
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 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 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
- Hayton Lam, Antigonish Regional EMC

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 5:38 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- Vaccination roll-out discussion added to the agenda
- Ice Utilization Study item moved to an in-camera discussion (contract negotiations)
- An additional in-camera item was added (contract negotiations)

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of February 23, 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 February 23, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. **Approval of Tax Sale by Tender Results**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the tender process that was held for the Tax Sale. A summary of the bids submitted was provided to the Committee. Mr. Horne noted that only two properties remained in the Tax Sale at the time of the deadline for the sale:

- Pomquet Co-op Ltd - no bids received, will continue to run the process in upcoming years
- 3 Linwood Station Road - several bids were received, and staff is recommending that the highest bid be selected.

Overall, it was felt that the tender process worked well for the Tax Sale. A suggestion was made for the process to be used again in the future. The Committee applauded the webpage that staff prepared with information about the Tax Sale for its convenience and design.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a bid of \$12,560 for the tendered tax sale of AAN 00160679, 3 Linwood Station Road.

Motion Carried

7. **New Business**

a. **Review of Proposed Comfort Centre and Emergency Shelter Policy Amendments**

Mr. Hayston Lam spoke to the proposed revisions to the comfort centre and emergency shelter policy amendments. Questions of clarification were asked regarding where identified centres are expected to be located throughout the community, communications with the identified centres, and how centres would be activated. Further discussion followed. Staff will now take the draft policy to the different stakeholders for further review and comment and will return with the document following this consultation for approval.

b. **Request for Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organization - St. Columbus Church, Lakevale**

Councillor MacLellan and Mrs. Schumacher provided a brief overview of the proposal to include the account for the St. Columbus Church and Glebe House to the list of properties provided with a tax exemption by Council Policy.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve adding AAN#04400623, for the St. Columbus Church and Glebe House, to the list of properties provided with a tax exemption under the Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy

Motion Carried

c. **Request to Carry Over 2020 Community Partnership Grant Funds - Keep Well Antigonish**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the request made by Keep Well Antigonish to carry over their funding. Consensus to request that the funds be held and not carried over, and that they can reapply to the grants program for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

d. **Request for Safety Enhancements to Trunk 7 Crosswalk at Tamara Drive**

Councillor MacFarlane spoke to a request received from residents in the Tamara Drive and Keating Court area who are curious to know if the municipality can put in flashing lights similar to what the Town has installed. Staff was provided with direction to find out more information about pricing, and it will come forward with the budget deliberations.

e. **Streetlight Request - MacPherson's Corner East Havre Boucher**

Councillor McNamara spoke to a request to look at installing a streetlight at a curve in the roadway in East Havre Boucher that has been the location of several fatal

accidents. Residents feel that a streetlight on this curve would help to illuminate the hazard; Transportation has also ordered additional signs.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a streetlight on a curve in East Havre Boucher, near Civic #12929 Highway 4.

Motion Carried

f. **Request from St. Martha's Regional Hospital Auxiliary**

Mr. Horne provided an overview of the request made by the St. Martha's Regional Hospital Auxiliary for an alternative fundraiser to their annual Mayfest Fundraiser. Due to COVID-19, all 2020 fundraisers and Mayfest 2021 have been cancelled. Members of the Committee felt that a donation matching what they usually give to Mayfest on an annual basis would be appropriate and wanted to provide a donation for the missed Mayfest 2020 event as well.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide \$1000 to the St. Martha's Foundation Auxiliary for their Treat Box Fundraiser

Motion Carried

g. **Information on Proposed Name Change at the Antigonish Arena / Exhibition Grounds**

Mr. Horne noted that the Town is looking at naming the laneway onto the Exhibition Grounds and wanted to know what County Council thought. A suggestion was made to name the laneway after a long time Exhibition volunteer, Donald MacLellan. That feedback will be provided to the Town, who has the jurisdiction of naming the laneway. Discussion followed.

8. **Community Events**

- Councillor Dunbar provided notice of the 100th anniversary of 4H in the Province, and with Heatherton being the birthplace of 4H in Nova Scotia, an event is being planned for the fall.
- Councillor MacLellan noted that MP Fraser came for a visit to the community centre and provided an update on grant applications.
- Councillor McNamara shared that the first pieces of the new playground in Havre Boucher have arrived, and is being stored until construction season begins.
- Warden McCarron did an interview with CJFX earlier in the week about the Broadband rollout in the community. He also shared that he is still meeting weekly with the University for regular updates as part of their COVID response.

9. **Staff Reports**

Staff reports were included in the agenda package for the Committee's information.

10. **Additions to the Agenda**

a. **Discussion about Vaccines**

Councillor MacFarlane shared concerns raised by his constituents, particularly those in care homes, who are concerned with travelling in order to receive their vaccinations. Their hope is that in-house vaccinations can be arranged. Councillor MacLellan shared her experience with trying to make arrangements for appointments. Warden McCarron noted that staff has reached out to Public Health to raise the concerns brought forward to Council by residents. Discussion followed.

11. **In Camera Items**

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 6:34 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session be adjourned at 7:01pm.


Motion Carried

12. **Adjournment**

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:09pm

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO