



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Municipal Council Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

7:30 to 9:00 pm

Present: Warden Russell Boucher, Chairperson
Deputy Warden Owen McCarron

Councillors: Hugh Stewart Bill MacFarlane
Mary MacLellan Vaughan Chisholm
Angus Bowie Rémi Deveau

Also present: Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Adam Rodgers, Solicitor – Boudrot & Rodgers Law Firm
Shannon Long, Constituency Assistant, Antigonish MLA
Corey LeBlanc, Antigonish Casket
Matt Draper, The Reporter
Gallery

Regrets: Councillor Pierre Boucher; Councillor Donnie MacDonald

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 by the Chair, Warden Russell Boucher.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Boucher called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Horne noted that an additional piece of correspondence had been received, which was added as item 8) iv. Item 13, legal advice eligible for solicitor client privilege, was removed.

Min #2015-019 (Approval of Agenda)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warden Boucher called for the approval of the Municipal Council Minutes of January 20, 2015.

Min #2015-020 (Approval of January Minutes)

MOVED by Councillor MacFarlane, SECONDED by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipal Council Minutes of January 20, 2015 be approved. Motion carried.

Warden Boucher called for the approval of the Special Municipal Council Minutes of February 4, 2015.

Min #2015-021 (Approval of February Special Council Minutes)

MOVED by Councillor Deveau, SECONDED by Councillor MacFarlane, that the Special Municipal Council Minutes of February 4, 2015 be approved. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

VON

Dr. Roger Porter began by outlining the model embraced by VON – “Health Starts At Home” – and asked Council to consider circumstances and vulnerabilities leading to situations where individuals require assistance. Services provided by VON to individuals in the community include check-in services, socialization opportunities, hot meal delivery, and caregiver relief. Demand for services is expected to increase due to changing demographics, and VON is hoping to be able to extend services further into the county.

Ms. Anne Isherwood then provided further detail about the extent of the services provided by VON in the last year. This included 4500 hot meals provided by Meals on Wheels in the area in the last year, to clients in both the town and county. The assisted transportation program provided 320 rides last year, and the adult day program had 600 visits in the past year. The call-minder service, which provides computerized reminders for medications, made 20,000 calls last year. Other services provided locally include income tax assistance, and Lifeline support. Overall, VON Antigonish logged 3300 hours of time contributed by its volunteers in the last year.

Moving forward, the organization is looking to expand its Meals on Wheels program further into the County, and is planning on using pilot programs in selected communities. Community centres with industrial-grade kitchens will be hubs for such pilots, with volunteers being requested for food prep and delivery.

Dr. Porter and Ms. Isherwood were thanked for their presentation.

Antigonish Community Transit Society (ACTS)

Jerome Grant, Chair of the Antigonish Community Transit Society (ACTS), began by noting that the six-month pilot for introducing a transit system to Antigonish Town and County was six weeks away from completion. Despite some challenges, the project has been well-received in the community and has been experiencing growing ridership and an on-going evolution in response to feedback.

Ms. Alida Campbell, Project Manager, then provided an overview of the project, service changes that have taken place over the course of the pilot, and some statistics collected over the past several months. While the inability to provide a charter component from the onset, as well as lower-than-projected ridership from St. FX students posed some financial challenges to the project, community donations, sponsorship and support has offset this and allowed the operation to proceed within budget. The project has resulted in the creation of seven (7) jobs within the community (Project Manager and drivers).

Modifications have been made to three of the county routes, to minimize operating expenses while maintaining services levels to those areas, through the use of a dial-a-ride model utilizing a local taxi company subsidized to the ACT fare for the client. While the county bus would still be sent on these runs if the number of customers exceeded taxi capacity, this model allows the bus to be utilized for other purposes, such as future charter opportunities. Alida noted that she had been speaking with Marlene (County Recreation Director) about future opportunities to use the bus to assist in transporting County Recreation program participants.

The bus service has recently started a Saturday route within the town, and a UARB license amendment under consideration proposes to add a Tuesday evening express town route and allow

provisions for local charter services. The hope is that local groups will look to charter the bus for trips around the county, including local beaches, trails, and the Keppoch.

Discussion followed. Mr. Grant and Ms. Campbell were thanked for their presentations.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been received from the following:

1. New Environmental Assessment Registration – Brierly Brook Quarry
2. John Bain (EDPC) – Review of the Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs Working Group on Building Officials' Training and Education Interim Report
3. Alfred and Anne Marie Benoit – Petition to DTIR re: Request to pave the Pomquet Lake Road
4. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library to Hon. Diana Whalen, Minister of Finance re: proposal to eliminate rebates for the provincial portion of the HST on printed books.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Report – February 4, 2015

Min #2015-022 (Inter-Municipal Agreement)

MOVED by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Inter-Municipal Agreement Policy be approved as presented. Motion Carried.

Min #2015-023 (Highway 104 Toll Letter)

MOVED by Councillor Bowie and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that Municipal Council direct staff to draft a letter to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal stating Council's support for the use of tolls on Highway 104 for the stretch from Sutherland's River to the Canso Causeway, should that expedite roadway improvements, including highway twinning, for the purpose of driver safety. Motion Carried.

Min #2015-024 (Pomquet Development Society Letter of Support)

MOVED by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that Municipal Council provide a letter of support to the Pomquet Development Society for their efforts in constructing a new community centre. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole Report – February 17, 2015

Min #2015-025 (Antigonish Golf and Country Club)

MOVED by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Bowie that the Antigonish Golf and Country Club be granted non-profit tax exempt status. Motion carried.

Min #2015-026 (Heatherton Development Cultural and Wellness Association)

MOVED by Councillor Bowie and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the Heatherton Development Cultural and Wellness Association be granted non-profit tax exempt status. Motion carried.

Min #2015-027 (AMANS Spring Conference)

MOVED by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that Municipal Council provide sponsorship in the amount of \$1000 for the Spring AMANS

conference. Motion carried.

Min #2015-028 (Keppoch Fun Day Insurance)

MOVED by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that Municipal Council approve the request from Positive Action for Keppoch to contribute half of the insurance costs for Keppoch Fun Day, in the amount of \$425. Motion carried.

Min #2015-029 (Volunteer Fire Department Registrations)

MOVED by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor Deveau that Municipal Council approve the registrations of the Auld's Cove Volunteer Fire Department, the North Shore Volunteer Fire Department, the Havre Boucher and District #9 Volunteer Fire Department, the St. Andrews Volunteer Fire Department, and the Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

Min #2015-030 (New Glasgow Music Festival Program)

MOVED by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Stewart that Municipal Council proceeds with purchasing a full-page ad at a cost of \$135 in the 2015 New Glasgow Music Festival Program. Motion carried.

Min #2015-031 (Special Events By-law)

MOVED by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Councillor Deveau that Municipal Council approve the Special Events By-law on first reading, as amended to change the definition of "large" (Part 4(1)(e) from five hundred (500) to seven hundred and fifty (750). Motion carried.. Motion carried.

Min #2015-032 (Festival Antigonish Kilted Fundraiser)

MOVED by Councillor Bowie and seconded by Councillor Deveau that Municipal Council approve a sponsorship of the Festival Antigonish Kilted Fundraiser for \$400. Motion carried.

Min #2015-033 (Municipal Office Lobby Tender)

MOVED by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that Municipal Council award the tender for renovations to the Municipal Office lobby to Tate Construction. Motion carried.

MOTIONS

Second Reading of Amendments to the By-law Respecting the Regulation of Discharges to the Public Sewer System

The proposed amendments were developed using a sewer use model by-law from the Department of Municipal Affairs, with input from Department of Environment. The amendments are intended to update the Municipality's regulations concerning sewer systems, disposal of waste and discharges into the sanitary sewer. The existing By-law has been in place since the early 1980s with few changes. Since the by-law is based on provincial model, it is more likely to align closely with by-laws across the province and in the surrounding region. In accordance with Section 168(2) of the Municipal Government Act, notice of intent to pass this by-law at tonight's meeting was advertised in the Casket on February 4, 2015.

Min #2015-034 (Sewer By-law)

MOVED by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that Municipal Council give second reading to the proposed amendments to the by-law respecting the regulation of discharges to the public sewer system. Motion carried.

UPDATES/REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor MacLellan reported that she had attended:

- Two library meetings
- A planning audit meeting
- The Strait Region UNSM meeting in Port Hawkesbury

Councillor Deveau reported that he had attended:

- A special board meeting for Crime Prevention
- The Pomquet Winter Carnival

Councillor Bowie reported that he had attended:

- An Antigonish Community Transit board meeting
- A fundraising event at the Heatherton School

Deputy Warden McCarron reported that he had attended:

- A Joint (Town/County) Chamber of Commerce meeting
- The African Heritage Month Celebration at the Antigonish Library

Councillor MacFarlane reported that he had attended:

- The aquaculture conference in Halifax

Warden Boucher reported that he had attended:

- The Strait Region UNSM meeting in Port Hawkesbury
- The aquaculture conference in Halifax
- A meeting of the Working Group on Building Officials' Training

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

On Friday, February 20th at 4:30pm the People's Place Library will be formally acknowledged for winning the Great Public Spaces category of the Canadian Institute of Planner's Great Places in Canada contest.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Min #2015-035 (Motion to Adjourn)

MOVED by Councillor Bowie and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the meeting adjourn at 8:47. Motion carried.



For **Warden Russell Boucher**



Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer