
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2020, 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 John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Bill MacFarlane (by Zoom)
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk (by Zoom)

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 6:10 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Streetlight request on Summerside Road
- DTIR Discussion
- School Breakfast Program
- Property Tax Exemption

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of November 23, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

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

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 23, 2020 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Delegations**

a. **Local RCMP Team Introduction to New Council**

Warden McCarron welcomed the representatives from the RCMP and had members of Council introduce themselves. Sgt. Warren MacBeath introduced Staff Sgt. Dave Combden to the group. The Committee was provided with an opportunity to ask any questions.

A question about the railway crossing tampering complaints that were reported earlier in the week, and an update was provided regarding the actions that the RCMP is taking to address those concerns. Several questions and comments were raised regarding speeding concerns in the community. A general overview of the local detachment organization was provided for the benefit of the Committee. Discussion followed. Staff Sgt. Combden and Sgt. MacBeath were thanked for their time.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Amendment of the Policy on Municipal Council and Municipal Clerk Treasurer Expense Reimbursement**

Mr. Horne continued the discussion that began during Council orientation earlier in the month regarding the updates required to the Expense and Hospitality policies. The proposed updates to the policy incorporate the change made in June 2020 from Clerk-Treasurer to CAO.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Policy on Municipal Council and the Municipal Clerk Treasurer Expense Reimbursement.

Motion Carried

b. Amendment of the Hospitality Policy

Mr. Horne spoke to the proposed updates to the Hospitality Policy, which incorporate the change from Clerk-Treasurer to CAO which was made in June 2020. Questions of clarification were asked regarding the policy's role when alcohol is served at an event.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the proposed amendment to the Hospitality Policy.

Motion Carried

c. Discussion of New Year Levee

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with the opportunity to discuss whether or not to hold a Levee on New Year's. Consensus of the Committee is to not hold the Levee this year in light of COVID restrictions and Public Health recommendations to limit large gatherings over the holidays.

7. New Business

a. Public Beach Access

Mr. Horne introduced a concern that has been brought forward to the Municipality from a resident in Malignant Cove who has concerns regarding public use of a private lane to access the beach. Councillor MacLellan provided further details for context for the benefit of the Committee. Discussion followed. The Committee came to the conclusion that this particular situation is in the hands of the private landowners to resolve.

b. Discussion of Community Centre Support & Safe Restart Funding

Mr. Horne reviewed a memo that outlined work underway to access Safe Restart Funding from the Province. Further to discussions held over the past several months regarding opportunities to support community centres, the memo also outlines the proposal that the Committee requested to look at funds to provide some assistance.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve a one-time operating grant of \$10,000 be provided to:

- *Arisaig Parish Community Centre*
- *Havre Boucher Community Centre*
- *Heatherton Community Centre*
- *Lochaber Centre*
- *Mini-Trail Community Centre*

- Pomquet Fr. PJ Baccardax Hall
- St. Andrew's Community Centre
- St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre
- Tracadie Monsignor Donnelly Hall

Motion Carried

c. ACALA "Winter Work Rescue" Team

Councillor MacLellan spoke to an idea that has been pitched by the local ACALA office as a solution to concerns raised by a local senior who was worried about snow clearing in the winter, and shared it for the information of the Committee.

d. Road Name Change - Seven Pines Lane

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves renaming an unnamed private lane in West Side Lochaber to Seven Pines Lane.

Motion Carried

e. Daycare in Eastern Antigonish County

Councillor McNamara provided some preliminary information about opportunities that could exist in schools in the County where daycares could be incorporated. A suggestion was made to invite Paul Landry to a future meeting for further discussion about the topic.

f. Crosswalk at Bay Street Extension and Mount Cameron Circle

Mr. Horne provided some background into the pedestrian route that has been identified from Mount Cameron to the gardens being constructed at the former Bethany site. Where a crosswalk request to the Department of Transportation involves an application cost, the Committee's permission to make such a request is being brought forward.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting a crosswalk at Bay Street Extension and Mount Cameron Circle.

Motion Carried

8. Community Events

No community events were shared with the group.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Horne spoke to the year-end summary report that was included in the agenda package. He also provided an update on the ICIP applications that the Municipality has submitted to the Province.

10. Additions to the Agenda

a. Streetlight Request - Summerside Road

Councillor Dunbar requested a streetlight on the Summerside Road near 1648 Summerside Road, noting the curve and hill making the area dark and difficult.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at 1648 Summerside Road.

Motion Carried

The meeting was tabled at 7:35pm for the Council meeting and resumed at 8:31pm.

b. DTIR Discussion

Councillor Dunbar brought forward concerns raised by his constituents regarding the Summerside Bayfield Road, and his interactions that he has had with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal office. He raised concerns where regular maintenance was delayed earlier in the year because of COVID concerns, and grading was delayed in the summer due to dry weather, but now work on roadways is delayed due to the winter maintenance program and the grader being under repair.

Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to have Basil and Jaime Chisholm attend a meeting with the Committee where each Councillors will get the opportunity to go through their concerns one by one. Mr. Horne suggested inviting the Chief Engineer to attend along with Mr. Chisholm.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the Summerside Bayfield Road be considered for the RIM Gravel Program and be considered for paving or chip seal.

Motion Carried

c. **School Breakfast Program**

A discussion was held regarding requests for support from the local schools for their breakfast program. A request was made to provide a donation to one of the area schools, spurring conversation about whether such requests should come from Special District Grants. Consensus of the group was to deal with such requests from the Special District Grants.

d. **Property Tax Exemption**

Mr. Horne spoke to the low-income property tax exemption policy, specific to a request made by a resident who is not eligible for the exemption based on the guidelines in the policy. Regardless on not being eligible, the resident has requested that his request be brought to Council for consideration. Staff is recommending that the resident not be provided with the exemption. A suggestion was made to explain the decision to refuse the request in writing.

11. **In Camera Items**

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Litigation/Potential Litigation at 9:11pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 9:16 pm.

Motion Carried

12. **Adjournment**

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO