

---

# MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

## Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 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 Remi Deveau  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Neil Corbett  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets: Councillor Vaughan Chisholm  
Councillor John Dunbar

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

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 5:31pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Three items were added to the agenda:

- household hazardous waste update
- notice of upcoming provincial sessions regarding accommodations
- In Camera discussions - contract negotiations

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacDonald

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of May 7th, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

**Moved By** Councillor Corbett  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacLellan

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 7th, 2019 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr. Horne noted that a meeting has been booked for Councillors to meet with representatives from the railway company to discuss concerns raised at the May 7th meeting.

5. **New Business**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the plan to review the budget over the next week.

a. **Community Partnership Grants**

Mr. Horne provided a run-through of the summary of the Community Partnership Grant applications received. Each application was evaluated by a staff committee for compliance with the criteria outlined in the policy. Recommendations for proposed grant amounts were presented to the Committee. Discussions followed, and some minor adjustments were made to the recommended distribution of grants. Staff will pass along these figures to the Finance Team, who will incorporate them into the budget for approval.

b. **Review of Elective Travel Grants**

Mrs. Donovan provided an overview of the elective travel grants initiative that was introduced a year ago as part of the grants policy a year ago. Staff felt that the program had worked well; members of the Committee didn't raise any concerns. The Committee agreed to continue with program for another year.

c. **Consideration of Low-Income Tax Exemption Thresholds**

Mr. Horne reviewed the recommendation from staff to increase the low-income threshold and exemption amount. Calculations were provided for review, including the anticipated impact to the budget as well as a comparison of the thresholds and amounts given by neighbouring municipalities.

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald  
**Seconded By** Deputy Warden Stewart

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council increase the Low-Income Exemption Threshold to \$150.00 with a maximum combined household income of \$27,000 for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.*

**Motion Carried**

d. **Tax Billing Due Date and Interest Rates**

Mr. Horne spoke to the recommended due date and interest rates for Municipal Taxes.

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacFarlane

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council set the due date of 2019/2020 municipal taxes for Friday, June 28, 2019, and that Municipal Council approve maintaining the interest rate on unpaid taxes and sewer bills at a calculation of 6% per annum.*

**Motion Carried**

6. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Household Hazardous Waste**

Mr. Horne spoke to a proposal to set up a household hazardous waste drop-off facility at the existing Beech Hill Landfill, to replace the annual drop-off shared with the Town where the waste was shipping to Guysborough. The estimated cost would be approximately \$15,000, and the expense would be shared proportionally with the Town based on the number of Town residents using the drop-off. Discussion followed. Consensus was provided to continue with the Town for a written agreement, which would then come back to the Committee for approval.

b. **Provincial Consultation on Accommodations**

Warden McCarron provided a notice of upcoming provincial consultation by the province for regulations for accommodations, such as bed and breakfasts and AirBnBs, in the Province. The consultation is taking place June 7th in Port Hawkesbury, and June 3rd in Truro.

7. **In-Camera Items**

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart  
**Seconded By** Councillor Mattie

*That the Committee move into an in-camera session at 7:37 pm.*

**Motion Carried**

---

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacLellan

*That the in-camera session be adjourned at 7:49 pm.*

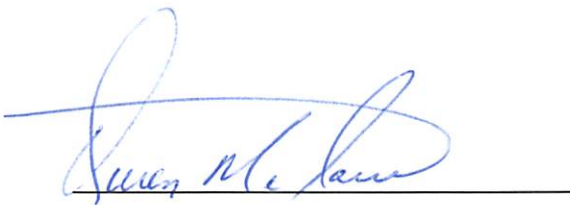
**Motion Carried**

8. **Adjournment**

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer