

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 13, 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 Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Regrets: Councillor Mary MacLellan

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

Also Present: Grace Gillis, Dexter Nova Alliance
Jamie Burns, Dexter Nova Alliance
Peter Lauch, Dexter Nova Alliance

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 5:34pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. An in-camera item for Personnel Matters was added.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of June 22, 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 June 22, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

Q&A Re: Wetland Compensation Associated with Highway 104 Twinning

The Committee was joined by a delegation from the Dexter Nova Alliance comprised of Grace Gillis, Jamie Burns, Peter Lauch

Warden McCarron welcomed everyone to the meeting. The team from DNA provided an introduction and presented the scope of twinning project between Sutherlands River to Antigonish. Their maintenance contract for the highway started in early June. The phased construction schedule was reviewed, and the targeted completion date is August 2023.

Examples of the environmental design considerations that are being incorporated into the project were reviewed. These included open bottom structures, baffles for fish passage, wildlife passage at bridge structures, and stream alignments. 40ha of wetland are being offset. The categorization and offsetting measures for the wetlands was reviewed in further detail. Where possible, projects within Antigonish County are being encouraged, but details and location cannot be shared because of ongoing negotiations with property owners. Details of the fisheries habitat offsetting plan for the Brierly Brook was reviewed as well.

Some questions were asked about the offset work that was done with the original by-pass project, and the delegation might know whether there were any funds remaining from that project. Further discussion about drone fly-overs, how off-setting funding/projects are applied, and the overall improvements to fish habitats also took place.

Warden McCarron thanked the representatives from DNA for attending and presenting to Councillors to answer their questions, and complimented the work being done by the operations and maintenance crews along the 104 over the past month.

Continuing Business

There was no scheduled continuing business.

New Business

Four Valleys VFD Fire Truck Loan Guarantee Request

Mrs. Duggan spoke to a request made by the Four Valley Volunteer Fire Department, for support through a loan guarantee for a new truck for the department to replace a 31-year-old truck. An overview of the loan guarantee process was provided for the benefit of the group. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council consents to guarantee a loan for the Four Valleys Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$400,000 to purchase a new Fire Truck and chassis.

Motion Carried

Discussion of Parking Fees at Keating Centre

Mr. Horne introduced the topic for the benefit of the Committee. Concerns raised about the impacts on Recreation Programming at the Keating/Saputo Centre on weekday afternoons were discussed. Staff offered to follow-up with the University for more information on how the proposed fees would impact Recreation programming.

Community Events

Councillor McNamara thanked Marlene Melanson and the Recreation Team for the work they've been doing to have the mobi-mats installed in Havre Boucher on the Cape Jack Beach.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne pointed out the work done by the Finance Department over the last month following the striking of the tax rate, including the work to print and prepare tax bills for mailing, as well as tax collection. The Low-Income Property Tax Exemption program was highlighted. Mr. Horne also provided a thank-you to Tammy Feltmate for the work done to coordinate getting the solar field installed and ready to go online. Cheques for the Grants to Community Organizations are being prepared when requested, and updates on EMO work and the inter-municipal IT organization were also summarized. Recreation programming over the summer was reviewed, and updates on capital projects being undertaken by Public Works were provided.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no open-session additions to the agenda.

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and Personnel Matters at 6:36 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee return to open session at 7:35pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves appointing John Rogers as the public member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a two-year term, effective July 12, 2021.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:35pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO