

**Regular Council Meeting  
September 20, 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**

J. Lawrence, CAO  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives  
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources  
S. Scannell, Community Development  
K. Meisner, Town Engineer

Media  
Delegates

**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 as amended." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the In Camera and Regular Council Minutes of July 19<sup>th</sup>, Public Hearing and Special Council Meeting and In Cameral Council meetings of August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup>, EPoll Meeting Minutes of July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>, and Emergency In Camera Meeting of August 30, 2021." Motion carried.

**Presentations/Proclamations**

- Right to Know Week – September 27-October 3, 2021

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud and signed the Right to Know Proclamation and declared September 27-October 23, 2021, as Right to Know Week in the Town of Antigonish.

- Tax Collection Policy – Proposed (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium and provided Council with details on a proposed Tax Collection Policy, noting the purpose of the policy is to ensure timely, accurate and efficient collection of property tax.

M. Barkhouse responded to questions from Council.

It was noted that this matter will come back before Council for approval in the future.

## **Business from Minutes**

- RCMP Matters

Councillor W. Cormier, Chair of the Police & License Committee brought forth RCMP related matters, including after-market mufflers, speeding in residential zones and open liquor in public, noting that the RCMP need to be able to identify vehicles that have after-market mufflers. He then spoke to speeding and the use of 'traffic calming' aspects in other areas of the province.

Discussion took place. It was suggested that the RCMP be invited to the next meeting of Council to further discuss these matters.

Various Councillors provided their comments on RCMP related matters.

CAO J. Lawrence requested S. Scannell investigate the issue of the Town-owned speed recording sign.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor L. Boucher stated the RCMP would be invited to the next Council meeting, added to the Police & License Committee Agenda and bringing the matter forth at the next RCMP Advisory Committee.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the matter of priorities set by the RCMP, noting the Town and County can provide input into the RCMP's priorities.

It was suggested that the Eastern District Planning Commission be made aware of Council's interest in 'traffic calming'.

- National Truth and Reconciliation – September 30<sup>th</sup>

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to a discussion she had with Chief Francis on the matter of Truth and Reconciliation regarding marking Truth and Reconciliation on September 30<sup>th</sup> as a holiday.

"It was Moved and Seconded that September 30<sup>th</sup> be recognized for Truth and Reconciliation and further that September 30<sup>th</sup> be recognized as a municipal holiday." Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier suggested that an event be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> to recognize Truth and Reconciliation.

Discussion followed.

CAO J. Lawrence was directed to arrange for a Truth and Reconciliation flag raising on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Introduction of Pad-mount Transformer Policy (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse provided Council with details on a proposed Pad-mount Transformer Policy and responded to questions from Council.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to the matter of pad-mount transformers.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council adopt the Pad mount Transformer Policy as recommend by staff.” Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Accord (L. Roy)

L. Roy spoke to the need for an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Accord Plan (EDI Plan), specifically as they are related to ongoing funding applications.

Council was invited to put forth any questions they may have.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Town council agree to sign the Electricity HR Leadership Accord on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as recommended as staff.” Motion carried.

A photo opportunity took place.

- Report on Recommendations – Malcolm Court Improvements

K. Meisner was present to respond to questions on recommendations for Malcolm Court Improvements. Brief comment was made related to placing the sidewalk on the other side of the street

K. Meisner reviewed the options related to the recommendations.

Various Councillor put forth their preferences for ‘Option A’ with Councillor S. Cameron providing comment on a possible fourth option noted the reasoning for his preference.

Discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence noted he agreed with the staff recommendation for ‘Option A’.

Discussion took place. K. Meisner responded to Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council recommend ‘Option A’ as recommended by staff.” Motion approved with Councillor S. Cameron voting ‘nay’.

- Report on Recommendations – John Paul Centre Parking Lot

K. Meisner noted it is recommended that this project be delayed as staff investigate making the area more pedestrian friendly.

K. Meisner responded to comments from Council.

Council stated their approval of staffs’ plans.

CAO J. Lawrence stated that any funds not used from the current budget be set aside for the following fiscal year.

- Report on Recommendations – Hawthorne Convenience Entrance

K. Meisner stated that staff are working with EDPC, residents and a local business to make improvements to the entrance to Hawthorne Street Convenience.

Council once again expressed their pleasure with staffs’ direction on the matter.

- Pipers Pub Patio Extension – Encroachment Request and License

S. Scannell took to the podium and noted staff has been working with staff of Piper's Pub for an encroachment onto the Library property. It was noted the Pub is intending to improve the dining experience for their customers. It was noted that four (4) issues were identified. S. Scannell expanded on the details.

S. Scannell responded to questions from Council.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, CAO J. Lawrence noted that in addition to working with all involved, staff have been working with the Town's legal counsel.

S. Scannell responded to questions from Council.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council accept staff's recommendation to enter into a license agreement with between the Town, County and PARL.

### **Correspondence**

- Club 60 Antigonish; Request for Property Tax Reduction

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment and noted the CAO was to discuss the matter of snow removal with the Town Engineer. It was noted that follow up with the Town Engineer is still to take place.

Discussion took place and it was noted that the Town does pay some rent for the use of Club 60 when necessary.

Discussion took place.

M. Barkhouse provided details on outstanding property taxes in the amount of \$3,100.00.

Council was in general agreement that the taxes be paid with the funds coming out of the Town's discretionary funds.

CAO J. Lawrence agreed to discuss the matter of issues outlined in correspondence from Club 60.

- R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation – Request to Appoint New Member

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council approve the appointment to the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation as recommended in correspondence." Motion carried.

- Visitor Information Centre

Mayor L. Boucher noted correspondence was received from the Antigonish Visitor Information Center and provided comment on the new location at the People's Place Library.

### **Candid Brewing**

S. Scannell spoke to recent correspondence from Candid Brewing in assisting them in helping ensure their business was accessible.

It was noted that in the past it has been the policy of Council to charge for legal costs.

It was further noted that the province now permits Council to assist businesses looking to ensure that businesses are made accessible.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment noting that the matter be supported as a matter of making the business accessible.

It was noted that similar asks may come forward in the future.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town not charge Candid Brewing Company the legal fees associated with an agreement with the Town in assisting in making their business ‘accessible’.  
Motion carried.

### **Staff Reports**

- CAO Report

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

### **Committee Reports**

- Police & License Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report

- Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

Councillor S. Cameron noted there may be a reduction in library staff in order for staff to monitor Covid 19 compliance.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Deputy Mayor A. Murray stated he had nothing to report.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted a Waste Committee meeting was held. It was noted the Solid Waste Bylaw has been reviewed and will go back to staff for a final review. Discussion ensued with S. Scannell providing comment.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that various clean ups are being held – St. FX students (date to be determined), on October 2<sup>nd</sup> the Great NS pick up is being held, also the Town Waste Committee will be hosting one on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor D. Roberts commended J. Dee for his assistance in providing roll-offs for Town clean-ups.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned how fees are managed related to rooming houses versus a basement apartment.

CAO J. Lawrence noted K. Proctor, P.Eng. had been giving consideration to the matter and he agreed to follow up with the Town Engineer.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis advised that K. Gorman has provided the Library with copies of the Accessibility Plan to date.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell stated a meeting with EDPC is scheduled to be held next week.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the students have been identified involved with an incident involving an ambulance on campus.

She noted a St. FX student identified as having Covid had followed all the proper procedures and it was deemed very low risk and provided comment on other matters the university is involved with.

Mayor L. Boucher noted CAO J. Lawrence has been speaking with Municipal Affairs and working with staff to make arrangements for a workshop on consolidation for Town and County Councils.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.