

Waste Management Committee Meeting
January 12, 2016
Conference Rm
10:00 a.m.

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Mayor C. Chisholm
Councillor L. Chisholm

S. Feist CAO
N. Haverkort, Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Co-ordinator
L. McLean, Antigonish Chamber of Commerce Representative
K. O'Handley, Eastern Region Solid Waste Compliance Officer
E. Maltby, StFx Environmental Representative
D. Halfpenny, Engineering & Planning Administrative Assistant

Absent with Regrets

Deputy Mayor L. Boucher
Michael Dube, STFX
Mikaela Henderson, STFX

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
"That the Agenda be approved." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
"That the Minutes from the October 13, 2015 be approved."

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Business Arising from Minutes

Map Funding

- N. Haverkort said that the 2nd uptake for MAP funding applications is January 22, 2016.

The Waste Management Committee discussed Town of Antigonish completing an application for new Green Cart purchased. It was noted that the customers purchase the new Green Carts at a cost of \$124 tax included.

Councillor L. Chisholm asked if the amount was paid upfront or added to tax bill. It was noted that initial purchase of Green Bins had be dispersed to each home and that the cost was paid for by the homeowner over ten years. Councillor L. Chisholm said that now that the carts are 13 years old are the fees still being charged or could they be added again to cover the cost of new carts.

S. Feist said that with the homeowner owning the Green Bins they tend to take better care of them. He said that staff will look into what is being covered in the billing.

N. Haverkort said that for the purchase of Green Carts, the funding is maximum of \$10 per Cart. She said that if the Committee applied for funding of 99 Green Carts and was approved but then choice to only purchased 20 then funding would cover \$200 of cost.

The Waste Management Committee agreed that due to the age of the existing Green Carts the Map Funding should be for the 99 Green Bins and then after budget considerations the number of Green Bins to be purchased could be finalized.

The Waste Management Committee instructed D. Halfpenny to contact supplier to determine price of Green Carts for 2016.

Councillor J. MacPherson said that he would like to see budgeting include the purchase of two new Sorting stations to replace the garbage cans on Main Street. He said the Beautification Committee could decide where they would be placed.

Mayor C. Chisholm said that he would be interested in knowing what other municipal units do for Green Bins. He said that he would like to see something put in the Residential Waste Management Contract that would deal with contractor breaking bins due to improper handling of Green Bins. He said he recently had the lid on his break when the contractor tossed it on the ground.

N. Haverkort said she that during the winter months a certain amount of force is needed to get the Green Bins dumped, and that due to the age of the current Green Bins there is a breakdown of the plastic which will cause damage. She said that she is aware of some municipal units adding in a clause concerning breakage due to misuse of Green Bins. She said there are guidelines that can show what is normal breakage and what is damaged cause by mishandling when being dumped by the contractor.

N. Haverkort said she will check to find out what other towns do for Green Bins regarding adding a clause to the contract and how bins are paid for either by inclusion in taxes or outright purchase by the homeowner.

NS Recycles Contest

- N. Haverkort said that the RRFB 16th Annual NS Recycles Contest is once again accepting applications from students from grade primary to grade 12. She said submissions will be taken until February 26, 2016. She said that the number of applications from Grade 12 students is low to date and she asked that all committee members that know a grade 12 student encourage them to send in an entry. She said top prize is a \$5000 scholarship. She said that the awards banquet for all the classifications takes place in Pictou County this year. She said the guests of the award winners are impressed by efforts put forth by the students.

Councillor J. MacPherson said that he attends the awards banquet and that the students do a wonderful job and that everyone who attends enjoys the event.

Christmas Tree Mulch

- N. Haverkort said that unfortunately she was unable to attend this year's Kinsmen Tree Mulch. However, she said that the RRFB will be contributing \$300 to the Kinsmen for this event. She said that it is an event that is totally made up of Volunteers and it provides a valuable service to the community. She wasn't sure on the number of trees. Councillor MacPherson thought the number of trees were down from last year. She said this is to be expected with an aging population. (Maybe someone else said this???)
- Councillor J. MacPherson said he had attended the tree mulching event and that it went well. He said the volunteers appreciated the coffee and donuts that N. Haverkort had sent. The Volunteers did a terrific job and were kept busy with a fairly steady number of trees coming in. He said the weather was perfect for the event.

Black Bins

- Councillor J. MacPherson said that after careful consideration of the matter the introduction of Black Bins for garbage would not eliminate enough clear bags from the landfill to be worth the investment and that the potential for cross contamination was too high.

K. O'Handley said that black bins would make it difficult for him to do inspections. He said the current residential waste collection system allows for him to identify issues and increases his ability to determine source of problem.

I think it might be best to say "Councillor J. MacPherson gathered some additional information on the program including costs. Following a round table discussion it was decided to not move forward with a presentation to Council at this time."

Regulation Review Update

N. Haverkort reported that stakeholders continue to work on the proposal and that all seven parts of the regulation review are being put into tracks to determine how they can move forward, with determination of timelines, requirements of staffing, and what it will take to get it to the legislature to move forward. She said a big picture approach is being taken. She said EPR is on hold for now to be determined with the other areas of proposed change. She said that in the long run it will be better overall as the wording is being looked at carefully, and municipalities are being consulted. She said that the consultation process has been improved extensive compared to from 1996 when the first programs were required by downloaded to the municipalities at a tremendous cost to the municipalities. She said that the connection needs to be there as the municipalities need to see the benefits are responsible for waste programs in NS. She said that some municipal units fear the proposed change partly because they have their own Waste management facilities and want to maintain job security for their employees but want continue to work towards maximizing waste stewardship programs if it's cost neutral.

New Business

Diversion Credits

- N. Haverkort said that all data is in and that the Town of Antigonish has increased its waste disposed due primarily to an increase in Construction Demolition. She said there also was an increase in Residential Waste that was offset somewhat by a decrease in ICI. She said that due to the age of Town subdivisions it is not unexpected that construction debris

increases. There is also an increase in medical household waste due to outpatients receiving treatment in their homes. I didn't say this maybe someone else did???

- Councillor J. MacPherson said that the Town does want to see buildings be improved and dilapidated buildings be replaced with new more energy efficient buildings. He said although negative for Waste Management it is important for the growth of the Town.
- N. Haverkort said fortunately there has been an increase in the amount of diversion credits and that the Town of Antigonish should see basically the same amount of funding as last year. She said that the numbers are being finalized and that is a matter of waiting for the cheque to be released.

300kg/Capita Target

- N. Haverkort said that the provincial target has not been met. She said the target was ambitious at 300kg per capita target. She said the current amount per capita is 380kg per capita. She said that she was disappointed in the way the information was reported in the Chronicle Herald. She said the focus of the piece was totally negative. She said that Nova Scotian's should be congratulated on how far they have come in such a short period of time. N. Haverkort said some regions have done better than others in moving towards their target.
- The Waste Management Committee discussed the various sorting regulations in different areas. It was noted that Halifax has finally replaced black bags with clear bags. It was agreed that with a provincial target there should be some areas of uniformity across the province in waste management.
- Nicole Haverkort said that EPR is another policy piece that could have added a positive note to the article. She said that the municipalities will continue to work towards the goal where it's cost efficient.

Litter Clean Up Incentive Funding

- Nicole Haverkort said that **ERSWM through RRFB MAP Funding** continues to support community initiatives through the Litter Clean Up Incentive Program. This year the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund has performed three different clean ups for Town of Antigonish and will receive a total of \$1200 from RRFB that will be used to assist those in need of funds to keep them warm this winter.
- Mayor C. Chisholm said that one benefit of lower oil prices is that this money will stretch even further.
- Councilor J. MacPherson said that the cheque has been prepared and is being picked up by M. MacDonald of the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund. He said that the funds are also used to assist those with electric heat. He said it is a very good program.

Community Bin Funding

- N. Haverkort reported that the John Hugh Gillis Regional School has purchased Sorting Stations and Green Bins to continue to enhance their Waste Management Program. She said with the assistance of the RRFB funding for Community Bins the high school has been able to purchase these items at approximately 1/3 of the cost.
- N. Haverkort said that ERSWM presentations will be taking place at the John Hugh Gillis Regional School in upcoming months and ongoing education will get them going in a positive direction.
- K. O' Handley said that it is amazing what can happen to a Waste Management Program when a teacher gets behind the program and reaches the students.
- Councillor L. Chisholm said that having a sports team or other students that are looked at as leaders in the school play a part in the program can make a big difference. She said peers play a vital role, especially in high school settings.

- E. Maltby, StFX said she could have StFx members of the Enviro Society be a part of the presentation if the Waste Management Committee agreed..
- The Waste Management Committee discussed having StFX students involved and all agreed it would be a great way to engage the high school students.

Enforcement Funding

- N. Haverkort reported that the second term for the Enforcement Officer has been completed. She said the positive news is that the RRFB has guaranteed that there will be continued funding for the position, however she noted that the amount of funding has not been determined. She said that the request that was made was for the same amount of funding that is currently in place. She said that the importance of the program has been recognized even though it is not written into the RRFB's mandate.
- Councillor L. Chisholm said that without an enforcement officer the program will not be effective and that it is vital to continue the funding for the Enforcement Officer position.

Other Business

- Councillor J. MacPherson circulated an image of the proposed Antigonish Community Transit Society bus shelter. He said that the Transit Society is working closely with Sobey's Antigonish to place a bus shelter on site. He said that ridership is up and that the two management workers from Antigonish Community Transit are doing a wonderful job seeking funding and being creative in their approach to enhancing the services provided by the transit. Councillor J. MacPherson ask N. Haverkort if there were any funding programs to assist with the structure which includes the reuse of plastic pop bottles. N. Haverkort agreed to look into it.

Education and Compliance

- K. O'Handley reported that he had conducted 18 landfill inspections from last meeting on October 13, 2015. He said two were residential, 10 loads were ICI, 6 loads were StFx
- K O' Handley said that he has worked out a system with StFx that if a student is caught using a black bag or improperly sorting their materials he will inform P. MacDonald of custodial services who will deal with the student. He said one of the StFx loads contained \$129 worth of refundables. He said the refundables were pulled out of the load and the funds went towards a community group.
- K O'Handley noted that he is monitoring the bins of three businesses. He said the weekly inspections have shown a decrease in the number of black bags. He said he will continue to work with businesses to find solutions for illegal dumping into their bins.

Motion

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm

"That the Education and Compliance Report be accepted." Motion carried

STFX Report

- E. Maltby said that the Enviro Society at StFX is interested in educating students about proper sorting and ways to decrease their carbon foot print. She said that StFx Enviro Society is preparing to have a waste sorting competition where each residence will compete against each other to receive points for properly sorting their materials. The house with the best score will win a prize for their residence.

Motion

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm
"That the STFX Report be accepted." Motion carried

Chamber Report

- L. McLean said that he didn't have anything to report as the Chamber of Commerce meeting hadn't taken place for the month. He said that he is pleased that K O'Handley is working with businesses to reduce abuse of dumpster as it is a problem that is difficult for businesses.

Next Meeting Date

- J. MacPherson said the next Waste Management Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers

Moved by Councillor L. Chisholm
Motion "That the meeting be adjourned."
Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.