

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of April 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
 - a. Matt MacInnis - Lower South River Ballfield
6. Continuing Business
 - a. Highway 337 Discussion
Further discussions about ongoing concerns about speeds along Highway 337 from the Town boundary past the Mount Cameron Subdivision.
 - b. Discussion Regarding Railway Crossing Concerns
Further discussion regarding concerns with rail crossings and easements in the County.
7. New Business
 - a. Gorman Road - Afton Road Connection
Councillor Mattie is looking to have the Municipality send a letter to the local DITR office and local MLAs regarding concerns with road surfacing and maintenance on roads in the County connecting to the roadways leading to the new interchange with the 104.
 - b. Fire Damage Letter Request
A write-off for property taxes (AAN07153732) is being requested as a result of the reassessment due to fire, in accordance with the provisions made in s.69A of the Municipal Government Act. While the exact amount of taxes will not be known until the budget is struck, it is estimated to be approximately \$60.
8. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions
 - a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
 - b. Antigonish Arena Commission
 - c. Antigonish Crime Prevention
 - d. Eastern District Planning Commission
 - e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
 - f. Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network
 - g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

9. 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.

10. Staff Reports

a. Administration

- Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities, has prepared an update on the work done to date regarding single-use plastics. A memo for information is included in the agenda.

b. Finance

- Finance staff are working on the budget; budget deliberation meetings will be scheduled over the coming month.

c. Recreation

- The deadline for Requests for Proposals for the Trunk 4 Active Transportation Project closed on Friday May 3rd. Staff will bring forward a recommendation to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

11. In Camera Items

12. Additions to the Agenda

13. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 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 Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau

Staff Present: Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

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 5:44 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Two items were added: Contractor Request, and Streetlight Request in Lochaber.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of April 2, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Councillor Corbett

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of April 2, 2019 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacLellan asked for an update on the Nova Scotia Power item. Warden McCarron provided an update on discussions that had taken place in the last two weeks.

An update on the DTIR item was also requested; a meeting with the Warden, Deputy Warden and Mr. Horne is scheduled to take place in the upcoming weeks.

5. **Delegations**

There were no delegations scheduled for the meeting.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **St. Andrews Junior School Playground Fundraiser Request**

The Committee was provided with the requested follow-up information regarding student distribution in the County for their consideration. Discussion followed. The Committee asked staff to go back to Mr. Austen for further details regarding fundraising plans for the playground, as well as the amount of funds that are being requested from the Municipality.

b. **Volunteer Fire Department AED Request**

Warden McCarron reviewed the information included in the agenda package regarding the data collected by staff for AEDs in Fire Halls. Discussion followed. The Committee agreed that Fire Halls that act as community halls or centres and host events should have an AED within the hall for emergencies.

Moved By Councillor MacLellan

Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve purchasing AEDs for Fire Halls that are used like, or act as, Community Centres or Halls.

Motion Carried

7. **New Business**

a. **Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame "Friends Campaign" Request**

Staff presented the request from the Sport Hall of Fame for the Committee's consideration. Discussion followed. The Committee asked staff to investigate what contributions the Municipality has made to this organization in the past and report back.

b. MAYFEST Sponsorship Request

Mrs. Schumacher reviewed the request for sponsorship for Mayfest and asked if any members of the Committee would be interested in volunteering at the event. Councillor Chisholm volunteered.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a bronze level sponsorship for Mayfest 2019, in the amount of \$250.

Motion Carried

c. Chip in Fore St. Martha's Golf Tournament

Deputy Warden asked to hold this item to the next meeting, so that Councillor Deveau can participate in the conversation.

d. Streetlight Request - Cape Jack Road and Trunk 4

Councillor Corbett brought forward a request from constituents in his district for a streetlight at the intersection of Trunk 4 and Cape Jack Road.

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor Mattie

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a new streetlight at the intersection of Cape Jack Road and Trunk 4.

Motion Carried

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

a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

There was nothing to report.

b. Antigonish Arena Commission

Warden McCarron shared that the meeting of the board that was scheduled to take place was postponed and is being rescheduled. Warden McCarron provided an overview regarding the appointment of members and the number of members on the Board. Deputy Warden Stewart offered to step down from the Board.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor MacFarlane

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council appoint George Arsenault and Angus Bowie to the Arena Management Board.

Motion Carried

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council appoint Warden McCarron and Councillor Dunbar to the Arena Management Board.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Corbett
Seconded By Councillor Dunbar

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve an amendment to the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town and County of Antigonish Creating the Antigonish Arena Corporation to change the name of the agreement and all references within from "Corporation" to "Association."

Motion Carried

c. Antigonish Crime Prevention

There was nothing to report.

d. Eastern District Planning Commission

The next EDPC Board meeting is scheduled to take place on May 24th.

e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

The next ERSWM committee meeting is scheduled to take place on April 23rd.

f. Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network

Warden McCarron provided an update on the wind-down steps underway.

g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

Councillor MacLellan provided a review of the last library meeting, where library staff provided reports and updates on projects they have done. An update was also given on the adopt-a-book program, and various grants that the library has received.

h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

There was nothing to report.

9. Community Events

The following upcoming community events were noted:

- Arisaig annual Mother's Day lobster dinner - May 12th
- May 4th - St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre fundraiser for the Antigonish Town and County Palliative Care Society.
- Havre Boucher Chase the Ace has started again
- Havre Boucher Pickleball takes place on the weekends - good turnout to date
- Community Association in Havre Boucher has been formed - first project is a beach development oversight; senior's housing planned for the future

10. Staff Reports

Mrs. Schumacher noted that staff reports were attached for the Committee's information.

11. Additions to the Agenda

a. Contractor Request

Deputy Warden Stewart was contacted by two contractors who have asked to meet with him and speak to the Committee. They are looking to come to a future Committee of the Whole meeting. Staff can make arrangements for this delegation on a future Committee of the Whole agenda.

b. Breakfast in Lochaber

Deputy Warden Stewart requested that a streetlight be installed at the highway where the entrance to the Lochaber Community Centre is located.

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at the entrance to the Lochaber Community Centre.

Motion Carried

12. In Camera Items

Moved By Councillor Mattie

Seconded By Councillor MacLellan

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Personnel Matters at 6:57 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Corbett

Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

That the In-Camera Session be adjourned at 7:08 pm

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Chisholm
Seconded By Deputy Warden Stewart

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the individuals recommended by the Recreation Department for positions of After-School and Summer Coordinator II, Inclusion Support Leaders, and Recreation Leader II.

Motion Carried

Moved By Deputy Warden Stewart
Seconded By Councillor Chisholm

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve hiring JoAnn Melanson-Crossman for the May-August term position in the Tax Office.

Motion Carried

13. **Adjournment**

Moved By Councillor Dunbar

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:08pm

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

W. PATRICK CURRY

6 Sanderson's Way
Antigonish Landing, NS B2G 2L2

Mr. Owen McCarron
Warden – Municipality of the County of Antigonish
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, Nova Scotia
B2G 0B4

April 17, 2019

Dear Warden McCarron,

I listened with great interest to this morning's newscast on CJFX, which reported that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish will be petitioning the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) to do a study on Highway 337 with respect to safety and speed limits.

I am aware of concerns being raised in the past of the speed of vehicles on this highway in the section that passes the Mount Cameron developments, so with the Maples now fully operational and even more homes and dwelling having been built, it does not surprise me to hear that this matter is being revisited. I am glad that it has, as it is an issue that has been on my mind for some time.

I feel it is premature to lower the speed limit on that stretch of highway. Indeed, before adjusting the speed limit, I feel it is imperative that the County install appropriate curbing and sidewalks along the highway first.

Highway 337 has long been a favourite route for walkers and joggers, as Councillor Donnie MacDonald can attest (copied on this letter), as he himself walks this route quite regularly. It is a natural extension for people who walk or run along the Landing. As residential development in Mount Cameron and surrounding areas continues, we can only expect pedestrian traffic to increase.

According to the Registry of Motor Vehicle's *Rules of the Road Handbook*, "(u)nless otherwise posted, the maximum speed permitted on any highway in Nova Scotia is 80

km/h.” This is what I would consider its “natural velocity”. On a stretch of highway with no curb and a dirt shoulder, we naturally trend to a speed of 80 km/h. It feels like the appropriate speed to be driving. Posting a sign that lessens the speed limit to 70 or 60 will not change our natural inclination to drive 80.

However, if a curb and sidewalk were put in along this route, similar to what was put in place along Trunk 7 towards Green Hill Estates, then I think that you would find that cars would naturally tend to slow down, as the roadway would now feel like a developed area rather than a provincial highway. A new speed limit could then be posted to reflect this.

As I live in Antigonish Landing, I drive this highway daily. It can be quite dangerous as there are often joggers and walkers on the road itself, given that the shoulder is gravel. In my estimation, it is not the speed of the vehicles that is the main concern, it is that there is insufficient infrastructure for the pedestrians that use the highway also.

I would call on the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to fully investigate installing a curb and sidewalk along the south (Landing) side of Highway 337, with a plan to extend that sidewalk to the Landing when appropriate to do so. This effort, ideally, should be done in conjunction with the Town of Antigonish who should install curb and sidewalk up Bay Street to where Mount Cameron begins. I will copy this letter to Mayor Laurie Boucher for her consideration, also.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope Council will work towards creating a safe environment for the drivers, pedestrians, and residents that use Highway 337. It is wonderful that there has been such development on Mount Cameron, but Council must ensure that the infrastructure is in place to support it.

Sincerely,



W. Patrick Curry

- cc. Councillor Donnie MacDonald - Municipality of the County of Antigonish
- cc. Glenn Horne – Clerk/Treasurer, Municipality of the County of Antigonish
- cc. Mayor Laurie Boucher – Town of Antigonish
- cc. Jeff Lawrence – CAO, Town of Antigonish
- cc. Hon. Randy Delorey – MLA Antigonish
- cc. Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal - Antigonish

MEMO FOR INFORMATION

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: TAMMY FELTMATE, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
SUBJECT: **SINGLE USE PLASTICS UPDATE**
DATE: 07/05/2019

Reduction or control of single use plastics continues to be a concern for many municipalities across our region. Research regarding best options for action for our municipal unit is ongoing. The Town of Antigonish is currently undergoing a collaborative exploration of options for action in this area. This collaboration was initiated by a motion by Halifax’s Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee on December 6th, 2018. The collaboration is in early stages and as there are updates information will be shared. We have spoken with staff at TOA and will continue to share information and ideas with them as well as monitor the intermunicipal collaboration being led by Halifax.

Eastern Region Solid Waste Management staff and board is also staying on top of this issue. Recently a new non profit group called The Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) was developed. This is an alliance of nearly 30 multinational corporations (including several CPIA member companies) who have pledged a billion dollars toward preventing plastic pollution and managing the waste that emerges in several key global “hotspots”. These organizations who have joined the alliance can drive innovation in the value chain to cause change. This is one of the quotes from the article, “No one country, company or community can solve this on their own” and continues, “Addressing plastic waste in the environment and developing a circular economy of plastics requires the participation of everyone across the entire value chain and the long-term commitment of businesses, governments, and communities.” The full article can be found

here:

<http://plastics.benchurl.com/c/l?u=8792D09&e=DE562A&c=4A871&t=0&l=25A38063&email=rB49JedIAKS63Vy9zQitpg%3D%3D&seq=1>

Staff will continue to monitor this issue and find the right action for the County.