
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 5:30 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 Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

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 5:36pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Councillor MacDonald requested that 5(c) - Update on Single-Use Plastics Initiatives, be deleted and referred to the January 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Horne requested to move the in-camera item up in the agenda. Councillor MacFarlane requested to add an item: Business around Beech Hill.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald
Seconded By Councillor Deveau

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of December 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron asked whether there were any errors or omissions in the December 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole minutes.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan
Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 4, 2018 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

In Camera Items

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property and Contract Negotiations at 5:40pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor MacLellan
Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:41 pm

Motion Carried

Continuing Business

Consideration of Adjustments to Council Stipends

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the upcoming federal taxation changes of remuneration for elected municipal officials. Staff has calculated an estimate of what the stipend increase would need to be in order to create a net-zero impact on after-tax income, factoring in that different members of Council are in different tax brackets. Staff are recommending a stipend increase of approximately 12% to cover this expected tax increase. Discussion followed.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor MacDonald

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council 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:

- 1. Warden \$47,953*
- 2. Deputy Warden \$29,423*
- 3. Councillors (excluding Warden & Deputy Warden) \$25,045*

and that these amendments be effective January 1, 2019.

Motion Carried

New Business

Legal Services RFP

Mr. Horne provided some background regarding the need to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal services for the municipality. This RFP does not require the municipal solicitor to be present at every Council meeting, but only when requested; otherwise, the services requested are fairly similar to what were offered Boudrot Rodgers. Discussion followed.

A question was raised regarding interim legal services. Mr. Horne reviewed options and the information that staff has gathered. Mr. Horne noted that the closing date on the RFP is January 18th, with a recommendation expected to be before Council at their February meeting.

Pilot Program to Remove CAP

Mr. Horne reviewed the summary of the request that came from NSFM to participate in a pilot program to remove the capped assessment program. Members of the Committee had a number of questions regarding how NSFM proposes to run this program. Consensus was given not to participate in the pilot, but staff was requested to reach out to NSFM and request more information.

Discussion of Community Partnership Grant Funding

Warden McCarron summarized a discussion that he had with representatives from the Arts Fair regarding arrangements with Music on Main regarding the use of Community Partnership Grants awarded in 2018. The Warden and Mr. Horne will be meeting with

representatives from Music on Main in the near future. The Committee was asked what they wanted to do regarding the request for assistance received from the Art Fair.

Moved By Councillor Deveau
Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide \$3400 to the Arts Fair to assist with unexpected outstanding expenses from their 2018 operations.

Motion Carried

Street Light Request - Brierly Brook Road

Councillor Chisholm spoke to a request for a streetlight at the intersection of Brierly Brook and Hawthorne Street, to increase visibility.

Moved By Councillor Chisholm
Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight on Brierly Brook Road.

Motion Carried

Community Events

Councillor Deveau noted that there is a fundraiser dance at the Antigonish Legion to raise funds for the family of Dylan Bowie, to help following his car accident.

Additions to the Agenda

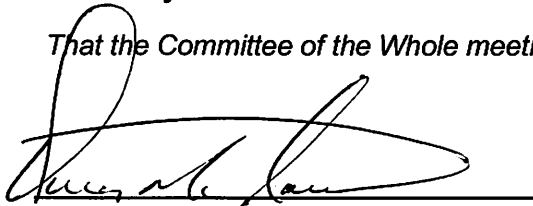
Businesses Around Beech Hill

Councillor MacFarlane spoke to the change of Beech Hill and the number of businesses that are in operation within a 1km radius of the intersection with Trunk 4. Councillor MacFarlane asked for consideration to be given to explore opportunities for branding and creating a name for referencing the area. Discussion followed.

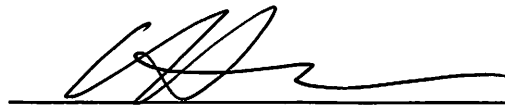
Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm.



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer