

**Special Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 8, 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
S. Scannell, Community Development
K. Proctor, Town Engineer
B. Luciano, Accounting Manager
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
K. Gorman, Communications

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.

Mayor L. Boucher noted she did have some details on the 'Black Lives Matter' march that took place this past Saturday and thanked the organizers and attendees. She stated her appreciation to those attending and those wearing masks and noted everyone took safety seriously. She spoke to the death of G. Floyd and the affect this has had and the movement it has created.

Each member of Council was presented with an opportunity to speak on the matter.

- **Community Grants**

Mayor L. Boucher noted that Council had gone through the process of reviewing and marking the grant requests received noting that the grants this year are vastly different to what Council looked at in the past due to the pandemic.

She noted two (2) additional revised requests have since come forward. The first being Festival Antigonish. It was noted that the original request was for \$15,000. and that they are now seeking an additional \$2,000. It was generally agreed by Council to stay with the fulfilling the original request.

Mayor L. Boucher noted Antigonish Culture Alive is requesting an additional \$2,000. noting the original request was for \$6,000. with Council initially agreeing to a \$5,000. grant. Brief discussion took place.

"It was Moved and Seconded to provide Antigonish Culture Alive with an additional \$2,000. from Council's discretionary funds for a total of \$7,000."

Discussion took place.

- ALS Awareness Day

Mayor L. Boucher had been approached by a group to decorate Town Hall to bring awareness to ALS, with the Mayor suggesting they use the display area inside the Town Hall. She noted they would also like to have a proclamation, plus a banner on ALS Awareness day only, and to have a table set up to accept donations on that day.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council support the requests put forth for ALS Awareness Day." Motion carried.

- Environmental Working Group

Mayor L. Boucher requested a graphic be placed on the screen and noted that the Town is working with the County, St. FX University and Pat'qtnkek First Nation on environmental matters that would benefit everyone including the 3-steps to cost effective Home Flood Protection plan. She noted the group came together as a result of a presentation by Intact Insurance. She noted the County has already agreed to send the information out with tax bills and spoke briefly to the Town doing the same. She noted that another graphic outlining responsibilities of both the landlord and the tenants would also be made available.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Town's logo be used on the graphic as presented, and that it be included with tax bills, and copies be made available the Library and Food Bank. Motion carried.

- Pride Month; Request to Fly Flag

Mayor L. Boucher noted a written request was received from Councillor A. Murray to fly the Pride flag for the month of June, Pride Month. Mayor L. Boucher read the request.

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Pride flag be flown for the remainder of the month of June 2020." Motion carried.

- Library Lease

"It was Moved and Seconded that Council sign a Memorandum of Understanding to deal with the excess library space that has become available." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher vacated the Chair and Deputy Mayor M. Farrell took to the Chair.

- Presentation on Budget

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment and requested B. Luciano go through the General Budget page by page.

B. Luciano then went through the General Operating and Capital Budget and provided the following highlights

B. Luciano noted that Town will be adding an EMO Coordinator to be shared with the Town, County and St. FX University with costs to be split equally.

Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the effect of Covid-18 on the budget although it might look like savings there will also be losses to revenue.

In response to Councillor D. MacInnis, B. Luciano confirmed e-ticketing should be in place this year.

Brief discussion took place with CAO J. Lawrence providing comment on a 25-year schedule to be able to replace fire vehicles as they are needed.

Recreation & Special Events – Programming cancelled which will see reduced revenue and expenditures.

Overall, B. Luciano indicated the budget is balanced with no increase in residential or commercial taxes.

Resolution 2020-06-08A Re: 2020-21 Budget

It was “Moved and Seconded

WHEREAS the Town of Antigonish estimates the amount of \$ 10,718,586.61 as necessary expenditures for the lawful purposes of general Town operations, and revenue, other than taxation revenues in the amount of \$ 5,381,210.74 for the year 2020-21; AND WHEREAS the net amount required to be raised by taxation is in the amount of \$ 5,350,881.62;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate to be set for 2020-21 at the rate of \$ 1.09 for Residential and Resource and \$ 2.61 for Commercial properties per \$100.00 of taxable assessment; and a Fire Levy of \$ 0.032 per \$100.00 of assessment.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2020-21 taxes to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 15, 2020;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on taxes be set at 9% per annum on the taxes outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 15, 2020.” Motion carried.

Resolution 2020-06-08B Re: 2020-21 Waste Management Collection

It was “Moved and Seconded

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Waste Management Collection charge for 2020-21 be established as \$ 319.33 per equivalent unit;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2020-21 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 15, 2020;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on charges be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 15, 2020.” Motion carried.

Resolution 2020-06-08C Re: 2020-21 Sewer Rate

It was “Moved and Seconded

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Sewer Rate charge for 2020-21 be established as 0.664 of Water Base Rate and Total Water Consumption charge;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2020-21 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish 30 days from the invoice date;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on charges be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of 30 days from the invoice date." Motion carried.

Note: K. Gorman will be putting together a media release announcing the Town's approval of the 2020-21 municipal budget.

With there being no further business a motion was put forth to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.