

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

**Present**

Mayor L. Boucher  
Deputy Mayor A. Murray  
Councillor S. Cameron  
Councillor W. Cormier (via telephone)  
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 meeting of October 18<sup>th</sup> and Special Council Meeting Minutes of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.” Motion carried.

**Presentations/Proclamations**

- Sgt. W. McBeath; Antigonish RCMP

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Sgt. W. McBeath to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation to Council.

Sgt. W. McBeath noted he had circulated information on two (2) dates where the RCMP in conjunction with Town Bylaw Enforcement staff and commercial motor vehicle inspectors had set up/carried out stops and inspections on passenger, taxi, and commercial vehicles, and provided comment on the number and type of charges laid and requirements for some to make alterations to their vehicles. He noted another stop/inspection is slated for this December and provided additional details. Sgt. W. McBeath responded to questions from Council.

Councillor W. Cormier provided comment on traffic calming.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Sgt. W. McBeath for his presentation and requested he come back in March to provide another presentation/update to Council.

- Antigonish Tourism Association – P. Curry

P. Curry took to the podium to provide a PowerPoint presentation. He noted he is part of the Antigonish Tourism Association which is comprised of several large hotels, restaurants, and eight or nine businesses. He noted businesses are in a difficult spot due to Covid and are looking to draw people to the area for more than one night.

P. Curry provided details on a 'Tourism Relief Fund' designed for the tourism industry, and which is seeking applications for transformative community projects. He noted the goal is help make Antigonish the leading bike tourist destination in Atlantic Canada. He further stated that this project compliments the Town and County's work on the Active Transportation Corridor.

Council was provided with proposed elements including consultation, bike-secure storage, repair & wash stations for accommodation spaces; bike parking stations, trail maps; fat-bike trail grooming at Keppoch, project coordination and HST for a project total cost of \$320,017.40.

He expanded on the details, noting this would be a 15–18-month project. Details were provided on the supporting organizations and organizations/individuals that were consulted. The proposed project funding was presented which proposes \$27,000 each from the Town and County.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Mr. Curry for his presentation and opened the floor to questions from Council.

Discussion took place on the timing of the financial request.

K. Gorman provided comment on a strategy currently being worked on with the Town, County, and other partners and noted this would fit in well with what is currently being looked at.

"It was Moved and Seconded to support the financial commitment as requested subject to confirmation of financial support from additional supporters." With no seconder the motion was lost.

P. Curry agreed to determine the timelines with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and report back.

### **Business from Minutes**

- Repeals Bylaw

M. Barkhouse provided details to give 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to the Repeals Bylaw.

"It was Moved and Seconded to give 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to the Repeals Bylaw to repeal the Tax Deed Fee Bylaw." Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Deputy Mayor A. Murray for his assistance as Deputy Mayor over the past year.

Mayor L. Boucher called for nominations for Deputy Mayor. A nomination was put forth for Councillor W. Cormier. Mayor L. Boucher called three (3) times for any additional nominations.

No additional nominations were put forth and Councillor W. Cormier accepted the nomination.

Mayor L. Boucher congratulated Councillor W. Cormier and stated she looked forward to working with him as the Deputy Mayor over the next year.

- Notice of Public Hearing

CAO J. Lawrence noted a public hearing would be held in Town Council Chambers on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 6:00 PM to consider amendments to the Parking Meter Bylaw.

- Brighter Community Planning & Consultation; Community Engagement Liaison

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the selection, with Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noting the recommended organization stood out from the other five (5) submissions.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the next steps. CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the process that would be followed.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the submissions received to carry out the community engagement liaison and noted the County had already given their approval to hire Brighter Community Planning & Consultation and that it was staffs' recommendation that Town Council also approve Brighter Community and Engagement Consultation. He provided details on the proposed cost-sharing involving the province, Town, and County.

Discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the proposal put forth by Brighter Community Planning & Consultation be accepted to carry out community engagement liaison as the Town and County of Antigonish look at the possibility of consolidation." Motion carried.

- Municipal User Fees Policy Update (M. Barkhouse)

M. Barkhouse took to the podium noting she would like to amend the Municipal User Fee Policy to include a tax certification \$25 fee (current fee plus Section 4.10 – the cost for creating a tax deed in accordance with the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the proposed amendment to the Municipal User Fees Policy as recommended by staff." Motion carried.

- Proof of Vaccination Policy

M. Barkhouse provided details on a proposed Vaccination Policy for the Town of Antigonish and noted it would cover

It was noted staff must supply proof of vaccination by December 15, 2021, that records would not be kept (only notes that proof was presented) and that the only exception to be made would be for medical reasons.

Discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the Proof of Vaccination Policy as recommended by staff." Motion carried.

- Memo Re: Electric Utility Operating and Capital Budget (M. Barkhouse)  
M. Barkhouse provided details on the proposed 2021/22 Electric Utility and Capital Budget and responded to questions from Council.

Mayor L. Boucher called for questions from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Electric Utility Operating and Capital Budget as presented by staff.” Motion carried.

- Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA): Payment of Guarantee Letter  
CAO J. Lawrence provided details on the need to provide a Guarantee Letter to AREA.

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the request for the Guarantee Letter.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the signing of the Guarantee Letter in support of AREA.” Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

- Minister J. Lohr  
CAO J. Lawrence provided details on the increase to the Grants Contributions and noted that \$32,000 plus a 10% contingency if required has been earmarked toward improvements at 376 Main Street.

- Minister J. Lohr  
Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged that Minister J. Lohr would be recognizing Municipal Awareness Week; November 22-28, 2021, she noted that the Town does not have any specific plans. K. Gorman provided details on a presentation for the schools and on social media.

- G. MacInnis; Request for Financial Assistance  
Mayor L. Boucher read the request for financial assistance from G. MacInnis and noted the Town does not have a policy to permit a donation for an individual but can provide \$200 to the organization.

“That Council approve \$200 to the Cross-Country Junior Nationals being held in Ottawa, Ontario on November 27, 2021.” Motion carried.

### **Staff Reports**

K. Proctor provided a response to Councillor A. Murray on replacement LED lights that are defective.

Discussion took place on some activity taking place on front lawns. S. Scannell responded to a query from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier.

Brief comment was made on traffic calming. S. Scannell noted that the report would go to the Police & License Committee for comment and then come back to Council.

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

### **Committee Reports**

Mayor L. Boucher congratulated Councillor M. Farrell for her appointment to the Town Caucus of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM).

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier indicated he had nothing to report.

- Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) Board

Councillor S. Cameron noted that PARL has been responsible for approximately 10% of the covid vaccination cards being printed.

- Community Enhancement Committee

Councillor A. Murray indicated he had nothing to report, and that the Committee would be meeting soon. He noted that every second pole along Main Street will feature a Christmas light this year.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor D. Roberts advised that the amended Waste Management Bylaw went to Administration for consideration and that S. Scannell had provided comment on the Bylaw.

Council was advised that the last waste pick up was held during the first week of November and had been the most successful to date with 27 volunteers and 31 bags of garbage collected. She thanked N. Haverkort, volunteers, and J. Dee, and stated she was pleased to see that five (5) Councillors came out to assist.

Brief discussion took place.

Councillor D. Roberts put the following motion forth:

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the recommendation from staff in the Post Road Land Acquisition Business Case as presented to Council by staff.” Motion carried.

- Accessibility Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that staff received and updated version of an Accessibility plan late last week and anticipates it will be brought to the Accessibility Committee in December.

Councillor D. MacInnis put the following motion forth:

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council appoint K. Stewart to the Accessibility Committee for a 3-year term to March 31, 2024.” Motion carried.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Councillor M. Farrell noted that EDPC would be meeting this Thursday.

Mayor L. Boucher noted a meeting had been held with St. FX, that they are still following regulation from province and that over 95% of staff and students have now been vaccinated. She noted meetings will now take place monthly instead of weekly.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.