

**Regular Town Council Meeting
February 23, 2021
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts (via telephone)

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher

Also Present

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Community Development
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
K. Gorman, Communications
K. Proctor, Town Engineer
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Delegates

Media

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor A. Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with one addition." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council meetings of January 18th, and EPoll Minutes of January 22, and 25, 2021 Council meeting Minutes." Motion carried.

Presentations

- Antigonish Town and County Library Agreement
S. Scannell noted he was presenting a management agreement for the Town and County Library as a result of an area of the Library being vacated.

He noted clarity was provided in the composition of the management committee, minimum meeting requirements and insurance. It was noted the 'Agreement' has not changed greatly but now provides more clarity in various areas.

S. Scannell responded to questions from Council noting the Agreement clarifies advertising for spaces available within the library. S. Scannell provided comment on details related to landscaping. It was noted that in the past Friends of the Antigonish Library (FOAL) had taken on the responsibility, although they had no funds. Discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the purpose of the agreement is to provide clarity and not the manner in which the work is carried out.

S. Scannell noted that a lease agreement was developed which will be in effect for two years at which time it would be reviewed.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the lease and Agreement as presented.” Motion carried.

It was noted that the documents will still come before the Library Board.

- Mr. E. Porter Re: Proposed Oyster Farm
Deputy Mayor A. Murray called on Mr. E. Porter regarding a proposed oyster farm.

E. Porter introduced those in attendance with him. He noted the vision is to develop a family-based oyster farm.

Council was advised they observed various avenues of oyster farming and engagements to drill down on how the industry works and whether it could work in Antigonish Harbour and be of benefit to the community.

E. Porter reviewed the process they had used which was then taken to the community where some feedback was received, reviewed and the process refined.

Council was provided with details on the proposed oyster farm which is anticipated to yield 2-3 million oysters per year.

Details were provided on a public engagement process, public panel discussion at St. FX and an Open House at the Lakevale Community Center/ It was noted that they have established a community liaison committee to continue effective public engagement.

E. Porter noted they are now organizing a pre-farm baseline with three years of follow up on impacts.

Association opportunities were presented.

At 6:29 PM the presentation concluded and a question and answer session followed.

New Business

- Cenotaph Maintenance Agreement
S. Scannell noted he was making Council aware of an agreement between the Columbus Club, the Town and Branch 59 Royal Canadian Legion, which outlines maintenance that the Town would be responsible for (basic mowing) and the requirements of the Legion to maintain the cenotaph.

Brief discussion took place on possible future work related to the cenotaph.

- Inactive Account Write-Offs
M. Barkhouse noted she had circulated a memo and list of accounts proposed to be written off and provided additional details.

M. Barkhouse responded to questions from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the accounts be written off as presented.” Motion carried.

- Waste Management Advisory Policy Amendment
Councillor D. Roberts noted she would like to have someone who is a landlord as a representative on the Waste Management Committee.

“It was Moved that the Waste Management Advisory Policy be amended to include representative from the town and a resident from the Town one of whom is a landlord.” Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on the ratification of appointments to Committees.

Business from Minutes

- D. Webster Request; Re: Land Easement
CAO J. Lawrence noted that D. Webster wished to have forestry work carried out to his lands on which the Town has an easement. He advised that D. Webster has since received correspondence in this regard and the matter is considered closed.

Correspondence

- Candid Brewing Company; Request for (Accessibility) Easement

CAO J. Lawrence noted that moving forward the Town will likely receive more of these types of requests related to accessibility. He noted that while generally in favor of these types of requests, comments are required from the Engineering Department and Bylaw Enforcement. It was noted the Eastern District Planning Commission would be involved through the permitting process.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the request subject to review by Engineering and Bylaw Enforcement staff.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report
CAO J. Lawrence handed out the strategic priorities list that Council worked on over the past while and noted that it would appear monthly as part of the CAO report and quarterly as an agenda item.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions arising from the CAO Report.

The Strategic Priorities Chart was distributed.

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

K. Proctor provided comment on recent weather, equipment being used and planned snow removal. Discussion took place.

Councillor W. Cormier provided comment on the use of a new piece of public works equipment and the manner in which snow is removed using the equipment.

- Committee Reports
 - Active Living Strategy

Councillor M. Farrell spoke to the Active Living Strategy recently developed

“It was Moved and Seconded to adopt the Active Living Strategy as presented.” Motion carried.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor W. Cormier reported on items from a recent Police & License meeting and spoke to the success of recently installed flashing beacons. He noted this is a budget item moving forward with staff identifying new areas for beacons.

Council was advised that the Committee will be working on a Community Standards Bylaw, and spoke to various bylaws that may be condensed into one.

- Fire Committee

Councillor S. Cameron noted that the Fire Committee will meet in mid-March and that he is aiming to have meetings held quarterly.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported on a Waste Management meeting held on February 10th, and discussions with the contractor regarding ‘bag limits’.

Council was advised that it is hoped new members will be appointed to the Committee in the near future.

Councillor D. Roberts reported that the Committee is still awaiting comments on the Waste Bylaw update with a hope to have it receive approval in the near future.

It was noted there has been a marked improvement in the decreased use of black bags.

Councillor D. Roberts reported she would be attending a regional waste meeting in the near future.

- Emergency Management

Councillor D. MacInnis reported on an EMO advisory committee meeting and noted there will be EMO training for all Councillors coming up in the near future.

- Accessibility Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council increase the budget for the Upland Contract by \$5,900,00.” Motion carried.

S. Scannell provided details on the reason behind the request for an increase to the Upland Budget.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor M. Farrell advised that the Planning Advisory Committee had met in January, and that the Town is awaiting a response on their application for full membership to the Eastern District Planning Commission.

With no further business it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.

