

**Regular Town Council
February 26, 2024
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier
Councillor S. Cameron (via Zoom)
Councillor M. Farrell
Councilor A. Murray
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk, Acting CAO
M. Barkhouse, Corporate Services
K. MacInnis, Director, Community Development
K. Proctor, P.Eng., Director, Public Works
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda with amendments.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Regular and In Camera meeting Minutes of January 15th, Epoll meeting Minutes of January 23rd, February 14th and 16th, and Emergency meeting Minutes of January 30th, 2024, as presented.” Motion carried.

Proclamations/Presentations/Flag Raising

- Deep Energy Retrofit Feasibility Study Results/Capital Pre-application (L. Roy)
L. Roy distributed copies of her presentation to Council and took to the podium.

Council was provided with details on the objectives of the Study, including: Review, Emission Reductions Summary (phase 1 and 2), Capital costs and Simple Payback (phase 1 and 2), Feasibility Study Highlights (phase 1), Highlights of Primary Emission Reduction Measures (phase 1), Deep Energy Retrofits Feasibility Study – final sources of funding and other funding sources.

L. Roy noted that of the \$198,310.00 application, \$158,808. would be funded by the Green Municipal Fund.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the submission of a Pre-Application to FCM’s Green Municipal Fund for a Deep Energy Retrofit Capital Project for eight (8) Municipal buildings.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher commended L. Roy for her work.

- Maritime Municipal Electric Utility Alliance MOU (L. Roy)
L. Roy provided a handout to Council on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Antigonish and seven other municipal and electric utilities, noting it is an opportunity to benefit areas of collaboration amongst the utilities.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment noting the matter was discussed during the last meeting of Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA), with L. Roy providing specifics.

Councillor S. Cameron suggested that the matter be tabled, to allow him time to review the information prior to Council making a commitment.

Councillor D. Roberts suggested that Minutes from AREA be made available. Mayor L. Boucher agreed to provide the meeting Minutes.

Business from Minutes

- Sidewalk/Snow Removal Policies – previously discussed.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier thanked the Town Engineer and staff for their efforts in snow removal during the past couple of storms.

New Business

- Solid Waste Management Committee – New Committee Member Required (D. Roberts)
The Acting CAO provided an update on seeking a new committee member for the committee.

- Land Acknowledgement

The Acting CAO noted that Paqtnkek First Nation is interested in having the Town acknowledge on their website, that they are on unceded territory and provided comment on wording that staff are working on in this regard.

K. MacInnis provided an update on related Town signage.

Council was in general agreement in having an acknowledgement of the unceded territory posted on the Town's website. Councillor D. MacInnis stated that he would like Council to acknowledge the Micmac people during Council meetings, with Mayor L. Boucher suggesting that following new signage being posted may be an appropriate time to start council meeting acknowledging unceded territory.

- Housing Memorandum of Understanding

"It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council supports the recommendation of staff to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to address housing challenges in Antigonish." Motion carried.

- Hawthorne Street

Councillor D. MacInnis provided comment on the state of asphalt on Hawthorne Street, and stated he would like to see the Town include it in its upcoming capital budget. He further provided comment on a program where the province would pay for half of paving projects.

K. Proctor provided comment and issues related to paving Hawthorne and Bay Streets.

In response to comments from K. Proctor and Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, M. Barkhouse provided comment on an upcoming capital budget exercise. Brief discussion took place on the cost-sharing agreement with the province and weight restrictions

Councillor S. Cameron suggested that the Town make application to get 50% cost sharing for paving Hawthorne Street, with Mayor L. Boucher responding.

K. Proctor, suggesting looking first at the paving agreement and reviewing it again during the upcoming capital budget workshop.

- **Code of Conduct**

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier referred to a comment on a public social media platform reportedly made by Councillor D. Roberts and provided comment from the Town's Code of Conduct.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier read the post and stated that the vote for Deputy Mayor was properly conducted.

Councillor D. Roberts referred to the third item on the policy of deputy mayor and questioned why he was appointed for a third year. Discussion took place, with Mayor L. Boucher noting that Council is adhering to policy, and that the reason for this discussion was a public posting on Facebook.

Discussion took place on the issue of the Deputy Mayor nomination.

In response to a comment from Mayor L. Boucher, Deputy Mayor W. Cormier stated he would like to see the comment posted by Councillor D. Roberts retracted.

Councillor D. MacInnis suggested that the Town get a legal opinion on the matter, with Deputy Mayor W. Cormier agreeing.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town seek a legal opinion on a recent Facebook comment posted by Councillor D. Roberts." Motion carried, with Councillors Cameron and Roberts voting against the motion."

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

Committee Reports

- Eastern District Planning Commission

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve Eastern District Planning Commission staffing compliment for the Town of Antigonish for 2024 as recommended by J. Bain, Director, EDPC." Motion carried.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that an Accessibility meeting is scheduled for March 6th, and that as a result of the meeting, the Committee may be looking for funding in the upcoming budget.

- RK MacDonald Guest Home/Antigonish Community Transit/Waste Management

Councillor D. Roberts updated Council from the following Committees:

- Correspondence received from Terry MacIntyre, CEO, RK MacDonald Guest Home noting that the RK has been accredited (second highest). She noted that accreditation is not required.
- Antigonish Community Transit – Council was advised that M. VanVonderen will be stepping down as Executive Director. R. Honda has accepted the position and is working to get up to speed with Madonna.
- Solid Waste Committee – Councillor D. Roberts noted that the February meeting was cancelled due to weather and that discussion is to continue to take place on keeping material from being landfilled at the next meeting.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that a meeting was not held due to the lack of a quorum.

- Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.
- Councillor S. Cameron stated he had nothing to report.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.