

**Regular Town Council  
September 17, 2018  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

CAO J. Lawrence  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator  
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services

Media

**Call to Order**

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the July 16, 2018 Regular and In Camera Council Minutes and August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Special and In Camera Minutes, 2018." Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- Nova Scotia Arts & Tourism Initiative (R. Mattie)

R. Mattie was in attendance and provided Council on the details of a proposed Nova Scotia Summer Festival targeted for the Antigonish area.

R. Mattie reviewed their marketing strategy, trademarks, Board and other members of the organization, and timelines. It was noted the event would be for the Antigonish community and would feature local food, spirits, etc.

Council was advised that the ask was for the use of Columbus Field and in-kind staffing.

Mayor L. Boucher called on Council for questions.

R. Mattie noted they would like to have confirmation sooner than later, with Mayor L. Boucher noting that the Town would have to look at the staffing issue and Columbus Field.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked R. Mattie and his guests for their attendance.

- Municipal Affairs Re: Asset Management Pilot Project Kick-Off (J. Duncan, P.Eng., Matt Delorme, and D. Neilson, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM))

Introductions were made and Council was provided with a PowerPoint presentation on the Asset Management Pilot Project Kick-Off.

Through the presentation Council was advised on what an asset and asset management are, asset integration, asset management steps, the current state of infrastructure, key challenges, the Nova Scotia approach, the asset management working group, overall framework, key program phases, pilot data collection, GIS mapping, and next steps for the registry project, and how the Town can support the project.

A question and answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the delegates and they left the meeting at 6:41 PM.

- Engage Antigonish (S. Scannell)

S. Scannell provided an overview on past Engage Antigonish events and where the Town is now moving forward. He noted that at the last session, it was noted the Town would provide an update, and advised that an open letter from Mayor L. Boucher was released in the Fall issue of the Talk of the Town.

S. Scannell noted that an economic assessment is moving forward in conjunction with the County and ESREN.

Discussion took place.

- Right to Know Proclamation

Mayor L. Boucher noted that September 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> is Right to Know Week., and declared September 24 to 30<sup>st</sup> as Right to Know week in the Town of Antigonish. She then read aloud the Right to Know Proclamation, followed by a signing of the document. She noted the importance of matters such as this proclamation and of Council's responsibility to be transparent.

"It was Moved and Seconded to support the Right to Know Proclamation." Motion carried.

### **Business from the Minutes**

- Cadet Day (Announcement Re: Flag Raising)

Mayor L. Boucher noted the from a prior presentation to Council, the Cadets requested permission to raise the Cadet Flag at Town Hall on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM for a two-week period.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Cadet Flag be raised at Town Hall on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM for a period of two weeks." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that a bar-b-que would be held for the Cadets immediately following the flag raising.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to the positive support of having organizations like the Cadets having their flag flown.

- Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network (ESREN) Governance & Financing  
Mayor L. Boucher provided Council with an update on a meeting she, Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, and Port Hawkesbury CAO T. Doyle attended with the Minister of Municipal Affairs. She noted the Minister entertained them for over an hour, and appeared open to the three recommendations put forth and seemed to understand that something needs to change. She further noted he would be taking the information back to his staff for consideration for a new governance model, and did not think there would be a problem to get additional funding.

Brief discussion took place.

- Vital Signs  
Mayor L. Boucher noted that I. MacLeod had previously made a presentation to Council on the Vital Signs program, and is now seeking funding.

“It was Moved and Seconded to fund the Vital Signs Project to a maximum of \$2,000.00.”  
Motion Carried.

- James Street  
CAO J. Lawrence provided details on efforts to have a derelict sign removed from a former business on James Street.

“It was Moved and Seconded to declare sign on the property located on James Street as Dangerous and Unsightly.” Motion carried.

St. FX Homecoming

Mayor L. Boucher referenced to negative feedback from Homecoming activities last year. She noted that meetings have been ongoing with St. FX, the County of Antigonish, St. Martha’s Regional Hospital, the RCMP, the Landlord’s Association and Student Services to see what could be done to mitigate negative activity this year, noting everyone wanting the same thing - for students to celebrate Homecoming in a safe manner.

She advised that there is a plan to host students to an event on campus, noting that Council agreed to do what they could to make this event successful.

Brief discussion took place on a financial commitment with various Councillors providing comment.

“It was Moved and Seconded that \$4,000 be allocated from Council’s discretionary funds toward a Homecoming event for students on campus.” Motion carried with one nay.

### **New Business**

- Antigonish Crime Prevention Grant (Removed from the Agenda)

- ITrade Stock Account

CAO J. Lawrence provided background details on the need to have M. Barkhouse be appointed as the trading authority for the Town, noting the benefit to businesses to be able to donate stock instead of monetary donations.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council appoint M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services as the trading authority for the Town of Antigonish’s Online Brokerage Account with Scotia ITrade. As trading authority, the Director of Corporate Services is to only accept stock donations, immediately convert them to cash and put them into the standard Town of Antigonish banking account, with all other transactions prohibited.” Motion carried.

- Honorariums Adjustment Re: New Income Tax Law for Elected Officials

M. Barkhouse took the podium to expand on details on the existing tax exemption being removed effective January 1, 2019. In turn, the honorarium will be adjusted for elected officials to ensure they would receive the same post tax income, which resulted from a recommendation from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

“It was Moved and Seconded that, based on recommendation from federal and provincial bodies, in order to allow Town of Antigonish Elected officials to maintain globally the same level of post-tax income prior to the repeal of 1/3 income tax-exempt law for Elected Municipal officials effective January 1, 2019, that elected officials be given the following yearly gross increase to their honorariums effective January 1, 2019; Councillors: \$2,801.88 each; Deputy Mayor \$3,112.51; and Mayor 4,746.05.” Motion carried.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Proposed Development Agreement Re: Medical Massage Practice; 62 The Heights

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council give first reading to the proposed Development Agreement for 62 The Heights to permit a medical massage practice to operate in an R1 zone with the exception of ‘Schedule B’, with the date and time for a public hearing to be October 15, 2018 at 6:00 PM in Town Council Chambers.” Motion carried.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amendments to the Taxi Cab By-law

S. Scannell provided an overview, noting the bylaw had been reviewed over the past while Through the Police & License Committee. Taxi cab business license fees will be brought forward separately as part of the Municipal Services Fees Policy.

“It was Moved and Seconded by the Police & License Committee to give 1<sup>st</sup> Reading to amendments to the Taxi Cab Bylaw, with the date and time for a public hearing to be October 15, 2018 at approximately 6:00 PM in Town Council Chambers.” Motion carried.

- Financial Commitment to the Antigonish Farmers’ Market Association (pending confirmation of their funding in place)

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment noting that the Town would provide \$150,000 toward the project.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve \$150,000 to be funded out of the operations reserves, subject to the organization’s ability to fundraise the remaining portion of funding, and further, Council humbly ask that consideration be given to optimize the acoustics within the building.” Motion carried.

Discussion ensued with Council providing questions and comments.

- Motion to Re-Allocate a Portion of the Capital budget to the Capital Reserves for Main and Hawthorne Streets Intersection

CAO J. Lawrence provided details on the reasoning behind the re-allocation of funds.

“It was Moved and Seconded that \$202,000 from the 2018-19 Operating funds be re-allocated into Capital Reserves, less any amounts required to pre-purchase assets for the Main and Hawthorne Streets Intersection project which require a lengthy ordering timeline.” Motion carried.

- Cairn Park

Councillor M. Farrell noted that with the Special Olympics a Special Olympics cairn was created.

“It was Moved and Seconded to have the Special Olympics Cairn moved to the Cairn Park.” Motion carried.

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Board Report

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the NSFM had requested their report be distributed to Council for their information.

- Citizen Appointments to the Antigonish Arena Commission

CAO J. Lawrence advised Council on the need to appoint citizens to the Antigonish Arena Commission.

“It was Moved and Seconded to authorize administration to advertise for citizen appointments to the Antigonish Arena Commission.” Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

St. Ninian’s Cathedral

Mayor L. Boucher noted she had just received the correspondence today. Deputy Mayor D. Roberts claimed a Conflict of Interest and removed herself from the table.

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud the correspondence, noting Canadians Accepting Refugees Everywhere (CARE), is a local committee, working toward bringing a Somalian family to Antigonish and are seeking \$1,500.00.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve \$1,500.00 from the Town’s discretionary funds to the CARE project.” Motion carried.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that in October an update will be provided to Council on the status of the discretionary funding.”

### **Staff Reports**

- CAO Report

Mayor L. Boucher noted the CAO report was quite lengthy.

Councillor W. Cormier noted that he is receiving very positive comments on the current paving program, and suggested that consideration be given to those with paving experience in the future, with CAO J. Lawrence providing comment in response.

### **Committee Reports**

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier had nothing to report

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson reported on a very successful 'Care to Share' Program being held this week within the Town, as well as the upcoming September 18, 19 & 20 bulky item pick up on regular garbage collection day, and September 21 & 22 a Household Hazardous Waste program will be offered at Antigonish Market Square.

Council was advised that this Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Homecoming Street Clean up, and he noted had asked the President of the Students Union to get as many students as possible to participate, with funding from Divert Nova Scotia going to the Emergency Fuel Fund. Councillor J. MacPherson noted that St. FX has their own wells for irrigating purposes.

- Beautification Committee

Councillor A. Murray reported on a successful flower basket program, some damage to two (2) trees, noting the caliper of a tree being planted should be a minimum of 3".

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts reported on various topics discussed at a recent Police & Licensing meeting.

- Recreation

Councillor M. Farrell noted there was no Recreation meeting held, and that various members of Special Olympics invited to a thank-you social hosted by the Province/Premier. Councillor M. Farrell spoke to and thanked the numerous volunteers who helped make the Special Olympics such a success.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis had nothing to report, and noted a meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to be scheduled for October.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the newly established Planning Advisory Committee had recently met and that it a very productive meeting.

She further noted that she will be sending thank you letters to past members of the Planning Advisory Committee.

### **Adjournment**

With there being no further business at 8:03 PM the meeting was adjourned.