

**Special Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 1, 2020
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor D. Roberts

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Community Development
K. Proctor, Town Engineer
M. Barkhouse, Human Resources
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with an addition." Motion carried.

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed the Directors to the meeting.

CAO J. Lawrence noted this is an opportunity to have department heads provide an overview of their respective divisions and spoke briefly to each of the departments.

- **Corporate Services**

M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services, provided an overview on past/current projects and upcoming initiatives. An overview was provided on the budget, fire levy, the Alternative Resource Energy Authority, community solar gardens, the Town's Water Utility and other Corporate Services initiatives.

A question and answer session followed.

- **Public Works Department**

K. Proctor, Director of Public Works, provided details on various ongoing activities from the Public Works Department, including the mandate of various departments, organizational chart outlining the staff and including public works, electric utility and facilities departments. Details were provided on bases of operations, statistics, equipment, ongoing work, updates and new projects.

A question and answer session followed.

- **Community Development**

S. Scannell, Director of Community Development provided details on various departments and activities including background, planning and processes. S. Scannell began with what Community Development is and means, the mandate, organizational structure, budget breakdown, setting the community development agenda, 2020/21 sample work plans, and divisional overview for By-Law Enforcement, place-making, Parks and Recreation, Marketing, Communications and Events, Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department, along with other activities and priorities.

A question and answer session and discussion followed.

- **Strategic Initiatives**

L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator provided details on ongoing and upcoming activities related to the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA), including how electricity is generated and distributed, utility growth in Nova Scotia, the correlation between Nova Scotia Power Inc. and municipal electric utilities and changes since the inception of AREA. Council was advised on greenhouse gas emission goals, the formation of AREA, the pursuit of clean energy, details on the creation of the Ellershouse Wind Farm, three phases of AREA turbine development and performance and expectations. The benefits of the Ellershouse Wind Farm were presented, as well as risks and threats to the electric utilities, the move to community solar gardens and their benefits, electrification, the Heat Pump – HOME Program, electric vehicle charging stations, and the electrification of St. FX. She provided details on Antigonish becoming the first net-zero community in Canada, and a request for proposals for AREA branding.

A question and answer session followed.

New Business

- **Audit Committee Policy Amendment**

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the province now requires municipalities to have at least one independent community member on the Audit Committee, and further that the Town advertise for such person every six (6) months until a person has been appointed, and that the Audit Committee meet at least bi-annually.

Council was advised that the existing and proposed policies were included with their information package.

“It was Moved and Seconded to amend the Audit Committee Policy as presented.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- **Theatre Antigonish**

Correspondence was introduced from Theatre Antigonish requesting financial support in the amount of \$2,000. Mayor L. Boucher noted that Festival Antigonish did receive their full request this year. It was noted that a response was received from them as to the amount being requested.

Discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council provide financial assistance to Theatre Antigonish in the amount of \$2,000 from Council’s discretionary funds.” Motion carried.

- Knights of Columbus

Correspondence was introduced from the Knights of Columbus seeking financial support for their annual toy drive. Comment was provided on changes to the program this year due to the pandemic.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council provide financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000.00 be provided to the Knights of Columbus from the funds set aside due to Covid-19.” Motion carried.

- Santa for Seniors

Correspondence was received from S. Fear requesting financial support for a Santa for Seniors program. Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the program.

“It was Moved and Seconded that financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000.00 be provided for the Santa for Seniors program from the funds set aside due to Covid-19 through the Senior’s Safety Coordinator program.” Motion carried.

- The Pas

Mayor L. Boucher read aloud correspondence from S. Cannen of the Anglican Parish requesting support for the community of The Pas (approximately the same size as Antigonish).

Discussion took place.

“It was generally agreed that Mayor L. Boucher reach out to S. Cannen and then Mayor of The Pas in an effort connect Antigonish organizations that may be able to provide support to the community.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that Antigonish Community Transit was inadvertently left off of having a Councillor appointed to it.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Councillor D. Roberts be appointed to Antigonish Community Transit.” Motion carried.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer