
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 11, 2021, 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 Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
Alisha Bowie, Administrative Assistant

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 5:33 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

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

- Antigonish Hiking, Biking, and Trails Association Grant Request item deferred to next month.
- Addition of Grovener Cemetary Damage Discussion

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of December 14, 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 December 14, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacLellan asked for an update on the daycare/school discussion with the SRCE. Staff noted that arrangements have been made to have representatives from the school board on hand at the January 25th Committee of the Whole meeting.

5. **Continuing Business**

a. **Discussion of Regular Meeting Date**

Warden McCarron introduced a discussion on reviewing the change in meeting dates from Tuesdays to Mondays, which was made a year ago, to review whether that change was working well, or if changing the date to the second Tuesday of each month would be a better solution. The Committee felt that moving meetings back to Tuesday evenings was a good idea. Consensus to move the Committee of the Whole and Asset Management meetings to follow on the second and fourth Tuesdays was also provided.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a change to the Council Proceedings policy to move the regular Council meeting to the second Tuesday of each month.

Motion Carried

b. **Strategic Priority Setting Session**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the agenda that has been prepared for the Strategic Priorities sessions that are scheduled to take place on the 19th and 20th of January, including sample questions included in the agenda to assist staff with session preparation, and the background information document that was circulated by staff just before the holidays. Councillors were asked to contact staff if they needed or wanted any full copies of the documents included in the summary that was prepared. A general overview of the guest speaker arrangements was also provided.

c. **Update on Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program Funding Request**

Mr. Horne noted that there is no further update on the solar application that was made, but Ms. Melanson was on hand to provide an update on the Active Transportation Corridor application. Feedback from the review committee for the application was shared, and the additional information requested by that review committee was outlined. Staff has submitted several of the outstanding items requested and is actively working to address the other requests made. This includes engaging a consultant to conduct a greenhouse emissions review and working with the Department of Transportation regarding right-of-way widths through the corridor.

6. **New Business**

a. **Road Name Changes**

6.a.1 **Wesleys Lane in Williams Point**

Councillor MacFarlane introduced a road name change request in his district.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve renaming a previously un-named road in Williams Point to Wesleys Lane.

Motion Carried

6.a.2 **Seafields Road**

Councillor Mattie introduced a road name change in his district.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves renaming B-4 Road in East Tracadie to Seafields Road.

Motion Carried

b. **Antigonish Community Transit Grant Request**

Mr. Horne noted the grant request documents are within the agenda package for the Committee's review and discussion. Councillor MacLellan asked if Community Transit provides updates regarding their operations. Councillor Mattie will request that the Society provides regular updates to Council, and also made a suggestion to have Community Transit come to a future Council meeting. Staff will look into having Antigonish Community Transit come to the next Joint Town and County Council meeting.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council that the capital grant of \$15,000 requested by the Antigonish Community Transit Society be approved.

Motion Carried

c. Community Partnership Grant Discussion

Councillor MacLellan spoke to a concern regarding how the exclusion of wages in the operating grants that are awarded, and how that exclusion is communicated to those who are applying for and receiving the grants. She noted that for many projects, wages are a significant component of the cost of a project and may only be partially funded by other sources but agrees that the grants should not be used for full-time permanent wages. Discussion followed, with particular focus on the role of these Municipal grants and their relationship with Provincial and Federal grants. Staff will look to adjust the wording to address the concern.

d. Discussion of a Letter of Support for Goldboro LNG

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with an overview of the Goldboro LNG project and noted that the Municipality has been asked to provide a letter expressing support for the operation and encouraging the Federal government to make an investment in the project. Discussion followed. Questions were asked in terms of future requests for funding, and the position of neighbouring municipalities.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada and Premier of Nova Scotia expressing support of the Goldboro LNG project and encouraging their investment in the project.

Motion Carried

7. Community Events

Members of the Committee shared the following community events:

- Councillor Mattie shared that he participated in a drive-by memorial for a resident who had passed away recently.
- Councillor MacDonald provided an update on the Antigonish Affordable Housing application processes underway for units at their development on Hope Lane.

8. Additions to the Agenda

a. Grovener Cemetery Damage Discussion

Councillor McNamara shared news about residents repairing damage to the fencing at the Grovener Cemetery. Having consulted the RCMP about how to deter such vandalism, it was suggested that a streetlight be installed in front of the cemetery. Preliminary exploratory work has been done with Nova Scotia Power,

and verified that a pole is available for the streetlight in an ideal location. Councillor McNamara brought forward a request for the Municipality to install this streetlight.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council install a street light at the Grovener Cemetery.

Motion Carried

9. In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Litigation/Potential Litigation at 6:44 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee adjourn the Closed Session at 7:08 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council Robert (Bobby) Mattie be appointed by Council as the public member of the Audit Committee for a one-year term, effective January 11, 2021.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Colleen Briand, Mike MacEachern, and Morgan Peters be appointed as public members of the Planning Advisory Committee for a four-year term, effective January 11, 2021.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Fran Haley be appointed by Council as the County's public representative on the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Board of Directors for a three-year term, effective January 11, 2021.

Motion Carried

10. **Adjournment**

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:12pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO

DRAFT