

**Regular Town Council Minutes  
September 18, 2023  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Mayor L. Boucher  
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier  
Councillor S. Cameron  
Councillor M. Farrell  
Councillor A. Murray  
Councillor D. MacInnis  
Councillor D. Roberts

**Also Present**

CAO J. Lawrence  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

M. Barkhouse, Director, Corporate Services  
S. Long, Communications Officer  
K. Meiser, Director, Facilities  
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

R. MacDonald, Municipal Advisory, Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs  
Media  
Observers

**Call to Order**

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed those in the gallery.

**Approval of Agenda**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda with three (3) additions.” Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Special Council Minutes of June 8, 2023, Regular Council Minutes of July 17, 2023, Public Hearing of August 21, 2023 and Special Council Minutes of August 21st and 29<sup>th</sup> and September 5th, 2023, Epoll Minutes of August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11, and September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.” Motion carried.

**Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raisings**

- Municipal Right to Know Proclamation

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the Municipal Right to Know Proclamation.

- Scotiabank Mini-Pitch

M. Fraser and T. Reddick provided a power point presentation update as a follow-up and final funding request to their earlier appearance before Council.

The delegates stated that a purchase order must be issued in October, prior to Scotiabank’s fiscal year-end in order to receive Scotiabank’s offer of \$286,000 toward the installation of a mini-pitch.

Noting this was anticipated to be a joint effort of the Town and County, four (4) financial options were provided.

The delegates responded to questions from Councillors.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to financing the project, indicating the Town has significant operational and capital reserve, and that the approximate cost to the Town would be \$382,000 for option 'D' of the proposal.

The delegates responded to questions from Mayor L. Boucher.

"It was Moved and Seconded to support option 'D' with an approximate cost of \$382,000. to the Town for the mini-pitch project." Motion carried.

- **Municipal Boundary Review**

The Deputy Clerk advised that five (5) written submissions were received regarding the municipal boundary review and read them aloud for the record.

It was noted that four (4) were in favor of the status quo and one (1) in favor of 'districts'.

The Deputy Clerk further noted that one (1) request was received to make an in-person presentation before Council.

Ms. C. Morrow took to the podium to provide her comments on the municipal boundary review, stating her preference to keep the status quo.

CAO J. Lawrence advised Council that should they wish to do so, they could put forth a resolution to have the number of Councillors within the Town of Antigonish remain at six (6).

The CAO and Mayor responded to comments from C. Morrow, with the CAO noting that he expected that there would be a municipal election in October 2024.

Mayor L. Boucher called on Councillors to provide their opinions and the following was put forth:

**WHEREAS** the Town of Antigonish is legislated through Part XVI, Section 369, of the Municipal Government Act to conduct a review to study the fairness and reasonableness of the size of the Council;

**WHEREAS** the Town invited residents to provide comments, recommendations or formal presentations to Council through advertisements placed in local papers on August 30th and September 6<sup>th</sup>, placed on the Town's website on August 21<sup>st</sup> and social media channels on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regarding the municipal boundary review;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Antigonish that Mayor Laurie Boucher and Chief Administrative Officer Jeff Lawrence sign the application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to have the number of Councillors within the Town of Antigonish remain at six (6) at large." Motion carried.

### **Business from Minutes**

- Solid Waste Management Bylaw

K. MacInnis provided brief comments on the Bylaw.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give Second and Final reading to the Solid Waste Management Bylaw.” Motion carried.

- Private Hydrant Bylaw  
Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give Second and Final reading to the Private Hydrant Bylaw and rescind the private hydrant policy adopted in March, 2023.” Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry  
Councillor D. MacInnis noted that a proposed motion for a vulnerable person registry had come from a recent meeting of the Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization advisory committee.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly about the voluntary vulnerable persons registry and responded to questions from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council request that the Province of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Public Safety Advisory Committee prioritize the implementation of a province-wide Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry, integrated into the 911 system.” Motion carried.

- Intersection – St. Ninian & West Streets (Councillor D. MacInnis)  
Councillor D. MacInnis spoke to vehicles having having trouble exiting from St. Ninian Street onto West Street where it intersects above Main Street and acknowledged that there currently is increased vehicular traffic due to work being done on the old 104 Highway, although this still remains a concern.

The CAO suggested including a request to have WSP review the area, which would be included in the upcoming budget. Council was in general agreement.

- Appointment of Councillor Re: In Camera Meetings (RK MacDonald Guest Home)  
Councillor D. Roberts noted that further to a recent RK MacDonald executive meeting, it was requested that a Town Councillor on the RK Board be appointed who would report details from their in camera meetings to Councils' in camera meetings.

“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Councillor D. Roberts as the Town’s representative to provide Council with details from the executive of the RK Board to Town Council in camera meetings, where the RK MacDonald Board has sanctioned it, as directed by the RK MacDonald Board.” Motion carried.

- Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Members Appointment  
Brief Discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council appoint A. Rafuse and K. Pednaud to the Town of Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department as recommended by the Town of Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief.” Motion carried.

- **Request Use of Council Chambers**

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to amend the ‘Use of Council Chambers Policy to include either ‘staff’ or Council to provide supervision during such use of Council chambers.” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded to permit a non-profit organization to utilize Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, from approximately 8-9:30 PM, and permit a staff member to supervise the use of Council Chambers during the event.

It was noted that M. Barkhouse would attend this meeting, therefore not requiring a councillor to be in attendance.

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **Staff Reports**

Brief discussion took place.

K. Meiser responded to a query from Councillor D. Roberts on a power pole on Hawthorne Street. K. Meisner agreed to investigate the matter.

K. Meisner responded to a query of odor emanating from the sewer lagoon.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the CAO Report as presented.” Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Planning Advisory Committee**

Councillor M. Farrell provided comment on building permit fees to date.

- **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Councillor D. MacInnis advised that an accessibility meeting would be held in October.

- **Waste Management Committee**

Councillor D. Roberts reported on beach clean ups that had taken place.

Councillor D. Roberts spoke on a ‘trading treasures’ event, stating work is to begin in November toward an event for the upcoming year. She requested any ideas that Council may have for the event.

Following brief discussion, the CAO agreed that he and K. MacInnis could meet to review the status of waste containers within the town.

Next Town waste clean up September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 12 noon, and invited any Councillors available to participate.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on ‘meet and greets’ that recently took place with university students housed within the Town and provided comment.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that the museum sign is to be erected in the Town-owned flower bed next to the fence.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray reported on the flower planters and baskets, noting that the flower baskets on the bridges remain untouched to date.

- Antigonish Town and County Library/Town Volunteer Fire Department

Councillor S. Cameron noted that the Library meeting for this month had been cancelled, and as noted earlier, two (2) new members have been appointed to the Town's volunteer fire department.

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that the fire department recently received the new 'jaws of life'.

Councillor S. Cameron also reported on Crime Prevention and the Antigonish County Learning Association (ACALA).

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted that due to advertising timelines a meeting regarding the Nuisance Party Bylaw has been scheduled for October 4th.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.