

**Regular Town Council Meeting
March 15, 2021
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts

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

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as amended". Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council meetings of February 23rd, and EPoll Minutes of February 25, 2021." Motion carried.

- Volunteer of the Year

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the Volunteer of the Year and advised that Mr. K. Stewart had been chosen as the Town's representative for Volunteer of the Year 2021.

Presentations

- Signing – Cenotaph Maintenance Agreement for Columbus Field
Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged the Royal Canadian Legion and Antigonish Columbus Club working together to enable the cenotaph to be relocated to Columbus Field. She called on J. Matheson, J. MacDonald and B. MacNeil to sign the agreement setting out details on maintenance surrounding the cenotaph that the Town would be responsible for.

A photo opportunity took place.

New Business

- Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

Councillor S. Cameron provided information on a reduction in federal funding to the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) and the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and this impact to libraries.

- It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish write to the Federal Government of Canada to request that funding be restored to the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS) and the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) to ensure that all persons, regardless of means, abilities, skills and age can participate fully in society.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Candid Brewing Company
CAO J. Lawrence spoke to a request for an easement for accessibility purposes, proposed by Candid Brewing for their building.

Further to follow-up by staff and comments from the Town’s Solicitor the CAO stated it was his evaluation that the Town provide the easement. He provided further details and noted that staff will be working on a policy that would deal with similar requests in the future.

Correspondence

- Central Fields – Removal of Lights
CAO J. Lawrence provided details on a request for proposals for the removal of lights at the Central Field.

“It was Moved and Seconded that DeCoste Electric be awarded the contract for the removal of the lights at the Central Field no later than April 9, 2021 at a cost of \$6,802.25.” Motion carried.

- A. Beaton Re: Pleasant Street Sidewalk
Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged correspondence regarding a sidewalk on Pleasant Street.

CAO J. Lawrence suggested that the matter be considered during capital budget deliberations. Council was in general agreement.

Mayor L. Boucher agreed to contact Ms. Beaton in this regard.

- Community Spirit Plaque
Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the events of the past year and acknowledged receipt of the Community Spirit Plaque from the NS Lieutenant Governor. She read aloud details of the award and noted the plaque will be hung in a prominent location in Town Hall.

- St. Martha’s Hospital Auxiliary
Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the difficulty this organization, along with so many others, had over the past year and the request.

Mayor L. Boucher agreed to try to determine the amounts that other organizations are looking to support financially.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that a follow-up epoll will take place.

- Town of Stellarton Re: SPCA

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged correspondence from the Town of Stellarton regarding their SPCA and noted that it appears the provincial SPCA may be reaching out to the Town for support in the future.

Brief discussion took place.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the new format for the CAO Report and how follow-up from the Council meetings will unfold. He acknowledged K. Gorman for her work in creating the new format.

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

Councillor D. Roberts acknowledged the work of the RCMP in a recent target of vehicles featuring loud mufflers

- Committee Reports

- Police & License Committee

Councillor W. Cormier had nothing to report.

- Fire Committee

“That Town Council give consideration to the 2021/2022 Fire Department Budget as presented during budget deliberations.”

“That Town Council consider replacement of the fire department truck doors as a priority during upcoming capital budget deliberations subject to a request for proposals on costs including replacement of the motors, doors and rails.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray put forth the following motion:

“That Council appoint O. Landry, A. Baden-Clay and A. Jain to the Community Enhancement Committee for 4, 3 and 2 years respectively, effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2025.” Motion carried.

Councillor A. Murray provided comment on lighting in the area of the fire hall on Sydney Street.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts put forth the following motion:

“That Council appoint L. Crowley and A. Starr to the Waste Management Committee for three and two years terms respectively, effective April 1, 2021 through March 31 2024 and 2023 respectively.” Motion carried.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on the recent comprehensive review of the Town’s Waste By-law noting it would now go to some Administrative staff for comments.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that it would take approximately 6 weeks for the by-law to work its way through the formal system and briefly reviewed the process.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that although no meeting was held the Committee is expecting an update from Upland in next couple of weeks.

“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint K. Stewart to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a three-year term from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024.” Motion carried.

- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Councillor M. Farrell advised that T. Barkhouse had agreed to sit on the PAC for an additional four-year term.

“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint T. Barkhouse to the Planning Advisory Committee for a four-year term effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2025.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the past year of the pandemic and acknowledged staff for their efforts in ensuring the Town Hall kept operating. She spoke further to the community and Nova Scotia and the efforts of everyone. She expressed the importance of being diligent over the next while.

At 6:57 it was Moved to adjourn.