

**Regular Town Council Minutes
December 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

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk, Acting CAO

M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. MacInnis, Community Development
S. Long, Communications
K. Proctor, P.Eng., Director, Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Absent with Regret

J. Lawrence, CAO

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as presented." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Regular and In Camera Council Minutes of November 20, 2023, and Epoll Minutes of December 5, 2023." Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Antigonish Community Transit (K. MacInnis)
K. MacInnis took to the podium and provided council with an overview of the Community Transit Service Review Request for Proposals and referred to a memo in Council's information package.

Council was provided with an overview of what the Request for Proposal for the Community Transit Service Review would include, along with the deliverables.

Council was advised that staff is seeking the support of Council to proceed with a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Community Transit Service Review and responded to questions from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council endorses staff to proceed with the posting of the Community Transit Service Review Request for Proposals in partnership with the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and the Antigonish Community Transit Society.” Motion carried.

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging and Paper Products (PPP) (K. Proctor)

K. Proctor provided a brief overview of the EPR for PPP on the collection and recycling of materials, possible saving, and the option of opting in or opting out.

“That the Town of Antigonish direct staff to approve program registration for the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Producers of Packaging, Paper and Products (PPP) and provide data on the Town of Antigonish curbside recycling program.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- 2nd and Final Reading – Marketing Levy

S. Long noted that she had not received any negative feedback since the initial first reading given by Council in November.

“That Council gives Second and Final reading to the Town of Antigonish Marketing Levy By-law.” Motion carried.

New Business

- Comfort & Emergency Shelter Policy

Councillor D. MacInnis provided comment on emergency shelters and noted that as the Heatherton Community Centre is now able to act as an emergency shelter, the Policy has been amended to include it and that the AREMO Committee had recommended it's approval. He stated that once the Legion is up and running the Policy would be brought back for an amendment to include it as an emergency Centre.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the Comfort & Emergency Shelter Policy as presented.” Motion carried.

- Request – Feasibility Study for Recreation Centre – K. MacInnis

K. MacInnis provided an update, noting that a presentation was made at the last joint council meeting and the matter was sent back to both Councils for a decision. Mayor L. Boucher advised Council that the County of Antigonish has not moved forward with the request at this time.

Brief discussion took place with Mayor L. Boucher calling on Council for their comments. She suggested listening again to the questions being asked, and define, with a refined scope, what a request for a feasibility study might look like moving forward.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising (Continued)

- Rural Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (Hl MacKay)

H. MacKay took to the podium, apologized for his lateness in attending, and provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Rural Community Foundation of Nova Scotia fund development, who they are, what they do and details on the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund and its goals including raising \$100,000 to provide grants of up to \$5,000 for local schools.

Council was advised that the organization's ask is to provide individual and corporate awareness and support for the campaign and to consider a donation to the organization.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked H. MacKay for his presentation and provided him with details on the Town's grant program process.

A question and answer session took place.

New Business (Continued)

- Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) – M. Barkhouse
“That the Town of Antigonish grant approval to Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA)'s request for a \$1,000,000 line of credit for working capital purposes. Additionally, the town has committed to guaranteeing the line of credit up to its ownership percentage, which stands at 63%.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report
K. Proctor, P.Eng. responded to a query from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO Report as presented.’ Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)
Councillor M. Farrell provided comment on the EDPC.

- Antigonish Arena Commission
Councillor D. MacInnis noted that an additional dressing room is being developed along with a room for accessible needs.

- A Roof Over Your Head
Councillor D. Roberts shared that she had the opportunity to speak with the Executive Director Of A Roof Over Your Head and was provided with information via email that the St. Augustan Monastery will open their doors to homeless people for lodging, food and friendship.

Councillor D. Roberts noted she would share the email she received with Council.

- Community Enhancement Committee (CEC)
Councillor A. Murray advised that the CEC had met on December 6th, and spoke to the positive comments on the ‘candy cane lights’ noting that perhaps there would be additional ones for next year.

Council was advised that there is now a very heavy original “The Casket” press outside of the Antigonish Heritage Museum.

- Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department/People's Place Library
Councillor S. Cameron noted that the Fire Committee is due to meet with K. MacInnis on budget matters in the new year.

Council was advised that on Mondays from January 11 to April 15th the Library will host help exercises for the brain for those with dementia. Councillor S. Cameron further noted that the library has achieved funds to purchase a generator with the intent of being a comfort centre in the event of emergencies.

Antigonish Council Learning Association (ACALA) – Councillor S. Cameron noted that ACALA is back up and running, that the General Equivalency Development (GED) program ending in 2024 and will be replaced with another program for those seeking a grade 12 equivalency diploma.

Councillor M. Farrell questioned why the Town would not consider becoming a member of the Rafflebox 50/50 fundraiser for fire departments in Nova Scotia. Councillor D. MacInnis stated that due to the way the fire department is funded they are not eligible to participate.

- Deputy Mayor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Mayor L. Boucher

Mayor L. Boucher extended congratulations to Town staff, led by Lise Roy, for the recent approval for a Grid Modernization, she noted this will mean a lot for our community moving toward net zero.

Council was advised that this Thursday, December 21st at 11:00 AM the Utility and Review Board would be holding a hearing on the Town's boundary review and invited anyone interested to attend.

Mayor L. Boucher reminded everyone that the Town & County would host a New Year Levee at the Royal Canadian Legion on St. Ninian Street on New Years Day from 12-2 PM.

Mayor L. Boucher announced that CAO J. Lawrence has submitted his resignation and will be going to Kentville. She acknowledged his seven (7) years with the Town and wished him and his family well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.