

**Regular Council Meeting  
September 16, 2019  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

M. Barkhouse  
S. Scannell  
L. Basinger  
Media  
Delegates

**Absent with Regret**

Councillor M. Farrell

**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 as presented." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Regular and In Camera Council Minutes of July 15, 2019, and Epoll Minutes of June 21, June 26, June 28, July 10, August 20 and August 21, 2019." Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- Keep Well Antigonish (A. Bigelow)

Dr. A Bigelow noted she was present to appeal a decision of Council to not provide Keep Well Antigonish with a Community Grant.

An outline of the Keep Well Antigonish Society was distributed. Dr. A. Bigelow reviewed the programs noting it is targeted toward seniors at-risk or vulnerable for care unless they maintain/strengthen their physical fitness.

Council was advised that each session is filled (50 people) with wait lists. Dr. A. Bigelow spoke briefly to a donation from the County for transportation through Antigonish Community Transit. She noted that the group is comprised of participants with varying degrees of physical fitness, some with walkers, and some from public housing and all diverse ages.

Council was advised on a measured hand grip test for participants and how it is compared at the end of the session, and how they are seeing seniors' health improving. It was noted that the participants complete surveys on the program.

Dr. A. Bigelow spoke on funding, noting long term funding is difficult. She stated they have enough funds to run the Fall sessions but none for after that. She noted the program aligns with the Town's Physical Activity Strategy.

A question and answer session followed.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke, noting that the ask from Keep Well Antigonish to the County was \$9,000 and that they received \$1,500.00. She then questioned whether the group could be sustainable, noting the Town doesn't have the ability to sustain various programs. Mayor L. Boucher noted there is overlap, and referred to the Arts House, the Senior's Safety Program, and Senior's fitness. She noted she would like to see more collaboration with programs already being offered by the Town.

Dr. A. Bigelow stated she feels they are targeting a different clientele, and that they are collaborating with Antigonish Town Recreation, the Health Authority and the RCMP.

Mayor L. Boucher acknowledged the benefits to the program being offered. Comments were provided by members of Council.

At 6:35 PM the presentation concluded.

- Air Cadets (Cpt. DJR McKee)

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Cpt. McKee to the meeting. Cpt. McKee thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and noted he would be making a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Cadet program.

Cpt. DJR McKee provided background information on his role and then provided a brief video presentation and overview on challenges, leadership, and experience with the Cadet program.

Council was advised that the Cadets look to develop confidence and self-awareness in their program and provided statistics and funding regarding the Cadet program both nationally and locally.

Cpt. DJR McKee spoke to the success of some local Cadets who have gone on to join the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

A video featuring the Royal Canadian Air Cadets was presented.

Cpt. DJR McKee provided contact info. He noted their biggest need is for those from the surrounding area to work with the Cadets program.

Council was advised the Cadets would be very appreciative if they could do a flag raising again this year.

Council was thanked for the time to make the presentation.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she had attended, and praised, the Cadet Review.

"It was Moved and Seconded to have the Air Cadet Flag fly at Town Hall from Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019." Motion carried.

## **Business from Minutes**

### **New Business**

- Inter-Municipal Agreement – Re: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Update  
CAO J. Lawrence provided Council with details on where and what type of hazardous waste programs are currently in place. He provided an overview on how the Town and County had come to the point of considering an Inter-Municipal Agreement for an HHW Depot at the Beech Hill Landfill site, with the Town's annual cost being approximately \$2,200. He noted the total estimated start-up costs are approximately \$5,000, as well as how costs would be allocated for any unforeseen circumstances. It was noted that it was staff's recommendation for Town Council to enter into the Inter-Municipal Agreement.

Councillor J. MacPherson provided comment from the view of the Solid Waste Management Committee.

CAO J. Lawrence noted there would be advertising of the program, and that it would be appropriate to have a grand opening at the site.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town enter into the Inter-Municipal Agreement for a Household Hazardous Waste Depot with the County of Antigonish." Motion carried.

- Inter-Municipal IT shared Services Phase I - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
M. Barkhouse took to the floor and provided Council with an overview of the MOU, how it came to fruition, the partners, and the costs, which will hopefully provide infrastructure at a reduced cost.

Council then received a backgrounder on IT Shared Services to the nine (9) municipal units, the motivation and benefits.

She noted their proposal mirrors the Municipal Joint Service Board, Lunenburg Region Model.

M. Barkhouse went through the various Phases, noting there would be an ability to step away from the project at the end of Phase I. Timelines were reviewed., with each municipal unit having 45 days to consider the project.

Although most municipal units have acknowledged their support, a couple of municipal units have declined to participate with one still to decide.

Brief discussion took place with M. Barkhouse responding to questions from Council.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that initially this is Phase I, with a 50% grant from the province. M. Barkhouse briefly reviewed the costs associated with the program.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to a query from Councillor W. Cormier and referred to the hacking that took place last year at St. FX.

Brief discussion took place, with Mayor L. Boucher providing closing comments.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish commits to participate and sign the Inter-Municipal IT Shared Services Phase 1 Memorandum of Understanding with an expected budget of \$5000 to \$7000.” Motion carried.

- **Public Electric Car Charging Stations: Request for Proposals (RFP)**

M. Barkhouse took to the floor providing Council with an overview of the RFP for electric car charging stations with partnerships with the Town’s Electric Utility and AREA.

Council was advised that the purpose is to provided promoting electric vehicles, tourism, car/ride sharing and create awareness of the program. She noted 50% of the cost will be covered to a maximum of \$5,000 per installed charging cable. The criteria were then reviewed, and she noted that the town would be collaborating with many electric utilities in the Maritimes.

It was noted there are three main levels of chargers. Fast (\$100,000 + installed)

Home Chargers – level 2 – private not for public use.

Public Chargers – Outside (Level 2) Battery top up while you shop, \$9,000 installed

Local possible sites were presented. Brief discussion took place on the cost of having cars charged.

M. Barkhouse reported on the number of charging stations that the other AREA partners would be installing.

M. Barkhouse reviewed the RFP, Electric Utility submission and payback.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the cost of electric vehicles versus combustible engines. He noted this is also a good opportunity to work with some of the Town’s other partners.

Brief discussion took place on the proposed locations.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish Council confirms its commitment to the Pan Maritime Provinces Municipal Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Initiative submission to Natural Resources Canada’s Zero-Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program RFP and further confirms that funds are available for 50% of the \$170,420 budget for 20 publicly-available level two electric vehicle charging stations located within the Town’s municipal electric utility territory as described in the Natural Resources Canada RFP submission for fiscal year 2020-2021.”

Motion carried.

- **Blood Drive – September 30, October 1 (12-3 & 5-8), October 2 (10-2) Student Union Building – Bloomfield**

Mayor L. Boucher noted that a local resident has been receiving blood over the past while and will soon be returning home. She noted that the Town could go as a group if the numbers warrant and could also include staff. She encouraged Council to attend the blood drive in support of local resident Cyndi Doucet whether as the group or individual.

### **Correspondence**

- **Proclamation – Right to Know**

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to the transparency of this Council and then read aloud and signed the Right to Know proclamation which was proclaimed for September 23-29, 2019.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the Right to Know proclamation.” Motion carried.

- Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department – Request to Fly Flag  
Mayor L. Boucher noted correspondence was received from the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department to have their flag fly during Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2019.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department flag fly at Town Hall October 6-13, 2019.” Motion carried

- Appeal of Decision of Council – re: Community Grant Request  
Brief discussion took place with various Councillors putting forth their thoughts. It was generally agreed to support the organization for one year.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council support the Keep Well Antigonish Society with a financial contribution of \$1,500.00.” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council adopt the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2019, with the adjustments as noted.” Motion carried.

### **Staff Reports**

- CAO Report  
CAO J. Lawrence noted that at some point soon the CAO report would be limited in length.

Councillor J. MacPherson praised staff and, one radio station, for their commitment to community during hurricane Dorian.

CAO J. Lawrence noted he would have two (2) verbal brief reports regarding Dorian, coming from S. Scannell and K. Proctor, P.Eng.

Brief discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to the Main/Hawthorne Street intersection noting the budget will come in at approximately \$10,000 either way of the budgeted amount.

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

### **Staff Reports**

- Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis reported that the Committee hadn't met since June but would be meeting next month.

### **55+ Games**

Councillor D. Roberts reported on the success of the 55+ Games and thanked those who provided assistance. She acknowledged receipt of a Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor during the closing of the Games.

Mayor L. Boucher recognized the efforts of Councillor D. Roberts and her contributions to the 55+ Games.

#### Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported on various matters that have been taken care of recently. She acknowledged new Staff Sgt. Mooney who attended the last meeting. She stated that although the Committee did not meet in September they will meet in October.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray provided an overview from the last Beautification Committee noting that A. William of the Town of Truro was in Town for a walk-about with the tree sub-committee who are working diligently at cataloguing trees in the major areas around the downtown.

Councillor A. Murray spoke to the upcoming Communities in Bloom Conference and spoke to why no one from the committee would be attending.

Council was advised that the Christmas décor would be arriving soon.

- Solid Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that a Waste Management Committee had met in September. He further noted that the St. Francis Xavier University Vice-President of the environmental committee is willing to attend the Waste Meetings.

Council was advised that bulky waste is being collected this week on residents regularly scheduled pick-up day. As well a river clean-up will be coming up.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report but noted the next fire committee meeting would focus on private hydrants.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher reported on two (2) recent brain-storming sessions held with WSP staff to further define the Town's soon to be new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-law (LUB). She noted that another series of meetings to discuss key points in preparation for a final draft of the documents will be scheduled for the end of October. She thanked Council and praised the process that took place

- Hurricane Dorian

K. Proctor provided an overview of the hurricane event noting a pre-group meeting was held during which pre-checks, updates and staffing were dealt with. He noted a main contact number was put out to the public, that Public Works building was the operations site, and advised on the positions of staff.

K. Proctor noted the event started earlier than anticipated and ended approximately 3:00 PM the following day. Council was advised that staff were on call, rest periods were in place and updates were provided through the night. He then spoke to power outages and to when power returned. K. Proctor spoke to the water and sewage facilities, and the number of calls received.

K. Proctor spoke to other issues during the storm, noted clean up began immediately following the storm, and further noted that some materials can be taken to Eastern Sanitation Ltd., and to a special pick up the end of this week.

Council was advised that follow-up meetings were held, and areas were looked at where some improvements can be made. Some generators will be put in place in a couple of places and noted one local radio station was not broadcasting updates.

- S. Scannell,

S. Scannell noted that early planning and communication were key, staff kept in touch with EMO throughout the storm. Regular communications were in place. By-law staff made patrols and were able to identify downed trees, which allowed staff to stay on top of things. Contact was made with the Fire Department. Recreation Maintenance staff were brought in on Sunday to assist with clean-up, and that pretty much all hands were on deck.

Council was advised that staff will be developing a management center and will look at plugging in staffing into emergency management structure. Training will be held through EMO, will look at back up for cell phones that are inoperable.

CAO J. Lawrence noted the biggest fear was the rain that fortunately didn't happen. He spoke to need for a generator at Sewage Treatment Plant and noted that power was off for less than a day in Town.

Mayor L. Boucher praised communication, the quick clean-up and phones being manned. She noted that from the outside the public was very pleased with how things went. She thanked staff for their work.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:14.