

**Regular Town Council Minutes  
November 19, 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

Media

**Call to Order**

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with one addition.” Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 26, Special Council, October 15, 2018 Public Hearing and Regular Council and In Camera Minutes, and October 23, 2018 In Camera and Special Council.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher congratulated D. Wilson for being appointed as a Commissioner for taking Affidavits and how it would benefit Council and the public.

**Reports**

- **Divestiture of Surplus Land Policy**

S. Scannell reviewed the Divestiture of Surplus Land Policy and how the need for such a policy came about and expanded on the details.

Council was advised that although there are no direct budget implications, there would be costs of appraisal and surveying that would be recoverable.

CAO J. Lawrence expanded on cases where the Town may wish no longer wish to keep land that is not developable and cited the Recreation and Engineering Departments as examples.

The CAO then responded to queries from Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Divestiture of Surplus Land Policy as presented subject to recommendations from the Town’s Solicitor.” Motion carried.

## **Business from Minutes**

- Dangerous and Unsightly Property James Street

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the property had been attended to as requested and that the Town no longer has a concern with the state of the property.

Discussion took place. CAO J. Lawrence noted that an agreement had been put in place for the same costs for the West Street sidewalk for work on James Street and on Church Street. He further noted that staff will keep an eye on weather however as it may be necessary to hold the funds for next year.

- Proposed Development Agreement and Taxi Cab Bylaw Amendments

It was noted that no appeals have been received to date.

- Status of Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network (ESREN)

CAO J. Lawrence referred to a meeting with Municipal staff and ESREN, and a more recent meeting with the Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA), along with the municipal units involved with ESREN. He noted that the DMA is committed to 50 cent dollars. He further noted that DMA is agreeable to municipal membership on the Board but as non-voting members. It was noted a 3-year funding commitment is being considered by the Province.

Brief discussion took place on finances. CAO J. Lawrence stated that the Province is very supportive of the ESREN, and noted the Town will need to have an understanding of where the County is on the matter, and that his understanding is that Council will make a final decision in the next month or so.

Council was advised that a likely timeframe on this matter would likely be the end of this calendar year.

Councillor W. Cormier provided his comments on the matter.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish is very interested in being involved with the ESREN and subject to the final municipal make-up of the ESREN.” Motion carried.

## **New Business**

- Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Deputy Mayor D. Roberts for her role as Deputy Mayor, and called for nominations for a new Deputy Mayor.

Councillor J. MacPherson nominated Councillor A. Murray.

Councillor W. Cormier nominated Councillor D. MacInnis.

Councillor A. Murray noted he had taken stock of his upcoming year and graciously declined. He then Seconded the nomination for Councillor D. MacInnis.

Mayor L. Boucher called twice for further nominations.

With there being no further nominations:

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council appoint Councillor D. MacInnis as Deputy Mayor for the upcoming term.” Motion carried.

- **Plaque Presentation Re: Antigonish Highland Society**

Mayor L. Boucher noted she and the CAO had met with representatives of the Antigonish Highland Games at which time she was presented with a plaque she received on behalf of Council for support of the 2018 Antigonish Highland Games.

- **Staff Christmas Bonus**

“It was Moved and Seconded that staff Christmas bonuses be given out as in the past and further this matter will be discussed during the budget process in the future.

- **Free Parking during Christmas Season**

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town provide free parking in the Creighton Lane and Sydney Street parking lots from November 25<sup>th</sup> through to the New Year.” Motion carried.

- **Appointment to Antigonish Affordable Housing**

Brief discussion took place on having a member of Council sit on the Antigonish Affordable Housing Committee.

Councillor W. Cormier noted the importance of affordable housing and the many factors that are influenced by it.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that if Council appoints a member to a Board when representing Council then they would not be in a conflict of interest.

Brief discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence advised that staff would look at the current policy and come back with a policy which would allow Council to make appointments to various committees.

## **Correspondence**

- **RK MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation**

Following a brief discussion “It was Moved and Seconded that Council appoint Ms. P. MacPherson and Mr. P. Arsenault to the RK MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation.” Motion carried.

## **Staff Reports**

- **CAO Report**

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

CAO J. Lawrence responded to a query from Councillor D. Roberts regarding an area of space in the Library that may be coming up for lease.

Councillor A. Murray acknowledged the work being carried out by K. Gorman.

Councillor W. Cormier expanded further on the details regarding the space at the library.

Councillor W. Cormier questioned the status of the tennis courts. CAO J. Lawrence expanded on details regarding the tennis courts, noting that a decision on the courts will be required at budget time.

### **Committee Reports**

- Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department  
Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Solid Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that through a statement from the Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management (ERSWM), he found out that the provincial government does not intend to ban plastic bags, and through their discussion with a large grocer retailer, noted approximately 40% are using re-useable bags, but there is a need to get the numbers up.

He further noted that ERSWM will push for more use of reuseable bags, and would like to see this region become a leader in this matter.

Discussion took place. Mayor L. Boucher noted that discussion has been ongoing with other municipalities, and that the Town does have the ability to ban plastic bags. She noted she had also spoken with a number of businesses on Main Street who are supportive of reuseable bags.

Councillor W. Cormier noted it might be problematic if one municipal unit banned plastic bags and the neighboring municipal unit didn't, may be an issue, and suggested putting it on the next Joint Council meeting.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the number of municipalities around the province that are on board.

CAO J. Lawrence noted any such change would have to be by way of a by-law and not policy.

It was generally agreed to have the matter on the agenda for the next meeting of Joint Council.

Councillor A. Murray cited a local business that has done away with almost all forms of plastic from their business.

- Beautification

Councillor A. Murray stated he had nothing to report, further that he helped a bit in getting the wreaths up with the light standards to be done as traffic permits. He advised Council he is hopeful that the Beautification Committee will be ordering Christmas décor.

Mayor L. Boucher expressed condolences to Ms. A. Arnold in the loss of her husband.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted that as there was no meeting she had nothing to report. She noted the 55+ Games Committee is meeting every second week and provided details.

- Accessibility Committee

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis stated he had nothing to report.

- Recreation Committee

Councillor M. Farrell provided details on the time and location of the Christmas parade.

Council was reminded that the Town and County would be hosting 55+ Provincial Games next summer and put forth the following motion:

“That Council appoint Councillor D. Roberts as Co-Chair of the 2019 Nova Scotia Provincial 55+ Games Antigonish Society.” Motion carried.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the main item on the last Planning agenda was the Municipal Planning Strategy. She noted there would be an open house hosted by WSP on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and provided details. She further noted that other matters from Planning would be on their way to Council.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM