
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 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 John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Neil Corbett
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Remi Deveau

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Also Present: Dr. John Chiasson, Positive Action for Keppoch
 Mr. Greg Stewart, Positive Action for Keppoch
 Mr. Rodger Porter
 Gallery

1. 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 5:33 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the minutes. The following items were added:

- Recognizing Kristina Richard's Special Olympics success;
- Breakfast at the Education Centre;

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- Trees on South River Road; and,
 - Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of March 19, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 19, 2019 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Delegations

a. Dr. John Chiasson, Positive Action for Keppoch

Warden McCarron introduced Dr. Chiasson, from the group Positive Action for Keppoch. Dr. Chiasson provided an overview of the operations of the facility, with photographs of the different features at the site. A number of upcoming events were reviewed. Mr. Greg Stewart provided an overview of the financial aspects of the development of the site. The members of the Positive Action for Keppoch Board were recognized for their work. Discussion followed. Those attending on behalf of the Positive Action for Keppoch were thanked for their time and presentation.

b. Mr. Rodger Porter, Resident of Mount Cameron

Mr. Porter brought forward a concern that he has with the speed of the traffic at Highway 337 at the entrances to the Mount Cameron subdivision. The speed limit in that area is at 50km/h, but vehicles are accelerating at the hospital at exceeding that speed. Increased enforcement, or a way to monitor the speeds traveled along that stretch, would be helpful to improve the safety for drivers.

Mr. Porter also brought forward a request from those walking/running along the highway for a sidewalk or trail connecting the Town sidewalks to the Mount Cameron subdivision.

Councillor MacDonald provided some background regarding the efforts made by Council to address this concern in the past. Councillor MacDonald suggested Council send a letter to the Province to request a review of the speeds in that area. Councillor Chisholm suggested bringing the issue up at their next RCMP committee meeting. Other suggestions were discussed as well.

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council submit a request to the DTIR to conduct a traffic impact / speed study on the stretch of Highway 337 near the entrances to the Mount Cameron subdivision.

Motion Carried

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Strategic Priorities Update**

Mr. Horne reviewed the Strategic Priorities lists that were included in the agenda package. The timelines for regular updates were provided.

Moved By Councillor MacFarlane

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the Strategic Priorities Chart as presented.

Motion Carried

b. **Strait of Canso Investment Readiness Proposal**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the proposal that has been brought forward for the Committee to consider at the last meeting. Warden McCarron provided the Committee with a summary of the meeting with Ms. Mombourquette and Mr. Mann. Discussion followed.

Moved By Councillor MacFarlane

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a contribution of \$5000 towards the Strait of Canso Investment Readiness Proposal.

Motion Carried

7. New Business**a. Cost of Living Update for 2019-2020**

Mr. Horne reviewed the 2018 CPI increase, which for Nova Scotia is 2.2%. Increasing salaries and stipends by CPI is noted in the employee and remuneration policies. Consensus was provided to proceed with this increase.

b. Antigonish Arena Debt

Mr. Horne spoke to the Antigonish Arena debt and brought forward a recommendation from staff for Council to provide for an expense of 50% of the debt as an expense item in the 2019/2020 budget, in addition to the County's approved annual operating grant allocation. Discussion followed. Consensus was provided to include that expense in the 2019/2020 budget.

c. Nova Scotia Power Commission Discussion

Councillor Chisholm brought forward a concern that was raised by a constituent who had heard that Nova Scotia Power was closing its Antigonish Office and moving the operation to Goshen. A suggestion was made to reach out to Nova Scotia Power to meet with them to discuss further.

d. Old Highway #4 in Aulds Cove and East Havre Boucher Discussion

Councillor Corbett provided an update on the meetings that he has had with the Department of Transportation regarding concerns with roadways in his district. Erosion and overland flow is eroding the shoulders and causing damage to vehicles with rock chips. Discussion followed regarding the Operations Call Centre and future meetings with representatives from the Department of Transportation.

e. Streetlight Request

Councillor Dunbar brought forward a request for a new streetlight at the intersection of Dagger Wood Road to improve the illumination of that intersection. A suggestion was also made to look installing a flashing amber light at that intersection as well.

Moved By Councillor Dunbar
Seconded By Councillor Mattie

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of New France Road and Highway 104.

Motion Carried

8. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

The March Board meeting was cancelled; nothing to report.

b. **Antigonish Arena Commission**

There was nothing further to report.

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

There was nothing to report.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

The EDPC Board meeting took place on March 14th, where the budget was reviewed.

e. **Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**

The budget for the new year was approved. Discussion was held regarding the plastic bag initiatives. A student bursary program was approved.

f. **Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network**

Mr. Horne provided an update on the dissolution process.

g. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

Not all Municipalities have responded to the request for the cost of living increase.

h. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

The budget process is underway.

9. Community Events

The following community events were noted:

- Chase the Ace in St. Joseph's on Friday nights
- Warden McCarron provided a summary of the trip to Ottawa to accept the Sport Tourism award for the Special Olympics.
- Warden McCarron provided a summary of recent doctor recruitment tours that took place in the community.

11. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Kristina Richard - Special Olympics Awards**

Councillor Chisholm updated the Committee on the achievements of Kristina Richard at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi last month. A suggestion was made to invite Kristina at a future Council meeting where her accomplishments could be formally recognized.

b. **Antigonish Education Centre Breakfast Program**

Deputy Warden Stewart provided an update on his recent experience serving pancakes at the school and asked if Councillors were willing to provide funds to help the program from their Special District Grants.

c. **Trees on the South River Road**

Councillor MacFarlane asked if Nova Scotia Power could be contacted about dead trees along South River road at exit 34 on the old Highway 104. Staff will follow-up about this request.

d. **Railway**

Councillor MacFarlane asked if staff could get the Municipal Solicitor to look at the Railway Act, and what provisions are there to address concerns with crossings being removed or refused by the Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway.

10. **In Camera Items**

Moved By Councillor MacDonald

Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

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 7:57 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Motion Carried

12. **Adjournment**

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer