

**Regular Town Council Meeting  
May 25, 2020  
Via Zoom Platform**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

CAO J. Lawrence  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
K. Gorman, Communications  
B. Luciano, Human Resources  
K. Proctor, Town Engineer  
S. Scannell, Community Development

Delegates  
Media

**Call to Order**

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with two (2) additions." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2020 Regular and In Camera Minutes and April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 EPoll Minutes." Motion carried.

**Presentations (Presented via Paper)**

- Antigonish Culture Alive (S. O'Toole)

The presentation by Antigonish Culture Alive was received from S. O'Toole and will be considered during budget deliberations.

- Pickleball Request (M. Hinchey/I. MacDonald)

The presentation on Pickleball by M. Hinchey and I. MacDonald was read into the Record.

- Tennis Courts (D. Robinson)

The presentation by D. Robinson on Tennis Courts was read into the Record.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the individuals who provided the presentations and suggested discussion on the above presentations be deferred until S. Scannell presents his Memorandum to Council. She noted there would be no decision on his presentation this evening.

- Tennis Court and Dog Park (S. Scannell)

S. Scannell stated the tennis courts do need work and noted that they did have a company come in and provide a 'scope of work' to ensure the Town was still within the allotted budget. He then spoke briefly to the proposed tender and noted they would be seeking tenders from firms with experience in tennis court construction. He noted staff's recommendation is to replace the court with multi-racquet sports in mind.

S. Scannell noted the tender for \$25,000 + HST is for fencing for a dog park and expanded on the details of the fenced area. He noted that the Highland Society was consulted in this regard to ensure both the dog park and the Highland Society can co-exist. He noted \$30,000 would be requested as a budgeted amount, and that the Town is seeking cost-sharing with the County.

Each Councillor was presented the opportunity to provide their comments/opinion on the proposed multi-racquet court and dog park.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the specialist had indicated it would be difficult to expand the court.

She congratulated S. Scannell for his work on the dog park.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked the contributors for their submissions and noted they would be given due consideration.

S. Scannell noted that this was a collaborated effort in the dog park moving forward.

- Pacific Railway

Councillor D. Roberts noted she had been in touch with Mr. Dewey regarding concerns at the railway crossing and that he had stated it would be a costly project for the company. She noted she will wait to hear further from him. Councillor J. MacPherson stated he had brought up the matter approximately five months ago. He stated he visited Emergency Health Services (EHS) hoping they could help garner support for repairs. He expanded further on the details and noted he is receiving a lot of complaints.

### **Business Arising**

- Skatepark

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to restrictions being lifted, particularly skateparks.

S. Scannell noted that when the park is finally re-opened it will include guidelines put in place by the province and that it is incumbent upon everyone to do so in a safe manner. He noted the Town has been in touch with various other stakeholders, noting a staff meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the re-opening.

CAO J. Lawrence stated his disappointment in the park having to be closed and noted complaints and comments had come from various town and county Councillors as well as the RCMP, and that he looks forward to its re-opening.

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **New Business**

- Dr. J.J. Carroll Awards

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell spoke briefly to the Dr. J.J. Carroll Awards and the areas of sport that it supports and noted the following recommendations:

the \$5,000 Dr. J.J. Carroll grant disbursement as follows:

- Antigonish Town Recreation, Wee Lads and Lassies Track and Field: \$1,000;
- Antigonish Town Recreation Swim Program: \$1,000;
- PHAST Swim Team: \$1,500; and
- Antigonish Track and Field Club: \$1,500

She noted wee lads and lassies program has been cancelled for this year and noted how the funds would be used otherwise this year and noted that the Town works with the County to offer swim lessons for Town residents.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council accept the Dr. J.J. Carroll grant disbursement as recommended by staff.” Motion carried.

- Re-Opening of Town Hall

CAO J. Lawrence provided those in attendance with an overview of staff returning to work and the re-opening of Town Hall to regular hours on Monday, June 1, 2020 with staff reporting to work later this work. He spoke to modifications put in place and the how the public will access Town Hall. He noted there will be one main entrance door and that those wishing to meet with staff will be required to make an appointment. He further noted staff will accept cash but prefer a credit card. He then spoke to the three (3) zones that have been developed within Town Hall. He stated that staff are excited to be returning to work.

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell thanked staff for their work during the pandemic, and further thanked Mayor L. Boucher for her work.

Mayor L. Boucher reiterated thanks to staff.

- Election Update

Mayor L. Boucher noted there will be an election in October.

CAO J. Lawrence noted D. Wilson had met with the Returning Officer this morning and spoke briefly to additional funds being included in the election budget due to the pandemic.

Councillor D. Roberts raised concern of a second wave of the virus and questioned how Council would campaign. CAO J. Lawrence noted that if there is a spike in the pandemic the Minister may reconsider the election being held.

Councillor J. MacPherson spoke briefly to an email recently received regarding the election. Mayor L. Boucher stated Mayor P. Mood is the president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) and stated Mayor P. Mood may go back to the Minister again on the matter of the election. She noted Council does need to move forward in preparing for the upcoming election.

Brief discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to questions from Council.

- Budget Update

B. Luciano noted the budget is coming along well and should be ready to present in approximately 1 ½ weeks.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment and thanked B. Luciano for his work.

- Allison Cameron Re: Atlantic Region Kids Help Phone

Mayor L. Boucher noted organizations such as the Kids Help Phone often do fundraisers and are seeking sponsorship for a dance-a-thon. She noted this is important and spoke to various things that are currently affecting children.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to supporting this organization, noting Council has included additional funds for things such as this that do come up. Deputy Mayor M. Farrell spoke to the importance of the dance-a-thon.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council support the Kids Help Phone with a \$1,000. donation from Council’s discretionary funds.” Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher noted this motion comes with a condition with further details to follow.

### **Proposed Memorandum of Understanding 129 Hawthorne Street**

“It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the property owner at 129 Hawthorne Street to secure the strip of land along Xavier Drive for possible further intersection upgrades in exchange for the work as outlined in front of 129 Hawthorne Street.” Motion carried.

### **Staff Reports**

- CAO Report

Councillor D. Roberts spoke positively to the new CAO reports format. CAO J. Lawrence noted K. Gorman was responsible for the new format.

Councillor A. Murray questioned what the discussion has been regarding the clock tower, with CAO noting they had the clock tower looked at.

K. Proctor noted staff have had people look at the area as there is concern with clock are being heated/not heated and possibly bracing the area. He noted heat loss is likely coming from the face of the clock.

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

### **Committee Reports**

- Recreation Committee

Deputy Mayor M. Farrell had nothing to report.

- Accessibility Committee

In response to a query from Councillor D. MacInnis, it was noted staff have reached out and determined that an extension has been granted to 2021 to have an accessibility plan in place.

- Police & Licensing Committee

Councillor D. Roberts noted that no meeting had been held due to the pandemic. She noted she expects to have a meeting in June.

- Beautification Committee

Councillor a. Murray noted that the Beautification Committee did not meet due to the pandemic and that flowers should be going out the second week of June.

Councillor A. Murray noted he had sent a letter to D. McKee on the planting of the tulips and subsequently the orange tulips and spoke further to why they were planted.

Council was advised that teleconference meetings are being held for Canada Day preparations, with the Committee being very innovative, and noted it should be virtual 2 hour Canada Day event.

He noted it was debated whether to do the fireworks live however, they will be pre-recorded.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Councillor Murray for the work being done for Canada Day.

Councillor A. Murray noted the flower program will be the same as last year and that plantings will be in place at Hawthorne/Main Streets as well as the former 'Petro-Canada' planting.

- Antigonish Community Transportation (ACT)

Councillor J. MacPherson noted that ACT has been meeting regularly via Zoom and will return to face to face meetings when safe to do so. He noted dial-a-ride is still operating within the Town and County.

J. MacPherson noted that the Household Hazardous Waste station at Beech Hill is now open but has not yet been advertised.

In response to a query from Councillor D. MacInnis, Councillor J. MacPherson noted the weights for the Bulky Waste Collection were included in the CAO's report.

K. Proctor noted that the weight numbers are included in his report and was well received.

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report from the Fire Committee.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted the province approved the Town's new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) on April 14, 2020, and that an ad to announce it had been put in a local paper. She noted there was lots of engagement from the public in reviewing the documents.

- Water Rate Hearing

K. Proctor noted the Utility and Review Board has approved the Town's request with respect to water rates and responded to a query from Councillor W. Cormier.

CAO J. Lawrence provided brief comments on the rate hearing which was held via teleconference.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to the impact on the County's water rate for next year and noted both municipal units used the same experts.

Councillor J. MacPherson provided details on the bulky waste collection noting 41.7 tonnes of bulk material and 10.2 tonnes of metal.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked staff and the gallery for participating. She then requested the media stay on.

Councillor A. Murray called for adjournment at 7:33 PM.