

**Regular Town Council
July 17, 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
S. Rector, Corporate Services

Delegates
Media

Call to Order

Mayor L. Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Special Meeting of Council (June 7, 2017), Regular Council Meeting of June 19, 2017 as amended, In Camera Council of June 19, 2017 and Email Polls of (June 20 and 21, 2017)." Motion carried.

Presentations/Proclamations

- Mr. C. VandeSande Re: Antigonish Farmers' Market

Mayor L. Boucher invited Mr. C. VandeSande to the podium. He then introduced himself, along with three (3) Board Members, and a member of the Federation of Agriculture.

C. VandeSande spoke briefly on the background of the Farmers Market, its mandate, and the plans for a new Farmers' Market building,

A. Lafayette then took to the podium, and spoke to businesses that have started locally and since expanded well beyond Antigonish. He then spoke to other funding partners and noted fundraising efforts are well underway. He advised that they are looking for the Town to become a partner, and will be presenting to the County as well.

A. Lafayette questioned the possibility of applying net metering to their project, noting they would like to have Council consider them having access to net metering.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that although Council has passed a motion to work toward net metering, there are still a few steps to go. She further noted that the Town has, in the past,

provided funding in lieu of permits to non-profits, but that that would have to be a decision of Council.

In response to a query from Councillor J. MacPherson, C. VandeSande noted the plan is for the Farmers' Market to be open year 'round.

Councillor A. Murray spoke to the need to ensure sound buffering, and spoke to a recent example. It was noted this was previously brought to the attention of the designer.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier spoke to the positive social experience that the Farmers' Market provides, and questioned the time-frame for re-development. A. Lafayette responded, noting they are working toward the week after the Exhibition for the old barn to be dismantled, with the hope of beginning site preparation this Fall. He further noted the building would also be available to 4-H and the Exhibition. The cost of the project is estimated at 2.1 million dollars, is expected to be cost-shared, and they hope the project will wind up by next summer.

CAO J. Lawrence requested that the group speak with Planning and Development, as they will have specific requirements. He further suggested the group speak further with him or S. Scannell on net metering, noting there will be some size limitations. CAO J. Lawrence then spoke specifically to participation in net metering.

Following a question from Mayor L. Boucher, it was noted that the Federation of Agriculture is in full support of the project.

At 6:26 PM Mayor thanked the group for their presentation and they left the meeting.

- RCMP Cst. D. Prasad Re: Family Services – Men's Health Centre
Mayor L. Boucher invited D. Prasad to the podium. He thanked Council for allowing him to attend the meeting. He noted he has been with the RCMP since 2016, and that one of the Board he sits on is the Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia – Men's Health Centre, and provided an overview on the services offered.

Cst. D. Prasad spoke to Men's Health Services, noting it is more than a health centre, and the most important part that they offer is navigation.

Cst. D. Prasad provided details on a fund raising effort taking place on August 12th at a local pub.

Cst. D. Prasad provided details on more specific offerings from the Men's Health program.

Cst. D. Prasad noted his first ask is to network and get the word out, noting that if there is some funding in budget for non-profit, would like to ask, if not they would like to be kept in mind for next year's budget.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the Community Grants program. A question and answer session followed. At 6:44 PM Cst. D. Prasad left the meeting

Councillor D. MacInnis invited D. Prasad to visit his business for door prizes.

- National Drowning Prevention Week Proclamation

Mayor L. Boucher noted the importance of drowning prevention, and recent incidences that took place in this area, and took the opportunity to read and sign the National Drowning Prevention Week Proclamation.

Business from Minutes

There was no Business from the Minutes.

Correspondence

- Eastern Mainland Housing Authority; Request to Appoint New Member to Board
The Mayor noted that one application was received to sit on the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority.

“It was Moved and Seconded that P. Smith be appointed as a member to the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority Board.”

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier spoke to having the Board come before Council from time to time, as they operate a number of low-income housing developments within the Town.

- Cariled; Closing Program Thank You

Mayor L. Boucher noted that the Town’s previous CAO was involved with the Cariled program, and read the thank you letter that was received acknowledging the Town’s and CAO’s participation in the program.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that even beyond his retirement, former CAO S. Feist remained involved with Cariled.

“It was Moved and Seconded that S. Feist be recognized for his involvement with the Cariled program.” Motion carried.

- Red Bear Healing Home Society; Financial Request

Mayor L. Boucher spoke briefly to the request received from the Red Bear Healing Home Society, and asked for comments from Council. It was generally agreed to respond, and advise the organization of the Community Grants Program.

New Business

- Appointment to Eastern Mainland Housing Authority
Previously dealt with.

- Appointment of Mr. K. MacLeod CBOII as interim Level II Building Inspector
CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to the need for the interim Building Inspector.

“It was Moved and Seconded to appoint Mr. K. MacLeod CBOII as interim Level II Building Inspector.” Motion carried.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to a query from Councillor D. Roberts.

- Amendment to the Police and License Committee Policy
Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Police and License Committee Policy be revised to require only one RCMP officer be in attendance at Police and License meetings.” Motion carried.

- Appointment to Emergency Measure Organization (EMO) Advisory Committee
Mayor L. Boucher noted there are two council positions available on the Emergency Measures Organization, with CAO J. Lawrence noting one of the positions must be filled by the Mayor. He further noted the Committee would meet quarterly, and that the County is also involved and has appointed their representatives.

Councillor J. MacPherson nominated Councillor D. Roberts, with Mayor L. Boucher nominating Councillor M. Farrell. After calling for nominations three (3) times, a secret ballot vote was held.

CAO J. Lawrence advised that Councillor D. Roberts will sit on the Emergency Measures Advisory Board.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier spoke briefly to the purchase of a generator for emergency purposes.

- Tent Permits
Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted that building inspectors are required to inspect any event tent over 10' X 10' feet, with the Town requiring a \$50. permit fee. He then spoke briefly to a number of non-profit organizations, and whether they could somehow be reimbursed for this cost.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to the matter, noting the inspections fall under the National Building Code, but would have staff look at developing a policy to somehow rebate the non-profit organizations that apply for permits for temporary tents.

“It was Moved and Seconded that until such time as a policy is in place that the Antigonish Highland Society and St. Martha’s Regional Hospital fundraising events be rebated permit costs associated with erecting a tent(s).

- August Council Meeting
“It was Moved and Seconded that the Council meetings regularly scheduled for August, not be held and that the next regular meeting be held in September, 2017.” Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report
CAO J. Lawrence referred to S. Rector, who distributed and spoke to the Electric operating and Capital budget, and expanded on some details. She then distributed and spoke to the Water operations and Capital budget. S. Rector provided details on the Flow-through Rate application.

S. Rector responded to queries from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier and Councillor J. MacPherson. Councillor D. Roberts noted there was a request while campaigning that she does not see on the hand-out. She noted the brick building on Arbor Drive is very dark (short portion of Arbor Drive off of Hawthorne Street), and further noted she would speak further with the CAO on the matter.

S. Rector spoke briefly to the various income and operating statements, noting some Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) funding was received.

S. Rector responded to a query from Deputy Mayor W. Cormier.

Councillor J. MacPherson questioned the status of the program as presented by J. Ratallack.

Councillor J. MacPherson posed a few questions from the CAO Report, with CAO J. Lawrence responded to the queries.

Deputy Mayor L. Cormier provided comment on the paving tender and noted that in the past, a motion had been put forth to have paving completed by a specific date. Brief discussion took place.

Councillor A. Murray questioned the status of street line paving, with CAO J. Lawrence responding they are having difficulty with the contractor, and noted he is working toward an improved solution.

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

Committee Reports

- Fire Committee

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier noted he had nothing to report.

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson advised he did have a motion from a Waste Management Committee meeting, however, he indicated he did not have the Minutes from the meeting.

- Beautification

Councillor A. Murray advised that a Beautification meeting was not held in July. He noted the flowers recently hung are doing very well, and thanked S. Scannell for his assistance. He further noted Canada Day events went extremely well, with a lot of positive comments received.

Mayor L. Boucher thanked Councillor A. Murray and Recreation staff for their hard work on Canada Day.

Mayor L. Boucher recognized staff for their cooperation with the street fair, acknowledging the time and efforts of S. Scannell and S. Smith, and the work of the Downtown Business Association.

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier questioned whether a letter should be sent to the Downtown Business Association. Council was in general agreement.

Councillor M. Farrell took an opportunity to thank staff for their efforts.

- Police & License Committee

Councillor D. Roberts reported on the Downtown Street Fair and acknowledged the efforts of S. Smith. She spoke to various matters that the Police & License Committee are working on. She noted that they were advised that a meeting was held with the County and discussion is taking place regarding a skatepark, and acknowledged she was very pleased to hear this news.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Councillor D. MacInnis noted a meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee has been rescheduled to August 10th.

- Recreation

Councillor M. Farrell noted that there would be no Recreation meetings in July and August, but would be back to a regular schedule in September.

- Planning Advisory Committee

Mayor L. Boucher noted there was no Planning Advisory Committee meeting in July, and that a full compliment of staff is now in place.

Brief discussion took place on an Antigonish Arena meeting, which will probably take place in September.

Councillor D. Roberts noted that at the last Police & License Committee meeting it was reported that a number of motor vehicles and some homes were broken into, and encouraged people to lock their homes and vehicles.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.