

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Monday, January 25, 2021, 6:30 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  
                              Councillor Harris McNamara  
                              Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present:           Glenn Horne, CAO  
                              Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Also Present:           Mr. Paul Landry, SRCE  
                              Mr. Mike Landry, SRCE

### **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 6:29 pm.

### **2.     Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. One item was added:

- Support for Municipal Innovation Application - EDPC

### **Moved and Seconded**

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of January 11, 2021 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 January 11, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes. Mr. Horne provided a reminder of the meeting date change from Monday evenings to Tuesday evenings effective February.

5. **Delegations**

a. **Paul Landry - SRCE - Daycares in Schools**

Mr. Paul Landry and Mr. Mike Landry from the Strait Regional Centre for Education (SRCE) provided the Committee with a presentation about daycare facilities that have been incorporated into a number of schools in the district, and shared photographs of the facilities in Port Hood, Whycomagh, Richmond County and SAERC in Port Hawkesbury. The relationship between the daycares and the school board was shared, and an overview of the process for developing and constructing these facilities was reviewed. Discussion followed. The representatives from SRCE were thanked for their presentation.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **2020/21 Budget Update**

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the Assessment Information for the Fiscal 2020/21 Budget and reviewed the year-to-date actuals up to January 18, 2021. The income and expenses were reviewed line-by-line, providing opportunity for discussion and questions from the Committee as each section was reviewed. Debt repayment schedules and account balances were also reviewed. The Committee was provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Mrs. Duggan and the Finance Department team was thanked for the work that they put in to preparing the budget update.

b. **Strategic Priority Session Debrief**

Mr. Horne opened the floor for the Committee to discuss the Strategic Priorities Sessions that were held earlier in the month. Warden McCarron shared feedback from Kevin Cameron, who was a guest speaker at the second session. Mr. Horne noted that there will be an additional session required to complete the strategic planning process, which will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks. Compliments

were paid to Mr. Horne and Mrs. Donovan for the work that they did to organize and execute the sessions.

**7. New Business**

**a. Update to Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy**

**Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve removing AAN#05995531, the former Havre Boucher & District Medical Centre, from to the list of properties provided with a tax exemption under the Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy.*

**Motion Carried**

**b. Proclamation - Family Literacy Day**

**Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proclamation declaring January 27th as Family Literacy Day in the County of Antigonish.*

**Motion Carried**

**c. 2021/22 Community Partnership Grants Allocation**

Mr. Horne summarized the memo included in the agenda, noting that the Municipality generally aims to allocate 3% of tax revenue toward Community Partnership Grants, is inclusive of Council Special District Grants. Based on preliminary assessments and the 2020/21 property tax rates, this equates to \$345,615 in 2021/22. The Committee confirmed this allocation amount.

The Community Grants to Organizations program will open by the end of January, with an application deadline of March 31, 2021. Questions followed about when updated forms would be made available and the summary reports required by those who received grants last year.

**d. 2021 Tax Sale By Tender**

Mr. Horne provided options available to hold a Tax Sale this year without having an in-person auction. The process for holding a tax sale by tender was reviewed, and the anticipated timeline was shared with the Committee.

**Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council hold the 2021 Tax Sale by Tender.*

**Motion Carried**

e. **Streetlight Requests**

Councillor Brophy provided the Committee with some context to several streetlight requests in his district.

Back Road Brierly Brook at Brierden Court

**Moved and Seconded**

*The Committee recommends streetlight at the intersection of Brierden Court and Back Road Brierly Brook.*

**Motion Carried**

Scoping Somers Road for Streetlights

Councillors Brophy requested that Nova Scotia Power be asked to scope Somers Road to provide an idea of the number of streetlights appropriate along that roadway, to inform the petition process for installing them under an area rate as per the Streetlight Policy. Consensus was provided by the Committee to request this scoping.

8. **Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions**

a. **Antigonish Heritage Museum Board**

There was nothing to report.

b. **Antigonish Arena Association**

The Association will be meeting this week.

c. **Antigonish Crime Prevention**

The Committee met last week, and there were no programming updates.

d. **Eastern District Planning Commission**

An update was provided on an upcoming proposal for the Town of Antigonish to join the Commission on a permanent basis.

e. **Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee**

The Committee met last week. A draft budget is being prepared, a discussion was had about green carts, and a flyer has been prepared with information about the Household Hazardous Waste program. An update was provided about the election of Committee positions for a four-year term; Warden Pitts is Chair, and Councillor MacDonald is Vice-Chair. Further update provided on single-use plastics ban. Kevin O'Hanley's report on inspections was shared with the Committee. Next meeting scheduled to take place on February 25th.

f. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library**

There was nothing to report.

g. **RK MacDonald Nursing Home**

The Board meeting will take place later this week.

h. **County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee**

No meeting has been held yet; work is being done to schedule something.

9. **Community Events**

There were no upcoming community events to report.

10. **Staff Reports**

Councillor MacFarlane spoke to an item noted in the Planning staff report for a rezoning request on Williams Point. Staff was asked to provide background reports referenced for further information.

Mr. Horne made note that the first billing cycle following the activation of the water meters will be mailed out at the end of the month. An additional volume of enquiries is expected when these bills are received.

11. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Municipal Innovation Program - Mandatory Planning**

Mr. Horne spoke to a request that has been brought forward from Mr. John Bain at the Eastern District Planning Commission, to apply to the Municipal Innovation Program to fund additional staff to develop the required minimum planning standards. Discussion followed about minimum planning standards and concerns from parts of the County that are not Planned Areas. Staff was asked to provide the Committee with a summary of the Minimum Planning Standards required under Bill 58.

**Moved and Seconded**

*Given that the Municipalities of the Counties of Inverness, Richmond, Victoria and Antigonish as well as the Towns of Antigonish and Port Hawkesbury are contributing partners in a district planning commission working together to support regional economic development through consistent regional planning and given that the Municipal Innovation Program is intended to support such initiatives it is moved that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish supports the application of our District Planning Commission for funding under the program and agrees to participate through the planning commission in this regional planning initiative in partnership with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to hire, on a term basis, planning services to create municipal*

*planning documents that meet the minimum planning requirements instituted by the Department of Municipal Affair and Housing and where appropriate harmonize these by-laws.*

**Motion Carried**

**12. In Camera Items**

**Moved and Seconded**

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property and Contract Negotiations at 9:12pm.*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved and Seconded**

*That the in-camera session adjourns at 9:49 pm.*


**Motion Carried**

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved**

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:50 pm.*

**Motion Carried**



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO