

**Regular Council Meeting  
March 20, 2017  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

CAO J. Lawrence  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Media  
Delegates

**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 additions." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the minutes of the In Camera Council and Regular Council meetings of February 27, 2017 and the Email Poll minutes of March 13, 2017." Motion carried.

**Presentations**

- Antigonish Women's Resource Center (AWRC); S. O'Toole, M. MacGillivray, E. Wynn and A. Sweet

Ms. S. O'Toole, board member of Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, introduced herself and introduced those in attendance with her. She provided background details on the work of the AWRC since 1983. She then expanded on the services offered by the AWRC. Ms. S. O'Toole and the other delegates spoke specifically to the Healthy Relationships for Youth (HRY) (for Grade 9 students), and the Inspire Girls program. She noted an application has been submitted to the Town for consideration, and noted that their application speaks to the Town's Strategic Plan.

Ms. S. O'Toole noted that the HRY program has run for 10 years and has been replicated in other areas.

In response to comments from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, the delegates advised that they do work with St. FX Student Union. It was noted that their request is for \$10,000.

- Antigonish Art Fair (AAF); R. Finn

Mayor L. Boucher welcomed R. Finn, of the Antigonish Art Fair. R. Finn noted that he is a Co-op student at St. FX and is working with the Art Fair.

R. Finn provided details on the AAF noting it is now entering its fourth year. He stated they work to support new artists, and are aiming to build a reputation of Antigonish being the cultural capital of Nova Scotia.

He provided an overview of the event noting they provide a stage and audience for musicians, a children's corner, partner with L'Arche to support their art work, provide free tables to community groups, offer workshops, provide an area for food vendors, have a raffle at each event and also offer a local high school scholarship.

R. Finn noted they have a lot of community support, want to expand and are developing marketing and trying to bring tourists from other area. He noted that with support from the Town they would be able to hire a co-op student. It was noted that over 900 people attended the Halloween Harvest Bash. R. Finn noted that they offer the event five nights throughout the summer (every second Friday).

Mayor L. Boucher thanked R. Finn for his presentation. D. Miller noted that he and Ms. B. Latwaitis have been expanding the Art Fair in other ways and referred to the Halloween Harvest Bash.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier provided positive comments on the growth of the Fair.

At 6:45 PM Councillor D. Roberts excused herself from the meeting.

- Dr. J. Retallack, P. Eng., AMG Energy Re: Electric Direct Load Control Initiative  
It was noted that information was previously distributed regarding the Electric Direct Load Initiative. Mayor L. Boucher noted that both she and Deputy Mayor W. Cormier were familiar with the presentation.

Dr. J. Retallack thanked Council for the opportunity to make his presentation. He spoke to the initiative, noting that the Towns of Berwick, Mahone Bay, Riverport and Lunenburg are looking at this initiative.

Council was provided details on the objective of the program, the potential for increased customer engagement and lower costs, and energy optimization. Mr. J. Retallack provided details on the charges for Demand and discretionary loads.

Council was provided with details regarding operating principles, Berwick as a 'test bed', and details from testing done with Berwick Electric. Mr. J. Retallack spoke to the economics of the initiative, the process, longer term benefits, energy optimization, the resulting solution, safety and security, risks, next steps and implementation.

Council was advised that the request is for \$20,000, to get going, and that this would serve 400 customers. He noted he would have a detailed proposal within 4 weeks.

At 7:20 PM J. Retallack wrapped up his presentation and left the meeting.

CAO J. Lawrence noted he and Mayor L. Boucher would have a look at some of the details.

## **Business from the Minutes**

- Request for Compensation; Various Residents – Thompson Street

“It was Moved and Seconded to deny claims for compensation from Thompson Street residents for water issues, and further to direct Town staff to contact the residents explaining Council’s decision.” Motion approved with Councillor J. MacPherson voting nay.

- Antigonish Heritage Museum

“It was Moved and Seconded to deny the request to increase heritage grant from last year, and strongly reconsider the amount this year.” Motion defeated.

“It was Moved and Seconded to increase the community grant to the amount requested in their application from 2016-17.” Motion carried with Deputy Mayor W. Cormier voting nay.

Discussion ensued. CAO J. Lawrence spoke to an Act of the Legislature regarding the Museum, noting that we can give them a grant however the amount is not specified.

- Antigonish Crime Prevention/Senior’s Safety Coordinator

CAO J. Lawrence noted that in 2002 the Town agreed to turn over funds from criminal records checks to financially support the Seniors Safety Coordinator position. Minutes from that time show much discussion but no final commitment to continue to turn over the funds.

“It was Moved and Seconded that funds from criminal records checks be turned over to the Antigonish Crime Prevention Association to financially assist the Senior’s Safety Coordinator position.” Motion carried.

- Fire Levy

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to a fire levy and 25 year fire vehicle replacement program, and to replacing (two) 2 fire vehicles with a pumper tanker. He noted that fire vehicles shouldn’t be more than 25 years old, and the need to ensure our firemen have the necessary equipment to respond to fires.

Council was advised that Section 80 of the Municipal Government Act permits a fire levy. CAO J. Lawrence expanded as to who the levy applies to and to an agreement by the Fire Committee for a fire levy. He further expanded on the details.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier provided comment noting that our volunteer fire fighters will have good equipment, and expressed appreciation for the CAO’s solution. Mayor L. Boucher reiterated the work of staff and how accountable the firemen are with their budget.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend that Council accept the Report and endorse the recommendations of the request to endorse the 25 year Fire Vehicle Replacement Plan and implement a Fire Levy.” Motion carried.

## **New Business**

- Manager of Accounts

CAO J. Lawrence provided comment on the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) and the Town’s involvement. He spoke to the recently hired Director of Corporate Services and impact to Town operations with staff becoming more involved with AREA.

He requested Council consider using the annual \$68,000, to be received from AREA, to help offset the cost of hiring a manager of accounting.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town of Antigonish hire a Manager of Accounting with an anticipated start date of April 1<sup>st</sup>, at a salary of \$55-70,000.00.” Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier provided his comments.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the CAO’s Manager of Accounting Position Report and recommendation.” Motion carried.

- Interim Planner

“It was Moved and Seconded to extend the term of the Interim Planner from March 31<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.” Motion carried.

- Correspondence

Re Library

It was noted that the Library Board Chair has sent correspondence to Minister Ince to call to action to fill the vacant position of Provincial Librarian.

### **Staff Reports**

- CAO Report

CAO J. Lawrence noted the Engineer’s portion of the CAO report is missing, but will be distributed later as the Engineer is working to complete some matters currently under deadlines.

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

- Committee Reports

- Fire Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted that there was no Fire Committee meeting held in March.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson noted a Waste Management meeting had been held but no motions arose from the meeting.

- RCMP Advisory Board

Councillor J. MacPherson provided comments regarding an RCMP Advisory Board meeting held in March, and spoke to the focus of the RCMP.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray provided details and activity from recent Beautification meetings and meetings with S. Scannell and T. Cameron.

Councillor A. Murray responded to a query from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier and provided details on not having CSA approved lights for the celtic wreath/logo. CAO J. Lawrence, suggested getting a prototype made with lights. It was further suggested to send the prototype to local store to be fitted with CSA approved lighting.

- Recreation

Councillor M. Farrell noted she had met with Recreation staff last month and are expecting to have a formal Committee meeting in April with staff and those recently approved by Council to sit on the Committee.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Planning Advisory Committee had met and that there were no motions to bring forward.

**Adjournment**

“It was Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.” Motion carried.