

**Regular Council Meeting  
Via Teleconference  
April 20, 2020**

**Present**

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

CAO J. Lawrence  
Deputy Clerk D. Wilson

B. Luciano, Acting Director of Corporate Services  
K. Proctor, P. Eng., Town Engineer  
S. Scannell, Director of Community Development  
K. Gorman, Communications Director  
L. Basinger, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

**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 presented.” Motion Carried

**Approval of Minutes**

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 Regular and In Camera Meeting Minutes and the March 10 and 18, 2020 EPoll Meeting Minutes.” Motion Carried.

**Presentations (Virtual Paper)**

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the virtual paper presentations from the following organizations: Antigonish Highland Society, Victoria Order of Nurses, Antigonish Culture Alive and Antigonish Arts House.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the presentations would be reviewed when Community Grants are given consideration.

**Business from Minutes**

There was no Business from the Minutes.

**New Business**

- Appointment of New Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department Member  
“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Mr. Will Hawkins to the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department as requested by Fire Chief Mr. B. Chisholm.” Motion Carried.

Councillor D. MacInnis provided background details on the proposed member and noted he would be a good addition to the Department.

- Approval of Business Continuity Pandemic Plan

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Business Continuity Pandemic Plan as presented.” Motion carried.

- Approval of Video and Teleconferencing Policy

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Video and Teleconferencing Policy as presented.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment noting how well the document was done, and commended staff.

- Motion to Distribute Council Discretionary Funds

“It was Moved and Seconded to distribute the remaining 2019/20 Council Discretionary Funds among the Antigonish Food Bank, Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre and the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund (\$4,231.60 each).” Motion carried.

Councillor D. Roberts questioned whether there was a request from these organizations and questioned if we should have something on file. Mayor L. Boucher responded. CAO J. Lawrence provided additional details, noting it was Council’s Discretionary Funds, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic things are a bit different. Mayor L. Boucher responded with additional details.

- Provincial Capital Assistance Program

“It was Moved and Seconded to make a funding application for the purchase of a generator for the Town’s Sewage Treatment Plant through the Provincial Capital Assistance Program in the amount of \$250,000 with the Town’s portion of the project approximately \$83,000 and the County’s portion being \$41,500.” Motion carried.

- Low Income Property Tax Program

“It was Moved and Seconded to defer the Low-Income Property Tax Program to September 30, 2020.” Motion carried.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the filing of taxes has been pushed back by Revenue Canada, also that there may be a sub-group of other programs that may be looked at. Brief discussion took place.

- Regional Climate Change Partnership

“It was Moved and Seconded to enter into a Regional Climate Change Partnership with the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, St. F.X. University and Paq’Tnkek First Nation.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher stated that the four organizations will put a practical program together that would benefit residents. She noted that this was initially brought up at a Joint Council meeting. She noted K. Wamsley of St. FX is doing a great deal of work on this initiative. Brief discussion took place.

Mayor L. Boucher noted an insurance company initially sponsored the program to help move it forward.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Jeux de L'Acadie Grant

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council write a letter for the record stating that the current Council supports \$5,000. being granted to the Jeux de L'Acadie Games in 2021 as the Games for this year have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and that, while Council recognizes the final decision rests with the next Council, they hope the new Council would give the request serious consideration." Motion carried.

- Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Re: Electric Utility

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the correspondence to waive interest and suspend the Electric Utility's ability to disconnect services for non-payment to June 30, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic." Motion carried.

- Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Re: Water Utility

"It was Moved and Seconded to accept the correspondence to waive interest and suspend the Water Utility's ability to disconnect services for non-payment to June 30, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic." Motion carried.

- Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) Re: Appointment of Staff

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the following staff for the 2020/21 fiscal year:

- Building Inspectors: Sean Donovan and Jonathan Martin  
Alternates: David MacKenzie and Harry Martell
- Special Constable: Sean Donovan and Jonathan Martin
- Assistant Building Inspectors: Andre Sampson and Amanda Esterbrooks
- Development Officer: John Bain  
Alternates: Andrew Jones, Alex Dunphy, Wanda Ryan and Lewis Pope
- Fire Inspector: Sean Donovan  
Alternates: A. Sampson, A. Esterbrooks, H. Martell, D. MacKenzie and J. Martin
- Dangerous and Unsanitary Premises:  
Administrators: Jonathan Martin and John Bain  
Alternate: Amanda Esterbrooks
- Special Constable: Sean Donovan and Jonathan Martin." Motion carried.

## **Staff Reports**

- CAO Report

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

Councillor A. Murray had a question on the Fire Department and requested clarification. S. Scannell noted one of the updates from the Fire Chief was a letter from Emergency Health Services that given the way Covid-19 was spreading they advised they were putting in more infection control details, and as a Level 5 responder they would respond to motor vehicles with difficult extractions, and he expanded on the details.

Councillor J. MacPherson questioned when the Railway may be going to make repairs at the East end of Main Street. The CAO provided details and noted we do not have control or mandate over the Railway and noted the contact information has been made available. CAO J. Lawrence agreed to forward the contact information to all of Council.

Councillor W. Cormier noted that if there was support from the hospital it may garner more action in having the repairs carried out by the Railway.

Councillor D. Roberts stated she noticed that the paving that is under the track is very sparse and questioned if this was something the Town should look at but was advised by the CAO that it is not a Town matter.

Councillor D. Roberts asked for clarification on an acronym.

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell thanked the CAO and staff for all that they can do during these times. CAO J. Lawrence noted that having a good staff is key to accomplishing what we do and that the leadership team is a very cohesive group to work with.

- Director's Reports

CAO J. Lawrence provided details on how when Covid-19 kicked in, the leadership team met seven days a week, developed an overall pandemic plan, identified essential services, formulated plans to carry out essential services, developed supporting policies, and re-evaluated plans and made adjustments where required. The CAO then opened the floor for Directors to provide a brief overview of where things stand in their divisions.

S. Scannell, K. Proctor and B. Luciano were each provided with five (5) minutes to provide a verbal update to Council on their respective departments.

Mayor L. Boucher called on Council for questions after each Director put forth their update and Council thanked each Director for all they are doing.

Councillor W. Cormier asked for clarification on the tennis court report. S. Scannell noted that \$100,000. was set aside last year and that staff had Maritime Tennis provide comment on the courts, and staff is now working with Strum Engineering to put together specifics for the Request for Proposals. S. Scannell noted he is preparing a memo with options for Council to consider.

Councillor D. Roberts thanked K. Proctor for his work and questioned the issue of drainage on Fairview Street and questioned if this would be addressed with the Farmers' Market servicing.

K. Proctor noted some of the drainage issue is related to some work the exhibition carried out several years ago. He stated it is not part of the work planned for the Farmers' Market servicing and that staff will investigate the matter.

Mayor L. Boucher stated staff are doing an excellent job and requested that thanks be passed on to staff.

B. Luciano responded to a question from Councillor W. Cormier noting that he is following cashflow closely, but at the current time given that the Town currently can borrow internally, liquidity is not a problem.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she has been telling the CAO and the Directors how much Council appreciates staffs' efforts.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she contacted and spoke briefly to the RCMP on the events that took place this weekend and let them know our thoughts are with them and we would help in any way we could.

Mayor L. Boucher provided final comment noting L. Basinger had submitted her letter of resignation for a new opportunity that presented itself. She thanked L. Basinger for the work she has done and wished her the best of luck in her new position.

### **Committee Reports**

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that everything is going well with the Eastern District Planning Commission.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Solid Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that the Bulky Item Collection Program will proceed as scheduled. He further advised that although it hasn't been advertised that Household Hazardous Waste can now go to the Beech Hill landfill site.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray noted that although the Beautification Committee did not meet that he, along with T. Cameron and S. Scannell are working on flower program.

- Police and License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted that the Police and License Committee met on March 10<sup>th</sup> and reviewed various items that had been on the agenda and briefly reviewed the topics. She thanked S. Scannell for information he provided her that she was able to share with the Committee. She then put forth the following motion:

"That Council give consideration to additional funds for lighting at crosswalks and intersections during budget deliberations." Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the motion with CAO J. Lawrence noting the motion is to 'give consideration to' and that staff would have to put in some work as to what this would cost and provide a report.

- Disability Advisory Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted that in 2019 the province mandated that municipalities have an Accessibility Plan in place for 2020 and questioned whether anyone has heard whether this requirement might be delayed. S. Scannell noted he hasn't heard anything and agreed to reach out to the province on the matter.

- Recreation Committee

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell provided brief comment on the Landing. She noted she would like to celebrate two builders in our community, the Volunteer of the Year (Ms. B. MacDonald) and Youth Volunteer of the Year (Ms. J. Myette) and expanded on the organizations, community groups and work that they do in our community. She noted the Halifax presentation for Volunteer of the Year has been postponed until the fall.

Councillor D. Roberts provided comment on an email she sent to the Mayor and CAO, with CAO J. Lawrence noting that due to the events of yesterday he requested S. Scannell to postpone providing comments to RCMP. Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM.” Motion carried.