

Council Minutes
April 18, 2011
Council Chambers

Present

Mayor C. Chisholm, Chair
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor J. MacPherson

D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Also Present

Delegates
Media
Observers

Absent with Regrets

Councillor L. Chisholm

Call to Order

Mayor C. Chisholm called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
"That the Agenda be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Presentations

- Ms. Caroline Cameron, Coordinator of the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia
The Chair welcomed Ms. C. Cameron to the meeting and reminded the group that presentations were limited to 15 minutes.

Councillor S. Cameron joined the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Ms. C. Cameron presented Council with a calendar her organization had used as a fundraiser. She provided Council with an overview of their activities over the past year which includes the Gaelic unique linguistic and cultural resources, noting that Nova Scotia is the only place outside of Scotland where Scottish Gaelic language and culture has been maintained as a vibrant part of community life. She noted that, in part, their role is to strengthen the community as a whole towards the development of economic, social, and cultural opportunities in support of, and supported by, Gaelic language and culture. Ms. C. Cameron noted that a recent 'Mini-Forum' held in Stellarton, they heard what people thought about the ways that they could support the community, and what the community would value in an annual Forum.

She noted that they will undertake three (3) projects that will strengthen communication and collaboration across the Nova Scotia Gaelic Community, including: Forum 2011, an annual Forum to celebrate, learn or plan in support of Gaelic. This Forum is planned for May 28, 2011,

in Port Hawkesbury, and she invited everyone to attend. She noted their second project, a Collaborative Workshop, will support the development of Gaelic through sustainable economic opportunities. Ms. C. Cameron noted that their third project, a Strategic Plan, is to identify Gaelic development needs and outline what the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia can do to address them over the short; medium - and long-term. She then requested Council consider providing them with a grant, in any amount, up to \$1,000.00.

A brief question and answer session followed and Ms. C. Cameron left the meeting at 6:12 PM.

- Mr. T. Gunn, Principal, and Ms. T. Penny, Academic Chair, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) – Strait Area Campus

Mayor C. Chisholm welcomed Mr. T. Gunn and Ms. T. Penny to the meeting. Mr. T. Gunn thanked Council for the opportunity to make their presentation. He then provided an overview of the Strait Area Campus and the composition of their student body and the curriculum offered.

Ms. T. Penny addressed Council and spoke briefly on the School of Business, a two-(2) year diploma course that specializes in accounting. She noted that through their programs, students also receive hands-on experience. She further noted that through the Office Administration Program, work-term students and were able to assist the Antigonish Highland Society by transferring archived information so that they now have a databank. Ms. T. Penny provided an overview of their Health and Human Resources Services Program, where graduates will work with persons with disabilities, noting the first graduating class will be this June. She noted that they are awaiting approval for a new program, a Mikmaq Education Program that focuses on behavioural intervention and which would see the students work within their own culture with persons with disabilities.

Mr. T. Gunn noted that the Nautical Institute, which offers a three-(3) year Diploma Program, forms part of their programming and is the only one in Atlantic Canada. He further noted that there are approximately 40,000 jobs available within this Field. He spoke briefly on other Programs that they offer including: Power Engineering, Natural Resources, and Industrial Technology. Mr. T. Gunn spoke on their leadership in community-based training and working with First Nations. He noted that they also recognize and give credit for prior learning. He further noted that the students put in thousands of hours of volunteering and used the Antigonish Highland Society and Chamber of Commerce as examples.

A brief question and answer session followed. The Mayor thanked the Presenters and they left the meeting at 7:30 PM.

- Mr. Tim Lang re Community Sign

Mr. T. Lang presented Council with a rendition of a proposed Community Sign for the Town. He noted that one of the issues facing the Town with the moving of the TransCanada will be how to attract people into Antigonish, noting that there is no single answer. He further noted that the design was limited by colors and that it also had to be reflective. In response to a query from CAO D. Kampen, he confirmed that the outline of the buildings and words were reflective. T. Lang noted that the sign could be 'wrapped' around the existing sign, would not be expensive, and could be moved by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, at no cost, once the TransCanada is twinned.

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
“That Council approve the Community Sign rendition as put forth by Mr. T. Lang.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor D. MacInnis
“That the Minutes of the March 21, 2011 (Closed), March 21, 2011 (Regular) (as amended), and March 31, 2011 (Email Poll), be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from the Minutes

- Amendment to March 21, 2011 (Regular) Minutes
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts noted an error that needed to be corrected in the March 21, 2011 (Regular) Council Minutes.

Correspondence

- Proclamation of Building Safety Week, May 8-14, 2011

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson
“That the Town of Antigonish Proclaim May 8-14, 2011, as Building Safety Week.” Motion carried.

- Email Request from Ms. Maureen Coady re Appointment to the Joint Skate Park Working Committee

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
“That Council accept the email correspondence from the Joint Skate Park Working Committee for information.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place on whether the Town should have official representation on the Joint Skate Park Working Committee. It was noted that the County has two (2) Councillors that sit on this Committee. Deputy Mayor D. Roberts and Councillor J. MacPherson acknowledged their past involvement with the Skate Park Group. Mayor C. Chisholm advised that the matter of a skate park is being looked at by the Antigonish Regional Development Authority as part of the Exhibition Grounds Master Plan. In response to a query from Mayor C. Chisholm, G. Grant, Executive Director of the Antigonish Regional Development Authority, and Observer, noted that with the adoption of the Antigonish Exhibition Grounds Master Plan, Town Council would have representation on various aspects of the Project.

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
“That Council appoint Councillors J. MacPherson and D. MacInnis to the Joint Skate Park Working Committee.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
“That the CAO Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

- Gateway to Antigonish: Strategic Master Plan: Final Report

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor D. MacInnis

“That Council accept the Gateway to Antigonish: Strategic Master Plan: Final Report.” Motion carried.

- Antigonish Exhibition Grounds: Master Plan: Final Report

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That Council accept the Antigonish Exhibition Grounds: Master Plan: Final Report.” Motion carried.

- Personnel

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That Council approve the following staffing:

- Mr. Frederick (Ted) Pringle be approved as permanent status in the position of building Inspector/By-law Enforcement Officer, effective March 22, 2011.
- Mr. Merle Keefe be approved as the Engineering Co-op Student for the period of April 26 to September 2, 2011.
- Mr. Joe Landry be approved for a Work Term in the Facilities Department for the period of April 26 to May 20, 2011.
- Mr. Steven MacGillivray and Mr. John Alex Macdonald be approved as Summer Maintenance Staff in the Recreation Department for the period of May 2 to August 26, 2011.
- Ms. Caitlin Chisholm be approved as the Summer Camp Coordinator in the Recreation Department for the period of May 9 to August 26, 2011.
- Mr. Patrick MacIntosh be approved for a Work Term in the Recreation Department for the period of May 2 to August 26, 2011.” Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on the role of by-law enforcement with respect to Mr. T. Pringle. In response to a query from Mayor C. Chisholm, CAO D. Kampen advised that she had not received information regarding additional staffing for the Public Works and Recreation Departments for the Summer months.

- Executive Assistant Job Description

CAO D. Kampen noted that the Job Description qualifications would be amended to include ‘the ability to lift up to 50 pounds’ and stated this is related to the handling of snowshoes. Deputy Mayor D. Roberts acknowledged CAO D. Kampen’s clarifications to her on the job description. CAO D. Kampen noted that, with the exception of social media, the current job description is pretty much in keeping with the current job duties.

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That Council approve the Executive Assistant Job Description and salary range as amended.” Motion carried.

In response to a comment regarding the Town’s website, CAO D. Kampen advised that Ms. M. Fougere, who is on Contract with the Town, has the ability to make changes to the website as required.

- Public Hearing re Celtic Homes

Further to the CAO Report, CAO D. Kampen noted that a Public Hearing would be held on Monday, May 16, 2011, at 6:00 PM, regarding the potential sale of land located at 2 Riverside Drive, Lot M-5, in Antigonish, PID #1223668 to Celtic Homes.

- Comptrollers Report

Moved by Councillor J. MacPherson

Seconded by Councillor D. MacInnis

“That the Comptrollers Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

- Electric Utility Manager Report

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor Donnie MacInnis

“That the Electric Utility Manager Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned the status of an addition to the Electric Utility Building. CAO D. Kampen advised that the project is on hold due to the illness of the project manager. In response to a comment regarding the electrical lines in the vicinity of James Street, West Street, and the TransCanada Highway, Mayor C. Chisholm noted that meetings are ongoing with Nova Scotia Power Inc., and Mr. L. MacLellan, of St. FX University, and that three (3) options are being investigated with respect to the relocation of electrical lines, and further, that quotes are being sought on all three (3) options.

- Engineer’s Report

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

“That the Engineer’s Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

Mayor C. Chisholm noted that, in a recent meeting with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, he was informed that the Contractor is scheduled to restart work on the Canal Bridge on May 1, 2011, with an expected opening of the Bridge on June 1, 2011.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts noted negative comments she received regarding the state of the Whidden Bridge. Mayor C. Chisholm requested Council request comments regarding the Whidden Bridge be directed to MLA M. Smith, as the Bridge falls under the control of the Province.

- Planning and Building Services Report

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That the Planning and Building Services Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

- Recreation Report

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

“That the Recreation Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor D. MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That Council approve the allocation of the 2011-12 Dr. J.J. Carroll Awards as follows:

- Antigonish Town Track: \$2,000.00
- Antigonish Town Learn-to-Swim Program: \$2,000.00
- Port Hawkesbury Antigonish Swim Team: \$1,000.00
- Antigonish Track Club: \$2,000.00” Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Public Properties and Streets Committee

Councillor S. Cameron indicated he had no Motions to put forth.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor W. Cormier advised that he had no Motions to put forth but did note that a proposal has been received from Mr. C. and Ms. D. MacGillivray for a major development at the corner of Main and Court Streets.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that the Town’s Trading Treasures Program will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2011, with the Bulky Waste Collection taking place the following week on April 25, 26, and 27, 2011. He further noted that the Bulky Waste Collection would take place on resident’s regular collection day (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday).

- Recreation Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis indicated he had no Motions to put forth. He thanked Deputy Mayor D. Roberts for Chairing the Recreation meeting in his absence.

- Fire Committee

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts indicated she had no Motions to put forth. She thanked Mayor C. Chisholm for the opportunity to represent him in his absence.

By-law

- Town of Antigonish Outdoor Fire By-law (First Reading)

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor D. MacInnis

“That Council give First Reading to the Town of Antigonish Outdoor Fire By-law.” Motion carried.

Resolutions

Mayor C. Chisholm vacated the Chair; at 7:05 PM, Deputy Mayor D. Roberts assumed the Chair

- Resolution 2011-04-18: 2011-12 Budget

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“WHEREAS the Town of Antigonish estimates the amount of \$7,005,706.00 as necessary expenditures for the lawful purposes of general Town operations and revenue other than taxation revenues in the amount of \$2,515,100.00 for the year 2011-12;
AND WHEREAS the net amount required to be raised by taxation in the amount of \$4,490,606.00;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate be set for 2011-12 at the rate of \$0.97 for Residential and Resource properties and \$2.50 for Commercial and Business Occupancy properties per \$100.00 of taxable assessment;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2011-12 taxes to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be June 30, 2011;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on taxes be set at 6% per annum on the taxes outstanding after the aforesaid due date of June 30, 2011.” Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor S. Cameron, Mayor C. Chisholm advised that the Town’s tax rate is comparable to the 31 municipal units and two (2) regional municipalities, with the next closest residential tax rate being that of the Town of Mahone Bay at \$1.26 per \$100.00 of assessment (in 2010-11), and being the same for the commercial tax rate.

- Resolution 2011-04-18-A: 2011-12 Waste Management Collection

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor J. MacPherson

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Waste Management Collection charge for 2011-12 be established as \$198.75 per equivalent unit.” Motion carried.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, Mayor C. Chisholm noted that there was no change in the Waste Management Collection fee from last year.

- Resolution 2011-04-18-B: 2011-12 Grants

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Antigonish approve the attached listing of Grants for 2011-12 in the amount of \$201,263.00.” Motion carried.

At 7:17 PM, Deputy Mayor D. Roberts vacated the Chair.

Other Business

- Cameron’s Jewellery

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts acknowledged that long-standing business, Cameron’s Jewellery Ltd., had been re-designed and held a grand re-opening.

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That a letter of congratulations be sent to Cameron’s Jewellery Ltd. on the occasion of their re-design and grand re-opening.” Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier commented on the work being carried out to the former Pottery House on the corner of College and St. Ninian Streets.

- Death of Mr. K. Simpson, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts advised that Mr. K. Simpson, Executive Director, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, had lost his battle with cancer and passed away. A minute of silence was held in his honour.

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by Councillor D. MacInnis

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.