
Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Mayor Laurie Boucher

Councillor Donnie MacInnis
Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray
Councillor Mary Farrell
Councillor Diane Roberts
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Sean Cameron

Regrets: Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Willie Cormier

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO, County of
Antigonish
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk,
County of Antigonish

Also Present: Dr. Andy Hakin, St. FX University
Andrew Beckett, St. FX University
Elizabeth Yeo, St. FX University
Kyler Bell, St. FX University
Tim Hynes, St. FX University
MJ MacLellan, St. FX University

Jacqueline Campbell, Province of Nova
Scotia Department of Seniors
Melinda Babin, Crime Prevention
Jeff De Leebeeck, Crime Prevention
Warren McBeath, Crime Prevention
Anne Gillis, Crime Prevention
Nicole Haverkort, ERSWM

1. **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 6:01 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions. An addition of an in-camera item was requested.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

3. **Approval of February 24, 2021 Joint Council Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions to the Joint Council Minutes of February 24, 2021.

Moved and Seconded

That the Joint Council minutes of February 24, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

4. **Delegations**

a. **Discussion of Past and Upcoming School Year with St. FX President and Senior Administrative Team**

Dr. Hakin provided members of the Committee with an overview of the academic year and the experience of the University with dealing with Covid-19. Elizabeth Yeo, Vice President of Student Services, provided a presentation highlighting the return to campus planning that is underway for the upcoming academic year. Members of the Councils were provided with the opportunity to introduce themselves to the St. FX team and provide their comments and feedback on the efforts made by St. FX and the community for the 2020/2021 academic year.

Councillors were then provided with the opportunity to ask questions of the St. FX representatives. Questions included topics such as vaccinations, enrollment expectations, communications and community relationships, and a suggestion that a joint letter of thanks from the Town, County and University be sent to Dr. Strang to express thanks for his support over the course of the year.

Warden McCarron thanked the representatives from the University for joining the meeting.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that each Municipal Council forward a letter of thanks to Dr. Strang on behalf of the community, signed by representatives from the Town of Antigonish, the County of Antigonish, and St. FX University.

Carried

b. **Jacqueline Campbell - Healthy Aging Plan**

Jacqueline Campbell from the Department of Seniors joined representatives from the Crime Prevention Committee to provide an overview of the opportunities for the Senior Safety Program. The vacancy of the Senior Safety Coordinator position left an opportunity to review the program to explore opportunities to look broadly at the program and take an Age Friendly Communities approach. A needs analysis of local seniors, as well as existing programming through a variety of

programs and services, could identify gaps where the Senior Safety program could link and connect to best serve the community.

Representatives from the local Crime Prevention Committee had an opportunity to provide their comments and experiences as well. A general overview of opportunities and potential next steps were provided for the general introduction to the topic. A copy of a presentation will be forwarded to staff to be shared with both Councils.

Members of Council were provided with an opportunity to ask questions. A question was asked about timelines for provincial funding opportunities. Discussion followed. Ms. Campbell and the representatives from the Crime Prevention Committee were thanked for their presentation.

c. Nicole Haverkort - Extended Producer Responsibility Updates

Ms. Haverkort provided members of the Committee with an overview of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) with a focus on packaging and printed paper (PPP). The expenses to municipalities to process packaging waste were reviewed. Ms. Haverkort explained that EPR is an environmental policy approach to have the producer be responsible for the cost of recycling packaging, and the application to PPP would include what is collected in a residential blue bag program.

The economic, environmental and social benefits of an EPR program were shared. 80% of Canadian Consumers reside in jurisdictions that have EPR for PPP (BC, SK, MB, ON, QC with EPR in place, and NB introducing draft legislation for comments this summer). A summary of the benefits, and the identified concerns from municipalities and businesses identified through previous consultations were reviewed.

The efforts to have provincial legislation passed to support EPR for PPP have been underway since 2014. In May 2021, the Sustainable Goals Development Act consultation period began, and comments are due on July 26, 2021. Ms. Haverkort encouraged municipal representatives to voice support for EPR for PPP when speaking to provincial representatives.

Members of the Committee were provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Discussion followed. A request was made to have copies of the draft legislation under consultation forwarded to staff so that they can be shared with members of Council and through the community. Ms. Haverkort was thanked for her presentation and update.

5. Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

6. **New Business**

There was no new business.

7. **Additions to the Agenda**

The addition to the agenda is an in-camera item.

8. **In Camera Items**

Warden McCarron called for a motion to go in-camera to discussion Contract Negotiations.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss contract negotiations are 7:35pm.

Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:40pm.

Carried

9. **Adjournment**

Moved

That the Joint Town and County Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:42pm.

Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Mayor Laurie Boucher

Glenn Horne, CAO

Jeff Lawrence, CAO