

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, December 20th, 2016 at 5:30pm 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 Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 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
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

Gallery: Travis DeCoste, Resident

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor MacLellan requested that the following items be added to the agenda:

- 9(d) Contract Negotiations - Library Update (in-camera)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 6, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor MacFarlane requested an update regarding the status of the cleanup order for the Dangerous and Unsightly complaint in West River. Mr. Horne provided an update on the progress to date, noting that the property owner has been very co-operative with staff, and arrangements for an exterminator to work on site had been made. The extermination contract includes a one-year guarantee of work done.

At the request of Councillor Stewart, Mr. Horne then provided an update on the timelines for the demolition order issued for the property in Lochaber. The order closes this Thursday (December 22nd), and a tender has already been issued for the work to be done. General discussion followed.

Councillor MacFarlane then provided some follow-up comments regarding the presentation that had been received from TIR during the December 6th meeting and the access guidelines that were distributed to members of the Committee following that meeting. Councillor MacFarlane noted that he felt that the access management plan needs to be revisited now that the highway by-pass is complete. Deputy Warden McCarron suggested that a meeting be arranged directly with TIR staff from Halifax, who deal with the access management plan development. Staff was requested to look into making arrangements for such a meeting in the New Year. Councillors also felt that a flashing light of some sort at the intersection of Beech Hill Road and the old highway may be appropriate as a means to bring attention to that intersection as it continues to be an area of concern.

CONSIDERATION OF CANADA 150 PROJECT

Mrs. Melanson referenced the staff report included in the agenda package, and outlined the work done to date on the informal discussions between the Town and County Recreation Departments, the Strait Regional School Board, St. Andrew Junior School, and Public Health to explore opportunities for a legacy projects to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. The idea of a multi-purpose outdoor structure at St. Andrew Junior School was the suggestion being brought forward for preliminary consideration, as it would represent a community investment that could serve the community year-round both for Town and County Recreation projects, as well as daily use during the school year by children.

Design work for such a project is estimated to be approximately \$5,000, with some funding available that could offset that amount. Members of the Committee were interested to know the number of people who would be benefitting from this structure, both in terms of Canada Day Celebration attendance and through use as the school. Mrs. Melanson noted that the School Board had indicated that they had no funds available for this project, and with the Committee's permission, staff could ask the Town if they would be interested in dividing the cost for this legacy project.

A question was asked about the availability of funding from other levels of government. Mrs. Melanson noted that the Canada 150 federal funding program was already maxed out for capital projects, but that Recreation staff was already looking into other funding and grant programs that could be applied to this project.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council, in consultation with the Strait Regional School Board, explore the feasibility of constructing a multi-purpose outdoor structure at Saint Andrew Junior School to mark the 150th year of confederation, and that the professional services of a firm or company be obtained for the purpose of designing and determining the construction costs of the multi-purpose outdoor structure. Motion carried.

CAPTIAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Mr. Horne provided an update on the status of this project, introducing a series of documents included in the agenda package to facilitate the construction of the three-year capital investment plan. Of these documents, the consolidated infrastructure inventory and capital planning template (spreadsheet) documents were highlighted as the most critical worksheets for the next phase of this project.

Mr. Horne noted that the object this evening was to begin to move projects from the inventory into the capital planning spreadsheets. Mr. Horne provided some detail of the project examples that had been done by staff that were already populating the capital planning spreadsheets. Councillor MacFarlane

and Deputy Warden McCarron requested that an additional information session be held regarding the sewage treatment plant, and that staff collect some information about examples from other communities in the province that are building new systems, and the guidelines that they are following in light of the province looking to adopt new guidelines. New Brunswick examples were also suggested for consideration.

When the recycling/garbage truck item on the capital planning spreadsheet was reviewed, Deputy Warden McCarron also suggested that staff look at options available for alternatives to running both recycling and garbage trucks, such as using a trailer for recycling behind the truck instead of a second truck. Discussion regarding funding options and opportunities, including programs such as gas tax and PCAP followed, and a question was asked about the timing of the Municipality's review of the Local Improvements By-law. Mr. Horne noted that he hoped to have a draft of that revised by-law before the Committee in January.

A number of projects were then highlighted by members of the Committee from the inventory list to be prioritized on the capital planning worksheets: Southside Harbour Sewer (Remi); West River Sewer Extension (Bill); Waterline to join Gasperaux and Fringe (Bill); Cameron Kenny Hill Waterline (Bill); Somers Road Water (Vaughan); North Grant Water (Donnie), with some discussion about doing some following information gathering about the extent of the waterline through Clydesdale.

Staff will prepare further information to facilitate this discussion and planning at a future meeting of the Committee.

The Finance Updates were deferred to take place after the Tender Awards.

TENDER AWARDS

Mr. Horne outlined the three staff recommendations outlined in the agenda memo for the Committee's consideration

Corporate Plan Facilitation

Councillor MacFarlane raised a concern with the idea of a corporate planning process and its scope, noting that he had thought that the process currently being undertaken would be similar to the strategic planning sessions that had been done with Gord a few years ago. Councillor MacFarlane noted that his concern came with the expense of the plan and that the money being spent was not being matched by other levels of government. He further noted that he intended to vote against the recommended tender award.

Deputy Warden McCarron voiced a concern with the waves of projects being brought forward by staff, and initiatives for change that had come forward recently and all at once and that projects or funding opportunities may have been missed or falling behind because we are taking on too much at once.

Councillor MacFarlane thanked the committee that reviewed the tenders for their input. Councillor MacLellan provided some insight into her impressions on the proposals that had come forward, and the purpose of a corporate plan as proposed in the tenders received. Mr. Horne also provided some input regarding the structure and purpose of a corporate plan. Councillor MacFarlane expressed further concern with the use of a corporate plan.

Councillor MacDonald expressed his understanding that the corporate plan would provide the public with an opportunity to provide input into the direct and goals of the municipality. Deputy Warden McCarron was concerned that turnout for public consultation would be low. Staff was asked about

trends across the province when it came to corporate planning. Mr. Horne noted that it was a trend, and that Guysborough was looking to launch the development of their early in the New Year. Further discussion took place regarding the intention and purpose of a corporate plan and Council's feelings regarding the appropriateness of undertaking such a plan. The item was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee's consideration of this item be tabled to a future meeting. Motion carried.

Water Utility Generator Sets

Public Works issued a Request for Proposals for supplies for two (2) back-up diesel generators for the Municipality's water utilities. Based on the quote received, staff recommend that two (2) diesel generators be purchased from Sansom for the quoted price of \$38,790.00

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the purchase of two (2) diesel generators from Sansom at the quoted price. Motion carried.

Mount Cameron & Route 337 Service Areas Water System Review

Councillor MacFarlane suggested that the review include the entire commercial corridor along Post Road and Highway 7. Mr. Horne noted that the ultimate intent is to review a larger area of the water system, but that the intent of the this current review was to select a small area to test the process and the new project management company being used in an area that was identified as requiring a short-term need to do a hydraulic analysis for flow and pressure. Mr. Horne also noted that work had been done on other parts of the system in the past by CJ MacLellan's, but the area being considered now had not been a part of those analyses. Mr. Horne noted that, when the finance update takes place, there may be room in the budget to conduct further review of the water system in the spring.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council award the tender for the review of the Mount Camera and Hwy 337 water system to Strait Engineering. Motion carried.

FINANCE UPDATES

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled for consideration at the January 2017 meeting.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the discussion regarding Finance Updates be tabled to the January 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that that the meeting be adjourned at 7:36pm. Motion carried.

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 8:13pm.

PUBLIC SAFETY, LEGAL ADVICE, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (IN-CAMERA)

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 Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss public safety, legal advice, and contract negotiations at 8:13pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Advisory Committee Appointments, as amended. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 8:55pm. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:56pm. Motion carried.

Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer