

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 5:30 pm

Council Chambers

Municipal Administration Building

285 Beech Hill Road

Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Approval of December 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes
 4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 5. Continuing Business
 - a. Consideration of Economic Development Options

Please refer to the memo that was previously circulated.
 - b. Consideration of Adjustments to Council Stipends

An upcoming change in federal taxation of remuneration for elected municipal officials is taking place on January 1, 2019. Further to the discussion at the October 16th Committee of the Whole meeting, staff has prepared a memo providing further information and a recommendation. Please see the attached memo.
 - c. Update on Single-Use Plastics Initiatives

Councillor MacDonald will provide the Committee with an update on the work being done by ERSWM on single-use plastic initiatives.
 6. New Business
 - a. Legal Services RFP

With the closure of Boudrot Rodgers, the Municipality is without legal representation. An RFP has been drafted and issued to retain new legal services. Mr. Horne will review this process and discuss interim measures.
 - b. Pilot Program to Remove CAP

In November, NSFM members voted to pass a resolution on the capped assessment program (CAP). They asked for work to be done to investigate ways to phase out the CAP, and requested that the Province allow municipalities to undertake pilot projects to remove or phase out the CAP.

This is an opportunity for the Committee to discuss whether the municipality would be interested in being considered for a pilot program to remove or phase out the CAP.
 - c. Discussion of Community Partnership Grant Funding

Warden McCarron will lead a discussion on the usage of a Community Partnership Grant awarded in 2018.

d. Street Light Request - Brierly Brook Road

A request has been received from a constituent that a streetlight be installed at the turn on Brierly Brook near Highland Building Supplies, because this stretch of road is perceived to be dark and dangerous at this time.

7. Community Events

This item provides Councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.

8. Staff Reports

a. Administration

On Thursday, November 29, Municipal Clerk Treasurer took part in a Strait Region CAOs meeting in Halifax. The CAOs from this region met with senior administrators from Innovacorp, Develop NS, Tourism NS, Nova Scotia Business Inc and the Department of Business. The purpose of the meeting was to increase familiarity with the Strait region within these agencies, improve our understanding of the activities of these agencies and identify opportunities to collaborate. It was also a good networking opportunity. All participants viewed the meeting as a success and something to be repeated in the future.

After some delay, a survey will be circulated as part of the Municipality's Economic Assessment in the coming days through January. This will be followed up by interviews with key business leaders to validate the results. The Economic Assessment is scheduled to be complete before the end of the fiscal year.

b. Recreation

The Recreation team has undertaken a transition to a new online registration program, with the launch taking place on December 14, 2018. Community outreach has taken place to notify recreation program users, and registration for winter swim programs opens December 19th. The Recreation Department website has been rebuilt to accommodate the new layout for this software.

The Recreation Department is partnering with the Early Childhood Educators from the Strait Regional Centre of Education in the delivery of the before-and-after school pre-primary program at East Antigonish Education Centre.

The Facility Access Programs (free winter swim and skate activities) kicked off on December 9th. These programs are done in partnership with the Town of Antigonish and Paqtnkek Health Centre.

9. Additions to the Agenda

10. In Camera Items

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as that which a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session to discuss Contract Negotiations. Materials will follow.

11. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 6:25pm

Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Thank You from ACALA
- TIR Snow Removal

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of the November 20, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 20, 2018 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

Continuing Business

Broadband and Cellular Advocacy Updates

Ms. Donovan provided up update on broadband and cellular advocacy in the past several months.

New Business

NS 55+ Games Society Co-Chair Appointment

Moved By Councillor MacFarlane
Seconded By Councillor Deveau

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council appoint Councillor Vaughan Chisholm as the co-chair for the 2019 Nova Scotia Provincial 55+ Games, Antigonish Society.

Motion Carried

Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

Sharon Murray from Historic Nova Scotia presented on an initiative with Dalhousie University to tell stories about Nova Scotia. This is an online app, StFX University has agreed to participate and they are hoping that like-minded organizations will follow suit.

Having trouble with technology at the museum, costs are significant to run fibre. On November 7th there was a flood in the basement.

Pilot Project with Nova Scotia Museum Association - employing a 'transcription tool' for archival components within their collection. Students from Fleming College will be assisting with data cleaning on Novamuse.

Antigonish Arena Association

Waiting for the audit and financial review. 3 members from outside have applied for the committee.

Antigonish Crime Prevention

November meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Eastern District Planning Commission

Meeting next Thursday.

Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

November meeting was cancelled due to weather. October meeting, EPR will be one of the five resolutions going forward to the province. There is no support provincially for the single use plastic bag ban. The change to the paint can program has been advertised.

Mr. Horne asked if there has been any discussion around the plastic style compost bags. Councillor MacDonald said there has not been any discussion to date.

Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

The committee met last Thursday; Antigonish library continues to excel.

RK MacDonald Nursing Home

Having trouble keeping staff; Shannex is offering a bonus for CCA's to take jobs. The finances are in better shape.

Community Events

- Chase the Ace St Josephs Friday Nights
- Chase the Ace St. Andrews Thursday Nights.
- New Years Dance Tracadie Hall.
- Chase the Ace Havre Boucher Friday Nights
- Wardens Tour in Havre Boucher, great attendance.
- Development group hosted a Christmas Gala in District 1 and raised \$2200, money is going to the foundation and affordable housing.
- Floor curling going on at Arisaig Hall.
- Property visioning of Bethany Motherhouse, 90% of deconstruction will be diverted from the landfill. A report will be completed.
- St Andrews has pickleball on Friday nights.
- Havre Boucher Wardens Tour, highway related issues dominated the discussion.
- John and Charlotte Mattie - wild blueberry producers being recognized provincially by the Wild Blueberry Recognition Group.

Additions to the Agenda

TIR Snow Removal

Staff are trying to gather information about the lack of readiness for the snow storm on November 22. RCMP should be involved because it is a matter of public safety. Warden McCarron suggested meeting with the RCMP to help put the pressure on TIR to increase their service levels. Councillor Deveau asked if we could get stats on the amount of roadways in Pictou and Guysborough and the number of staff.

Adjournment

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:54pm

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

MEMO FOR DECISION

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: GLENN HORNE, MUNICIPAL CLERK TREASURER
SUBJECT: *ELIMINATION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR INCOME TAX EXEMPTION*
DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2018

LEGISLATED CHANGE

Effective January 1, 2019, non-accountable allowances paid to elected officials will be fully included in income as taxable. Previously, 1/3rd of elected official's income was eligible for a tax exemption. According to the Government of Canada website, this change is part of the Government of Canada's plan to make sure all the taxpayers pay their share.

IMPACT OF LEGISLATED CHANGE

For the 2018 tax year, councillors T-4 slip will separate the taxable (2/3rds of stipend) and exempt share of the allowance (1/3rd of stipend). The amounts are distinguished because only the taxable share is reported in box 14, "Employment income", and subject to income tax and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) deductions at source.

For the 2019 tax and subsequent taxation years, the full amount of the allowance will be included in box 14 and subject to income tax and CPP deductions at the source. As a result, elected officials will be required to pay more taxes to the Government of Canada and therefore earning less income for the same rate of pay.

The Council Remuneration Policy was last amended in 2017, to align stipends with the average of comparative municipalities. Stipends also increase by CPI each year in an effort to remain current. The 2017 amendments also provide for a review of Council stipends in conjunction with any future staff compensation review.

CONSIDERATIONS

Due to this legislated change from the Government of Canada, elected officials will be earning less income because their total taxable income has increased by 1/3rd. As a result, municipal units in Nova Scotia are deliberating on what is the appropriate next steps on how to evaluate elected officials loss of income (please see attached document for status of council honorariums). Many of the surrounding municipal units have decided to increase elected officials stipend to counter balance the increase of taxable income.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is recommending that pre-tax compensation for Elected officials be adjusted to allow them to maintain the same levels of post-tax compensation after the 2019 laws take effect (please see the material provided by the NSFMM).

NEXT STEPS

The Committee is in a position to recommend to Municipal Council one of the options identified below. Alternatively, the Committee can provide further direction to staff to address any additional information it deems pertinent.

Option 1: Maintain the current Council Remuneration structure with no proposed increase.

Effective January 1, 2019, amend the Council Remuneration Policy to eliminate the following:

“3.3 One-third of the annual remuneration shall be considered an allowance for expenses incidental to the discharge of the duties of such persons as elected officers of the Municipality.”

This would result in a reduction of take-home pay commensurate with the increase in income tax. There would be no financial impact to the Municipality.

Option 2: Increase the current Council Remuneration structure to reflect legislated changes effective January 1, 2019

Effective January 1, 2019, amend the Council Remuneration Policy to eliminate the following:

“3.3 One-third of the annual remuneration shall be considered an allowance for expenses incidental to the discharge of the duties of such persons as elected officers of the Municipality.”

And amend section 3.1 as follows:

“3.1 commencing on January 1, 2019, elected officials shall be compensated for their services to the Municipality at the following annual rates:

- i. Warden \$47,953*
- ii. Deputy Warden \$29,423*
- iii. Councillors (excluding Warden & Deputy Warden) \$25,045*

This would result in an estimated “no change” in take-home pay, it is impossible for staff to know the exact tax impact that this legislated change will have on each individual councillor’s total taxable income. The cost to the Municipality in the last quarter of 2018/19 would be \$2,700 over the budgeted amount. In 2019/20, an additional \$11,000 would have to be budgeted for Council remuneration.

Council	Current Stipend	1/3rd Taxable Income	Estimated Increase in Stipend to offset Legislated Changes	% Increase to Current Stipend	Proposed Stipend Effective January 1, 2018
Warden	\$ 42,943	\$ 14,314	\$ 5,010	12%	\$ 47,953
Deputy Warden	\$ 26,349	\$ 8,783	\$ 3,074	12%	\$ 29,423
Councillor	\$ 22,428	\$ 7,476	\$ 2,617	12%	\$ 25,045

MOTION(S)

If the Committee deemed it appropriate the following motions are in order:

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Council Remuneration Policy be amended to reflect Option # 2.