

**Regular Town Council
March 19, 2018
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Media
Presenters
Members of the Gallery

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 February 26, 2018 (Regular and In Camera) and email poll of March 13, 2018.” Motion carried.

It was generally agreed that, at the request of Mayor L. Boucher that the matter of Fracking under Business from the Minutes be moved to the front of the Agenda.

Mayor L. Boucher reminded those present that the meeting tonight is a public meeting but not a public hearing. She reminded everyone to be respectful as Council discusses the matter of fracking.

- **Response to Guysborough County Request for Support (Fracking)**

Mayor L. Boucher provided background details on the request for support. She pointed out that when a motion comes up, just because it is moved and seconded it is not necessarily approved but can be discussed.

“It was Moved and Seconded That the Council of the Town of Antigonish write the Premier of Nova Scotia, with copies to all members of the Legislature, indicating that, in light of the recent release of the Nova Scotia Onshore Petroleum Atlas Project confirming the economic potential for onshore hydrocarbon development, that we strongly urge the Province to create regulations and legislation that remove the ban on fracking in NS and design a program that provides strict guidelines and parameters under which a pilot project can be initiated to determine whether tis resource can be safely developed for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.” Motion defeated.

Mayor L. Boucher reminded everyone that the Town would be seeking additional information on fracking. She then read an excerpt of a letter from the Premier to Guysborough County.

Councillor W. Cormier indicated he would not support fracking in Nova Scotia at this time given a lack of information on the topic and referred to where fracking is and isn't permitted and spoke further to the matter. He then stated he would support a motion that the province could not consent to fracking unless they have the support of the municipal unit in question. Remaining members of Council voiced their opinion on the matter of fracking.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that it is Council's role to keep an open mind and provide comment and referred to what happened in Quebec.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town write the Province to continue the moratorium and that if the moratorium is lifted that an affected municipal unit retain the decision as to whether fracking can be done in that particular area." Motion carried.

"It was Moved and Seconded to table Councillor W. Cormier's motion." Motion carried.

Councillor D. MacInnis stated he would like to see additional information.

Presentations

- Strait Area Ground Search & Rescue

T. Sampson and T. McChesney were in attendance to provide a presentation on what the Strait Area Ground Search & Rescue does.

T. McChesney thanked Council for their support last year and provided details on what they undertook over the past year. It was noted they would be seeking \$5,000. this year, noting they had to make a major repair to one of their vehicles. Details were provided on membership. Council was advised that members pay for and supply their own equipment.

T. Sampson noted he has been on call for 3,600 hours and has been treasurer for approximately 15 years. He spoke to necessary training and positive measures they have taken to save money. Council was advised on various costs related to what they do.

Councillor W. Cormier and Deputy Mayor D. Roberts provided comment, which were responded to by both presenters. Comments were provided on funding.

Councillor J. MacPherson provided comment and questioned cost reduction associated with a recent heat pump installation.

CAO J. Lawrence, raised concern with the ability of the municipalities to pay, and noted there are formulas that should be looked at, and stated a request has to be based on fairness. T. Sampson noted that they will be presenting to the Mayors and Wardens meeting and will be seeking a levy.

The presenters thanked Council for their time and they left the meeting.

- Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network (ESREN)

J. Beaton was in attendance to provide details on what the Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network has been up to.

Council was provided with an overview, strategic direction, and focus areas, with J. Beaton expanding on the focus areas.

J. Beaton spoke to stakeholders with an interest in the Strait of Canso and expanded on their various interests. He then provided details from the Strait of Canso Development Update and provided details on the stakeholders.

He referred to the Investment Database, noting information was provided on their Launch held in January 2018. Details were provided on their 'Business Now' model, which aids in helping business to connect to resources. Council was provided with details on a Port Hawkesbury initiative.

Challenge areas were reviewed, along with upcoming Initiatives. Potential projects (pending funding) were reviewed, along with other collective REN initiatives. Council was provided with the ESREN locations and contact.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked J. Beaton for his presentation and asked him to provide the benefit of their Charter. Discussion took place.

Brief discussion took place on the Guysborough Liquefied Natural Gas terminal.

- Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

M. MacEachern and R. Finn were in attendance to provide details on what the Visitor Information Centre is doing, noting their mandate is to get people to come to Antigonish - stop, stay and spend money. It was noted that as they are downsizing they are also going electronic. Their Mission and Vision were reviewed.

It was noted the goal is to eventually have the information centre open year-round.

It was noted that the VIC now has access to the VisitAntigonish website. Examples of smaller VICs were provided. They noted they would be attending the Saltscapes event and will have card rack cards and maps of the Antigonish area. It was noted that they plan to work closely with Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores (DEANS) and try to capture their success.

A graph of visitors to the VIC visitors from 2006 to last year was presented, and a change to the way the number of people are tracked was touched on. Their marketing plan was presented and reviewed.

Councillor J. MacPherson noted he had been to visit the new space and noted it's small footprint. Deputy Mayor D. Roberts questioned what would happen with the existing building, to which the delegates responded.

Mayor L. Boucher advised that some Councillors would be attending the Saltscapes event and thanked the delegates for taking over the Visit Antigonish website.

The presenters thanked Council for hosting them and they left the meeting at 7:23 PM

- **Antigonish Farmers' Market**

C. VandeSande was present to provide details on the new building which would house the Farmers' Market, Federation of Agriculture, Sustainability, and others.

J. Quinn provided details on the Antigonish Agriculture Centre, adding that in addition to being open Saturdays, the Farmers' Market plans to be open on Wednesdays as well. He provided details on their vision noting it will be one of the largest meeting buildings within the Town.

Council was advised that the building would feature moveable areas, will have space for 80 vendors as well as an additional 10 outside, and also feature a commercial kitchen and meeting room.

Council was advised that the commercial kitchen is important as most of those attending the Market are approximately 50 small businesses. It was noted that the building will be used as a start-up incubator and as a partnership with the Nutrition Department at St. FX.

Details on the economic impact of the current market were reviewed from 2016, and it was noted that there was a total economic impact of \$1.7 million dollars. Council was provided with the economic impact expected from the new market.

The Antigonish Agricultural Centre (AAC) Fundraising Campaign was distributed.

Council was advised that this type of fundraising is typically a 3-way split, with the Federal, Provincial, and local sponsors making up the majority of funding. It was further noted that they have already received \$200,000. and are requesting \$150,000 from the Town.

Further to a comment from Councillor A. Murray brief discussion took place on building acoustics.

Most Councillors provided comments on the Market with Mayor L. Boucher providing closing comments prior to the delegates departure.

Business from Minutes

- **Business Improvement District (BID) Results and Report**

S. Scannell presented an overview of the Building Improvement District Results and Report. He noted that at the meeting in December he had provided details on steps taken. He provided more specific details on the various means of contact, meetings with various stakeholders, marketing and promotion, and noted the Town had shared the proposal with County and that he was hosted by Chamber of Commerce. He thanked J. Beaton, R. Burelle, and J. MacDonald for their support of the project.

Council was advised that there was a non-binding vote, for which the Town received just under ½ back (approximately 45%). It was noted that although people were not in favor of a BID, they felt some form of marketing service should be available.

S. Scannell noted that there was general concern and questions about the ability to attract the person needed, that many believed the County should be involved, and some felt no direct benefit would be derived from a BID.

Council was advised that information was also attached to his report and noted it appears there is not sufficient support for a BID at this time, and presented the options that Council now have. S. Scannell stated he would recommend not going with BID but rather looking to an alternative.

Councillor A. Murray questioned what the next steps were to make people aware of the decision. CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Engage NS is running parallel to this, and that he wanted to see what comes out of that first, for budget purposes.

Councillor W. Cormier provided comments he had heard. CAO J. Lawrence noted the County could be re-approached and other steps that could be taken in looking toward a different option.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she had attended most of the events related to the BID and provided comment.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts thanked S. Scannell for the work he had put into this project.

Councillor M. Farrell stated that as a business owner the Town needs something and will eventually will get it right.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the positive lines of communication that were open during this process, and noted he hopes this continues.

Mayor L. Boucher noted Council cannot understate the importance of what came from this process.

R. Burelle noted that the matter also came up at the Engage NS event. It was further noted that it is hoped that there will be something in the upcoming budget.

New Business

- Fire and Emergency Services

CAO J. Lawrence noted that information was inadvertently not available at the last meeting but is included now. He briefly reviewed details regarding applying to have the Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department as the Town's emergency service provider.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town accept the Application for Registration as a Fire Department or Emergency Services Provide under the Municipal Government Act from the Town Volunteer Fire Department as presented." Motion carried.

- 2018-19 Borrowing Resolution

S. Rector noted that each year the Town does a borrowing resolution.

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the 2018-19 Borrowing Resolution." Motion carried.

- St. FX Emergency Management Organizational Agreement

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the Emergency Management Agreement and its partners.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the St. FX Emergency Management Organizational Agreement as presented.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted the importance of this agreement and acknowledged the mutual benefit to everyone involved.

Correspondence

- Municipality of the District of Guysborough Re: CBRM Charter

CAO J. Lawrence noted CBRM is seeking to sell land at less than market value and enter into tax agreements. It was noted that the District of Guysborough has written a letter stating it shouldn't be permitted, or should be available to all

“It was Moved and Seconded to write a letter to the province against a CBRM Charter.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that this goes against the One Nova Scotia Report.

- Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Re: CBRM Charter

CAO J. Lawrence noted that in their correspondence the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce is also against a Charter for the CBRM.

- Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network

Council was advised by CAO J. Lawrence that this type of request for funding is part of normal planning and will be discussed during budget deliberations.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that S. Day had sent out his own monthly report. CAO J. Lawrence noted getting reports to himself and the Deputy Clerk on time is important and briefly expanded on details.

Councillor J. MacPherson questioned a comment in the CAO report regarding a review of the RCMP contract. CAO J. Lawrence responded and provided comment.

Committee Reports

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Waste Management Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town send a letter of support to Minister Rankin concerning banning plastic shopping bags province-wide.” Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier noted that some of the organic carts are now experiencing damage and requested that some consideration be given to replacement of them. He further noted that he

would like further discussion and consideration to take place at the next Waste Management meeting.

- **Beautification**

Councillor A. Murray advised that the Beautification meeting was cancelled due to weather, and noted that a guest from Truro is expected to come to speak with the Tree Sub-Committee this Friday.

- **Police & License Committee**

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts advised that the Police & Licensing Committee is dealing with parking lot issues, by-laws to be condensed, speeding on certain streets and foot patrols. She noted trash on town streets was discussed and that she will meet with the president of the student union to discuss a possible clean up, particularly in the James Street area. She thanked the Town's Electric Utility staff for new lighting on College Street.

Recreation

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the Youth Volunteer of the Year nominee Breanna Green." Motion Carried.

Councillor M. Farrell expanded on details of the nominee.

Councillor M. Farrell reported on the Special Olympics, and Canada Day noting additional volunteers are needed for Special Olympics.

- **Planning Advisory Committee**

Mayor L. Boucher stated she had nothing to report from Planning.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.