MacPherson does foot patrol at StFX. Staff Sgt. Glassford said once per month and more during the month of September. He also asked how long it takes when a person vacates a position for a new person to be hired. Staff Sgt Glassford said that there will be no new hires until next fiscal year.

Councillor MacFarlane noted that there are speeding cars in his district during morning traffic, on the Highway 7 and along Old South River Road.

Councillor Bowie asked if calls were down in Paqtnkek First Nation and Staff Sgt. Glassford said they were down.

Councillor MacDonald asked if cell phone offences were included in the report and she replied that they are.

Councillor Boucher asked if cell phone reception was an issue for RCMP. She responded that it is not, they radio coverage has improved greatly in remote areas.

Deputy Warden McCarron asked what HR challenges she is facing with the force. Staff Sgt. Glassford said there is a disconnect between staffing requirements and headquarters. She works hard to keep her staff engaged and work as a team and provide a service to the public.

Warden Boucher thanked Staff Sgt. Glassford for coming to present to Council.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS POLICY REVIEW

Mr. Horne reviewed the information provided in the memo to Municipal Council.

Mr. Horne outlined some of the potential changes to the Policy and let Municipal Council know that the first draft of the Grants Policy would be coming early in the New Year.

INITIATION OF A REVIEW OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS POLICY

Mr. Horne asked Council if there are any particular changes or suggestions they have to the Council and Committee Proceedings Policy.

Mr. Horne suggested adding Old Business and New Business Sections to the Agendas which would create continuity among meetings. It would allow us to capture items which recur for a short time.

Councillor MacLellan stated that it does not mention what the quorum of Council is. Mr. Horne believes it is described in the Municipal Government Act which would be why it is not mentioned in the Policy.

Councillor MacLellan also asks about the Motion to Adjourn whether a seconder is required. Mr. Horne said that although we do not state that we are governed by Roberts Rules of Order, we do use Roberts Rules of Order which does require a seconder to adjourn the meeting.

Under Section 25 Negative Votes, Councillor MacLellan has concerns about the two month time period which is required before a motion can go back to Council. If it was initially a negative vote, it can only go back to Council with two thirds of the whole Council agreeing and it must be two months after the initial vote. It could be a timely issue and the two month lapse might be too long. Mr. Horne suggested with the two thirds of Council's consent it could be brought back to the next meeting.

Under Section 31.2 Rules of Procedure, it states that the Warden shall choose all committee chairs. Councillor MacLellan points out that this is not the way it is currently done. Committee chairs have been chosen in a democratic way.

Mr. Horne told Council we will be amending the Policy to more reflect the practice.

Mr. Horne also asked about the agenda packages that they receive. They are typically sizable.

Councillor Boucher asked if it would be possible to click on an Agenda Item and it take you to the page where that information starts.

Councillor MacLellan would like to see page numbers on the document as a whole.

2016 STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Councillor MacLellan asked if there is still a need to have a Skateboard Park Committee.

Fences Arbitration is on both internal and external committees, make change on document, it should only be listed as an external committee.

Antigonish Community Transit is not on this list.

Councillor Boucher is the representative on the Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee not Councillor Stewart.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Horne directed Council to the staff report provided with the agenda package.

REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OF FUNDS FOR ANTIGONISH ARENA

Antigonish Arena is asking for an advance of funding for cash flow purposes and will repay by February 28, 2016.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Municipality provide advance funding to the Antigonish Arena to be paid back by February 28, 2016. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHT ON BEECH HILL ROAD

The Municipality has received a request from Sobeys Express and Tim Hortons on Beech Hill Road to put a street light at the end of their driveway.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that Municipal Council approve the addition of a street light on Beech Hill Road. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF STAFF TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Horne reviewed the proposal from Quantum Communication regarding staff training.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Boucher that Municipal Council approve the proposal from Quantum Communications for a staff training opportunity. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO ENDORSE COMMUNITY ENERGY FORUM

Mr. Horne, Warden Boucher and Tammy Feltmate met with Frank Gallant who is assisting to coordinate an effort to bring together partners to build a community energy plan. The intent is to bring community partners together on Saturday, January 30th at the Assembly Hall at Bethany to begin a conversation about developing a community energy plan. They are asking the Municipality to send the invitation to the community to attend the forum. A consensus from Council was made to endorse the Community Energy Forum.

STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD FAIR PLAY POLICY

Councillor MacFarlane requests for Municipal Council to send a letter to the Strait Regional School Board outlining concerns about kids on school sports teams not getting an opportunity to play. He would like to see a fair play policy among all team sports in the Strait Regional School Board so that all kids get the opportunity to participate.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Stewart that Municipal Council send a letter to the Strait Regional School Board outlining concerns about their Fair Play Policy. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:39pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be reconvened at 8:17pm. Motion carried.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Bowie that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 8:36pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:36pm. Motion carried.

Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer