

**Regular Council  
October 16, 2017  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier  
Councillor M. Farrell  
Councillor A. Murray  
Councillor D. MacInnis  
Councillor J. MacPherson  
Councillor D. Roberts

**Also Present**

CAO J. Lawrence  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

ACE Delegates  
Media

**Call to Order**

“At 6:00 PM Deputy Mayor W. Cormier called the meeting to order.” Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2017 (Regular Council), September 25, 2017 (Special and In Camera) Minutes.” Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- S. Smith; St. Martha’s Regional Hospital “The Time Is Now”; Town’s Commitment. Matter Deferred.
- Presentation to S. Feist in recognition of his participation in the ‘Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED). Matter Deferred.
- P. Girvan; Antigonish Community Health Board  
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier welcomed P. Girvan. Mr. P. Girvan provided details on his role and the Collaborative Community Health Board, noting they have a legislated mandate. He provided an overview on what they do. A Brief video clip on the Community Health Board was presented. He reviewed their Process and Priorities. P. Girvan noted they have identified partners, actions, and activities.

P. Girvan spoke to ways the Town could help their organization, and to actions being taken through Early Childhood Development and wages paid to those who work in this field.

P. Girvan requested the Town become involved, as they need partners, and participation is needed from many working closely together. Council was advised of an Open House tomorrow at the People’s Place.

A question and answer session followed

Brief discussion took place.

At 6:19 PM P. Girvan thanked Council and left the meeting.

### **Business from Minutes**

There was no Business from the Minutes.

### **New Business**

- CAO J. Lawrence acknowledged representatives from the Antigonish Community Energy Cooperative (ACE) in the audience, and referred to 'red circling' four (4) of their customers who have had solar panels installed and are eager to put them to use.

- Coordination of Promotions and Marketing Services (S. Scannell)  
S. Scannell provided an overview of the Report provided to Council regarding the coordination of promotion and marketing services. He noted he invited J. MacDonald, R. Burrell and B. Lazzuri and J. Beaton to attend tonight as they have also been involved in this discussion.

S. Scannell provided a brief history on past service delivery. He spoke to the most recent activities undertaken through the now defunct Antigonish Regional Development Authority (ARDA), and noted that although the Regional Enterprise Network (REN) is now in place, the activities undertaken by ARDA are not necessarily going to fall to the REN.

S. Scannell provided details on the current context and division of effort, with the main issue being that there is no one organization that centralizes the efforts to effectively promote or market Antigonish.

S. Scannell provided details on a consultation overview on what they have heard, with key engagements held in January, April, and June of this year, and spoke to the various key people invited to provide information and guidance.

S. Scannell then provided an overview from a survey, with the bottom line being that people are unsure as to whether there is a cohesive business community in the Town. He then provided an overview of the results from the business survey.

The following options were put forth:

- Option 1 - staff position plus project budget funding \$75-\$100,000 (reviewed various levy results).
- Option 2 - re-establish business improvement district.

S. Scannell noted there are tax implications tied to either option, however, the Town has a low commercial tax rate.

A map of a potential business improvement district was presented.

S. Scannell noted both options have their pluses and minuses. He then spoke on Wolfville's tiered system and noted they have scaled back as they are re-evaluating their structure.

S. Scannell then provided an overview of the benefits and challenges of both having a staff person versus a business-led solution.

S. Scannell provided an overview of recommendations, and noted he would like to hear comments from the business community.

S. Scannell was thanked for his work.

Mr. R. Burrell (Antigonish Chamber of Commerce) stated there is a gap in marketing and a role the municipality can play.

J. MacDonald (Antigonish Downtown Business Association) noted they have been looking a long time for a solution, whether done through the Town or a Business Improvement District (BID), feels it is something that has to move forward, has to be structured. He further stated that if this was attempted to be done through Town Administration it could get too focused and everyone could lose.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier stated he was involved in the dissolution of BID, everyone was paying the same rate, and coverage didn't go to certain areas. He stated he would like to see more on a tiered system.

Councillor A. Murray questioned if there any way this new potential would be housed in Town Hall or if a BID would be elsewhere. He then referred to a presentation by S. O'Toole noting this role could be similar.

J. MacDonald suggested bringing everyone together and prioritize – be it culture, walking trails, business attraction, and regardless of where something might ultimately be housed.

Further to comments from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, CAO J. Lawrence stated he thinks staff is moving toward preparing a vote on a business levy, and if businesses are supportive of a BID, then they would take that path, or look at a staff position, and how it could be funded.

Following a query from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, CAO J. Lawrence noted the objective would be to have discussion on a BID levy out of the way by early 2018.

CAO J. Lawrence indicated that if there was a general agreement, he would have S. Scannell work with the Downtown Business Association, Chamber of Commerce and REN to work toward a solution. It was generally agreed to keep working toward a solution.

Brief discussion took place and it was noted that efforts are being undertaken to re-name the Downtown Business Association, including the removal of the reference to 'Downtown'.

Brief discussion took place on involving the County with CAO J. Lawrence noting that that would have to be a County initiative.

Councillor D. Roberts questioned whether there might be funding available for such an initiative with S. Scannell noting this was something that has already been discussed.

At 7:09 PM the presentation concluded. S. Scannell thanked the others involved that helped provided direction.

- Six (6) Month Update – Town Financials  
Deferred to next month.

- Appointment of Ms. Kerby MacInnis as Development Officer for the Town of Antigonish  
CAO J. Lawrence noted Ms. K. MacInnis has been hired on interim position to replace B. Nheiley.

“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Ms. Kerby MacInnis as Development Officer for the Town of Antigonish.” Motion carried.

- 2017 Union of Nova Scotia’s Climate Change Leader’s Award; presentation to Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA)

CAO J. Lawrence advised Council that Special Projects Coordinator S. Scannell had applied for the above noted Award on behalf of AREA and that the submission was successful. S. Scannell provided details.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that a representative from the Towns of Antigonish, Berwick and Mahone Bay will accept the award on behalf of AREA on November 8<sup>th</sup>, during the Union of Nova Scotia’s Fall Conference.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier provided brief comment on the status of AREA

- **Correspondence**

There was no Correspondence.

### **Staff Reports**

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

Brief discussion took place.

### **Committee Reports**

J. Lawrence reviewed timelines attached to proposed net metering, and costs associated with same. He noted they had looked at Riverport and at doing at a rate study, and it was noted that the earliest a rate study could be done is early 2018. CAO J. Lawrence noted that there was some miscommunication between the Town, ACE, and those wishing to have their solar panels up and running, and provided further details.

CAO J. Lawrence advised of a decision of the UARB with regard to interim rates for net metering. He further advised Administration is reluctant to put in place rates where fixed costs of the Utility would be at risk. He noted that if the UARB ‘red circles’ those who are waiting to activate their solar panels, the Town would live with the proposed rates.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approach the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board as soon as possible, to ask that if the Town accepts their terms whether the Town could have (four) 4 individuals red circled so as to allow those who have made a significant purchase of solar panels move forward.” Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier indicated that, in the event the UARB comes back with ‘no’ that Council would revisit the issue.

Mr. P. Yancey, a member of ACE, stated he wants to make sure that if the UARB were to say no that Council would move promptly in order that they wouldn’t have to wait another month, and would move quickly to have a Council meeting.

CAO J. Lawrence called for any further questions from the Report.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Town had reached an agreement with Dexter's Construction and that they will pick up most of the costs of bringing recent paving carried out up to an acceptable level, and that at the end of the day the Town will come in just under what was budgeted.

Council was advised by CAO J. Lawrence that all of the underground work has been carried out for the traffic lights for Highland Drive/West Street, and that the Town is currently waiting for lights to arrive, which should be the end of October.

- Recreation

Councillor M. Farrell noted that a Recreation Committee meeting had been held which resulted in the following motion:

"It was Moved and Seconded that when a trail or pathway within the Town is completed and ready to be named, the Recreation Department will hold a community contest to develop a bank of names for that trail or pathway. Using this bank, the Recreation Department will make a name recommendation to be approved by Council. If a situation arises where no names are submitted through the community contest, or all names are deemed inappropriate, Council may decide to name the trail themselves or direct the Recreation Department to do so." Motion carried.

Councillor M. Farrell provided details on the Chisholm street pathway tender, capital items list being compiled, Field of Dreams project, 55+ Games, and noted the tennis courts require a complete rebuild. She noted that there is ongoing discussion regarding a Skateboard park

- Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that the Accessibility Advisory had met and had the honor of having MP Sean Fraser in attendance, noting he was able to provide the Committee with some great ideas.

"It was moved and seconded to recommend that any unused Capital funding allotted Accessibility projects be moved to the capital reserves." Motion carried.

Councillor D. MacInnis noted monies for ramp will not likely move forward in the current fiscal year and they would like it put in a Reserve. In response to a query from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, CAO J. Lawrence confirmed this could be done.

"It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council that J. Lawrence direct S. Scannell to explore the promotion of work opportunities for persons with accessibility issues." Motion carried.

Councillor D. MacInnis suggested perhaps the Town and MP S. Fraser's department work toward having/supporting businesses to hire those with handicaps. S. Scannell noted we already partner with CACL on watering and litter pick up

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to a provincial program that had a large pot of money that saw only one applicant apply for funding.

"It was Moved and Seconded to circulate the draft definition of draft Definitions of Accessibility to Council for consideration to be written to become the terms of reference, to be followed up by email poll to Council." Motion carried.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts advised that a Police & License meeting had not been held this month, but would be meeting again next month.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that at the last Beautification meeting M. Amit was acknowledged for her commitment to the Committee, He noted 6 gardeners will be receiving the Communities in Bloom Scotts Miralce-Gro recognition during the November council meeting.

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson advised Council that this is Waste Reduction Week, with the focus being food waste. He noted that the Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Education Coordinator, N. Haverkort would be at Sobeys tomorrow then at Walmart to provide information on how to reduce food waste.

Councillor J. MacPherson provided an update from Antigonish Community Transit Society, noting ridership is up over 18,000 for the year to date.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that one of the things MP Sean Fraser spoke to at a recent Accessibility meeting were that funds for transit were previously only channeled into large areas, are now available for smaller rural transit groups. There is now work on a new fund which would be available to smaller transit systems. This fund should be announced shortly.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM