

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

**Council Chambers
Municipal Building**

**Thursday
November 19, 2013**

A Meeting of Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 7:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish, NS.

Present were: **Warden Russell Boucher, Chairman**

Deputy Warden Owen McCarron

Councillor Donnie MacDonald

Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Councillor Mary MacLellan

Councillor Hughie Stewart

Councillor Vaughan Chisholm

Councillor Pierre Boucher

Councillor Angus Bowie

Councillor Rémi Deveau

Also present were: Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Debbie Cormier, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Adam Rogers, Municipal Solicitor
Denise Fougere, Administrative Assistant, County Recreation
Honorable Randy Delorey, MLA Antigonish
Corey LeBlanc, The Casket
Bill MacCuish, 98.9 XFM
Matt Draper, The Reporter
Brad Perry, The Hawk
Gallery

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, *Warden Russell Boucher*.

Warden Boucher and Deputy Warden McCarron then presented Denise Fougere with a gift and flowers marking her 25 years as a County employee. The Warden thanked Denise for her dedication over the last 25 years and noted that Council and Staff look forward to working with her in the future.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Warden called for any additions or deletions to the Agenda as presented.

The following items were deleted from the Agenda. Items #4, 6 & 7.

Additions to the Agenda are:

- 1) Correspondence – Responsible Energy Action
- 2) Under 14(b), add Planning Advisory Committee Report (This Report includes the two items that were deleted above as items #6 & 7)

Min #2013-134 (Approval of Agenda)

MOVED by Councillor Donnie MacDonald, SECONDED by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Warden called for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of October 15, 2013 meeting of Municipal Council three times. Hearing none, he called for approval of the Minutes as presented.

Min #2013-135 (Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2013)

MOVED by Councillor Vaughan Chisholm, SECONDED by Councillor Angus Bowie that the minutes of the October 15, 2013 Meeting of Municipal Council be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

PRESENTATION – Honourable Randy Delorey

The Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Environment and Minister of Gaelic Affairs, MLA for Antigonish then appeared before Council.

Warden Boucher extended thanks to the Honourable Minister for coming to meet with Council.

Mr. Delorey indicated that as MLA for Antigonish, he wanted to assure Council that he is available to meet with Council if there are issues that Council thinks could be moved forward on a Provincial Agenda. He noted that, for the most part, Council represents the constituents that he does, so there is a common interest and a common goal and objectives.

Recently, the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations attended the UNSM Conference and commented on the goals of the Provincial government to work with Municipalities collectively to move this Province forward.

Minister Delorey indicated that his office is being set up on Main Street and Shannon Long has been hired as the Constituency Assistant.

Council members extended good luck wishes to Mr. Delorey. Warden Boucher thanked Minister Delorey for coming in and noted that this hasn't happened very often that a member of the Legislative has graced our Council Chambers.

MUNICIPAL SIGNAGE STRATEGY

Some time ago, Municipal Council discussed the idea of developing a signage (wayfinding) strategy and the RDA did some preliminary work on developing a signage program that would welcome visitors to Antigonish County, its various communities and points of interest within those communities.

At this point, Staff is looking for an indication of Council's priorities for signage. More specifically, is Council interested in community based signage or wayfinding signage?

Councillor Boucher indicated that Council members have the information as a basis to start a dialogue.

ROAD NAME CHANGES

- 1) The Eastern District Planning Commission and the NS Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal have been asked to comment on the proposed name for the Road currently known as Road D-3. Both have accepted the name Rose Lane for this road.

Min #2013-136 (Road Naming – Rose Lane)

Moved by Councillor Angus Bowie, SECONDED by Councillor Rémi Deveau that Road D-3 in Bayfield be renamed to Rose Lane. Motion carried.

- 2) The Eastern District Planning Commission and the NS Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal have been asked to comment on the proposed name for the Road currently unnamed in Upper Pomquet. Both have accepted the name Pear Tree Lane for this road.

Min #2013-137 (Road Naming – Pear Tree Lane)

Moved by Councillor Rémi Deveau, SECONDED by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron that a currently unnamed Road in Upper Pomquet be given the name Pear Tree Lane. Motion carried.

- 3) A Petition has been received from residents on an unnamed Private Road in Georgeville. The residents are proposing Northumberland Lane as the name for their road.

Min #2013-138 (Unnamed Private Road – Georgeville)

Moved by Councillor Mary MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Donnie MacDonald that the proposed name for a currently unnamed Private Road in Georgeville be tabled and forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission & the NS Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal for comment. Motion carried.

WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act for the Province of Nova Scotia prohibits vehicles from obstructing snow removal or any other winter maintenance that may be necessary. The Act also allows for such vehicles to be removed at the owner's expense. These Winter Parking Regulations require the approval of Municipal Council and the Municipal Traffic Authority with the RCMP.

Min #2013-139 (Winter Parking Regulations)

Moved by Councillor Hughie Stewart, SECONDED by Councillor Rémi Deveau that Municipal Council approve the signing of the Order for Winter Parking Regulations for 2013/14 setting out the period from December 1, 2013 to April 15, 2014 between the hours of 12:01 am and 7:00 am as the time in which Winter Parking Regulations will be in effect on roads/streets under the jurisdiction of the County of Antigonish. Motion carried.

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Councillor Donnie MacDonald then reviewed a recommendation from the ICSP Committee for the County to join the FCM-ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection Program.

The rationale for joining includes:

- Council would become part of a national local government movement in support of sustainability.
- Access to resources: human, educational and financial.
- Public recognition of the County's work re: Sustainability, which raises the profile both locally and nationally of the County.
- Reaching milestones of the program helps set goals and sense of accomplishment.

It was noted that there is no cost associated with joining this program.

Min #2013-140 (Resolution – FCM-ICLEI)

Moved by Councillor Donnie MacDonald, SECONDED by Councillor Mary MacLellan that Council approve the Resolution to join the FCM-ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection Program. Motion carried (Resolution attached)

CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence has been received from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers requesting that Council consider passing two Resolutions. One calls on the Minister Responsible for Canada Post to use the upcoming review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter to focus on revenue-generating services, not cuts, including financial services such as bill payments, insurance and banking. The second Resolution asks to improve the Canadian Postal Service Charter and make the upcoming review of the Charter open to public input.

Mr. Horne noted that he had reviewed the information at the request of the Warden and he expressed the feeling that if Council wishes to support the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, it is at liberty to do so. However, Mr. Horne added that Council not endorse the recommendations or the "Be It Resolved" clauses as presented.

Deputy Warden McCarron indicated that he wished to make a comment with respect to Canada Post. Over the last three months, he has been trying to address new mailbox issues in his community. Community mailboxes have been placed in areas where people were opposed because rural delivery was being taken away. A request had gone to Canada Post to have a community mailbox placed at the Seniors Complex at St. Andrews and Deputy Warden McCarron indicated that he has been given a complete run around from Canada Post. To date, there has been no satisfaction. The goal is just to have a community mailbox put in the Seniors Complex so the Seniors do not have to walk into the Village for their mail. This would be especially challenging during the winter months.

Deputy Warden McCarron noted that perhaps Canada Post should come to rural Nova Scotia when it comes to community mailboxes.

Warden Boucher noted, as well, that hours have been cut at the Post Office in Havre Boucher.

Mr. Horne will draft a letter to Canada Post and bring it back for Council to review.

- A response has been received from Department of Transportation & Infrastructural Renewal regarding the request from Council to lower the speed limit from 80 km to 70 km along the old 104 leading to the three way stop at Beech Hill from Church Street Extension.
- Correspondence has been received from the Miniature Horse Association thanking Council for their support.
- A note of thanks has been received from the Heatherton Activity Centre, as well.
- A card of thanks has also been received from Responsible Energy Action thanking Council for their commitment to sustainability in our community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report – November 19, 2013

Min #2013-141 (Tax Exemption Policy Amendment)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Bill MacFarlane that the Tax Exemption Policy be amended to come in effect for the fiscal year 2013/14. Motion carried.

Min #2013-142 (Water Utility Budget)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Rémi Deveau that the 2013/14 Water Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Min #2013-143 (Sponsorship – Strait Pirates Junior B Hockey Club)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Angus Bowie that the County sponsor the Eastern Canadian Junior B Championships in the amount of \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

Min #2013-144 (Uncollectible property taxes)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Vaughan Chisholm that the County approve the write off for taxes on Account #05471818 in the amount of \$1,334.36 due to being double assessed. Motion carried.

Min #2013-145 (Highway Signage)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Donnie MacDonald that the County replace two damaged Visitor Information Centre signs in an approximate amount of \$700.00. Motion carried.

Min #2013-146 (VIC Sign on Highway 104)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Mary MacLellan that the County, cost share with the Town of Antigonish, the costs for two VIC signs at Exit 32 from both the East and West ends at a price of \$600.00 each. Motion carried.

Min #2013-147 (Council Special District Grant Policy)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Angus Bowie that the Council Special District Grant Policy be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Min #2013-148 (Sewer Bill Write off)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Hughie Stewart that the sewer on account #02150026.00 be written off in the amount of \$583.40, which will make this account inactive. Motion carried.

Min #2013-149 (FCM Sustainable Communities Conference)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Pierre Boucher that 1 Staff Member and 2 Council Members be approved to attend the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference in Charlottetown, PEI from February 11th to 13th, 2014. Motion carried.

Min #2013-150 (Assistant to the Director of Finance)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Donnie MacDonald that Vera Rhynold be offered the position of the Assistant to Director of Finance. Motion carried.

Min #2013-151 (Typhoon Victims)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Mary MacLellan that the County donate \$500.00 in aid of the Victims of the Typhoon in the Philippines. Motion carried.

Planning Advisory Committee Report – November 18, 2013

Min #2013-152 (Amend the Antigonish County Subdivision By-Law)

Moved by Councillor Mary MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Hughie Stewart that the Application for an amendment to the Antigonish County Subdivision By-Law with regard to private roads by allowing the existing "six lot rule" Section 33 which states: "A maximum of six lots abutting an existing private road which does not satisfy Section 29(1)(b) and (c) may be approved after December 1, 2005" to apply to branch roads within an existing "Private Roads" Subdivision be approved on 1st Reading and proceed to Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Discussion was held before the vote was taken on the motion to amend the Subdivision By-Law. Items (1) and (3) on the Staff Report from the Eastern District Planning Commission have been sent back for additional work.

Min #2013-153 (Eastern Antigonish County Plan Area)

Moved by Councillor Mary MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Hughie Stewart that the amendments to the Land Use By-Law for the Eastern Antigonish Planning Area to amend the Definition of a Recycling Depot and to add a Recovery Depot as a permitted use in the Rural (R-1) Zone in response to a proposal by Yvonne DeCoste be approved on 1st Reading and proceed to Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Min #2013-154 (Amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy Land Use By-Law)

Moved by Councillor Mary MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Hughie Stewart that the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for the Antigonish Fringe Planning Area to re-designate six (6) properties to Commercial, and to permit large scale commercial developments by development agreement within the Commercial Designation in response to a proposal by Nova Construction Co. Ltd. for lands at the intersection of Highway 104 and Trunk 7 be approved on 1st Reading and proceed to Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Councillor MacFarlane questioned if topics such as pedestrian safety, secondary roads have been considered. Also has consideration been given to whether the existing infrastructure can handle such a development? Water pressure in that area is a concern as well and Councillor MacFarlane wondered if that had been addressed.

Mr. Horne indicated that the water issue would have to be addressed should this proposal go forward.

Committee of the Whole Report

Mr. Horne noted that there was only one report and that was from the meeting on October 29th.

Min #2013-155 (DEANS)

Moved by Councillor Hughie Stewart, SECONDED by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron that a letter be forwarded to the DEANS Board supporting, in principle, the proposed levy on fixed roof accommodations. Motion carried.

Min #2013-156 (Wayfinding Signs)

Moved by Deputy Warden Owen McCarron, SECONDED by Councillor Donnie MacDonald that the proposed cost sharing on wayfinding signs in the Town of Antigonish be approved in the amount of \$6,200.00. Motion carried.

Min #2013-157 (Chip Seal - Ohio)

Moved by Councillor Hughie Stewart, SECONDED by Councillor Pierre Boucher that a Petition to chip seal the Ohio East Road be supported and forwarded to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, the Department's Manager and local MLA. Motion carried.

Min #2013-158 (NSPI pole – 4-Valleys Fire Dept)

Moved by Councillor Mary MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Hughie Stewart that the Municipality take responsibility for the street light on the NSPI pole immediately outside the 4-Valley's Fire Department. Motion carried.

Min #2013-159 (Arena Additional capital projects)

Moved by Councillor Mary MacLellan, SECONDED by Councillor Rémi Deveau that the Municipality provides \$37,500 to the Antigonish Arena for additional capital projects. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Horne read a Notice for a Public Hearing as follows:

Pursuant to Section 51 of the *Municipal Government Act (1998)*, a Public Hearing will be held respecting the sale of municipal property located on James Street, Antigonish. More particularly the property is described as Lands, Sports Park (also known as the Antigonish Exhibition Grounds AAN#03394573). The property is assessed at a value of \$1,081,500.00. The purpose of the sale is to sell the property for a purpose that is beneficial to the residents of the Municipality.

The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Deputy Warden Owen McCarron reported that he attended:

- Committee Liaison Committee meeting
- Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards
- Legion – Annual Poppy Campaign launch
- Veterans Dinner at Legion
- Federation of Agriculture AGM
- H.M. MacDonald School Accreditation Awards Ceremony
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Councillor Donnie MacDonald reported he attended:

- Antigonish Heritage Museum Board meeting
- Affordable Housing Committee meeting
- UNSM in Halifax on November 5 – 8

Councillor Rémi Deveau reported that he attended:

- Crime Prevention Board meeting:
MADD is a member of the Crime Commission Association. Association members were invited to participate in the Launch of their Red Ribbon campaign where ribbons were handed out at a Pirates vs. Bulldogs hockey game
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Pomquet

Councillor Angus Bowie noted that the Feasibility Report being done on the Heatherton School has not yet been received but is expected shortly.

Councillor Pierre Boucher reported he attended:

- Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee meeting
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the School
- ICSP Committee Meeting
- Policy & After School Time Period Workshop

Councillor Mary MacLellan reported she attended:

- Antigonish Film Festival Project
- Nova Scotia Power Meeting in Stellarton where NSP was looking for input from the municipalities and the public regarding improved service.
- Library Conference in Truro
- Planning Session in Port Hawkesbury with the Eastern District Planning Commission
- UNSM Conference in Halifax
- Maryvale School for Anniversary & Accreditation
- North Shore Volunteer Fire Department for presentation of \$2,000 to be matched under Seaside Wireless Communications Program. This will also result in an additional \$750.00 from Nova Scotia Power. The Fire Department expressed their appreciation to the County for their part in this Program

Warden Russell Boucher reported that he attended on:

- UNSM Conference
- Chamber of Commerce Awards
- Havre Boucher Veteran's Association Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Antigonish
- Official Opening of new Municipal Building in St. Mary's
- Meeting held with the Chamber of Commerce Executive
- Havre Boucher Volunteer Fire Department also received \$4,750 from County, Seaside Communications and Nova Scotia Power.

On motion of Councillor Rémi Deveau, meeting adjourned.

The meeting was called back to order and the following recommendation was approved.

Min #2013-160 (Aquatic Supervisor/Assistant Aquatics Supervisor)

Moved by Councillor Rémi Deveau, SECONDED by Councillor Hughie Stewart that Daniel Boucher be hired as Aquatics Supervisor and that Olivia Ells be hired as Assistant Aquatics Supervisor in the Recreation Department. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.