

**Regular Town Council
April 16, 2018
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator

Media

Absent with Regret

Councillor D. MacInnis

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as amended." Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the March 19, 2018 Regular and In Camera Minutes, March 28, 2018 Special In Camera and Council Minutes, and March 20, 2018 EPoll Minutes." Motion carried.

Presentations

- N. MacInnis Re: Antigonish River Association
Mr. C. MacInnis provided an overview of their four (4) pillars and expanded on their activities. He provided a history of river restoration in Antigonish Town and County. Council was advised that one of the projects that was carried out was one of the most successful in the Country. It was noted that as Habitat Unlimited wound down, the work was carried on through the Antigonish Rivers Association. N. MacInnis then spoke to the benefits of watershed restoration, as well as the economic benefit.

Council was advised that the Rivers Association's ask is \$10,000 per year over a ten-year period, which would allow the group to do more long-term planning, noting their only influx of cash comes from a bi-annual dinner that is hosted.

N. MacInnis introduced other members of the organization present. He expanded on the benefits of logging in the rivers.

N. MacInnis, along with other members of the organization responded to various queries and comments from Council.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts questioned their partnership with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans. N. MacInnis noted that a program they had previously accessed will no longer be available after this year.

At 6:27 PM the Mayor thanked the group for their attendance and they left the meeting.

- Dr. R. Porter re: The Odgen Round Lake Wilderness Association
Mayor L. Boucher welcomed Dr. R. Porter to the meeting.

Dr. R. Porter noted he represents a large number of people in Antigonish & Guysborough Counties who have been working tirelessly to get accessible access to the Ogden Round Lake Wilderness Area, noting he also represents the Snowmobile Association indirectly.

Council was provided with a verbal presentation that had previously been made to Minister Rankin.

In response to a query from Mayor L. Boucher, Dr. R. Porter noted that there were many trails in the area prior to it being designated a wilderness area.

“It was Moved and Seconded to write the provincial government and work with this organization to support opening up one accessible trail within the Odgen Round Lake Wilderness Area.”
Motion carried.

- Antigonish Art Fair
M. MacEachern was in attendance (along with B. Lathwatis and D. Miller) and provided Council with details on their upcoming season.

Council was advised that this year the Art Fair will partner with Music on Main on Friday evenings this summer.

M. MacEachern expanded on details of other events they were involved with last year and noted that that this year they will host an Octoberfest and are working with other businesses in the area.

Council was advised that this year they have taken on the former Visitor Information Center, which will become the ‘Art House’ and expanded on the details.

Various Councillors provided comments on Antigonish Art Fair and its accomplishments. Discussion took place on the number of arts groups in the area.

Discussion took place on the location and additional details.

At 7:01 PM the Mayor thanked M. MacEachern for his presentation and he left the meeting.

Business from the Minutes

There was no Business from the Minutes.

New Business

- May 14, 2018; Announcement; MP S. Fraser Re: Arts Health Antigonish (AHA!); Rhubarb Patch Room, RK MacDonald Nursing Home

CAO J. Lawrence advised Council of a funding announcement by MP S. Fraser taking place at the RK MacDonald Guest Home.

- Human Resources Orientation Manual Update (Revised)

CAO J. Lawrence reviewed various proposed amendments to the Human Resources Manual which would affect non-unionized staff and which would bring the Manual more in line with the unionized contracts.

“It was Moved and Seconded to adopt the proposed amendments to the Town’s Human Resources Orientation Manual.” Motion carried.

- Low Income Tax Reduction Policy (Revised)

CAO J. Lawrence provided an overview on proposed changes to the Low-Income Tax Reduction Policy. S. Scannell noted that the \$25,000 cut off and the \$125. property tax credit, are in line with what other municipal units are offering.

Councillor W. Cormier noted that he would support the proposed amendment and suggested perhaps next year look at the \$125 in an effort to determine if it is sufficient.

Councillor W. Cormier stated that this is in line with how the Town is trying to help with others and referred to the Town’s partnership with Affordable Housing.

“It was Moved and Seconded to adopt the amendments to the Low-Income Tax Policy as presented.” Motion carried.

- Vending By-law (First Reading)

S. Scannell noted that in looking at the Trade & License and Mobile Vending By-laws they contained redundant rules and fees so he looked to combining the two into one in an attempt to balance the business interests of both By-laws.

He noted other Departments and the Police & License Committee were asked to look at the document. He then reviewed the Notable Provisions, which include private property, location and application, products of the land, sea & forest, permit fees, offences and administration and enforcement requirements, and expanded on the details.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, S. Scannell responded on matters of where vending might or might not take place.

S. Scannell responded to a query from Councillor J. MacPherson with regard to distances from existing businesses.

S. Scannell noted that he would be looking for approval for First Reading for the By-law, and that it would come back in it’s final form for Second Reading.

In response to a query from Councillor W. Cormier, S. Scannell noted that there are special exemptions.

S. Scannell responded to various questions from Council, with much discussion taking place around how a mobile vendor might move to various areas, with S. Scannell noting staff would take a closer look at the matter.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the vendors setting up on private property was the biggest issue with one of the previous documents.

“It was Moved and Seconded to give First Reading to the proposed Vending By-law.” Motion Carried.

- Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) Funding Application
CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the PCAP Program and noted the Town Engineer is seeking approval to apply for 50% funding to assist with funding involved with a Residual Management Program at the Brierly Brook Water Treatment Plant as outlined in Water Utilities’ 2018 Environment Permit to Operate. He noted the total cost is expected to be \$208,571.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke on what this would accomplish.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve an application for PCAP funding as recommended by the CAO to a maximum shared amount of \$208,571.” Motion carried.

- Date for May, 2018 Council Meeting
Discussion took place on when the May meeting would take place and it was generally agreed to hold the May 2018 Council meeting to Monday, May 28, 2018.

Correspondence

- H.O.W. Club
Mayor L. Boucher noted the H.O.W. Club is requesting \$2,500.00 above their approved grant money and noted that they had missed the deadline. Brief discussion took place.

Mayor L. Boucher suggested that a letter be written to advise them to apply within the framework of the grants policy, and Council was in general agreement.

- C. VandeSande Re: Farmers’ Market
Mayor L. Boucher noted that the request from the Farmers’ Market would be looked at during budget deliberations.
- J. MacDonald/B. MacIsaac Re: Chip in for St. Martha’s
Mayor L. Boucher noted that again, this is over and above what they would have received. Mayor L. Boucher suggested that the CAO check to see if the County might be willing to split on a team.
- G. Hillyard Re: Mayfest
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts stated her concern on a substantial grant given to St. Martha’s, and now twice they have come back looking for money and expanded on her concerns.

Mayor L. Boucher responded that perhaps Council could look at what the Town currently gives.

Councillor M. Farrell noted that last year Mayfest sought Council's assistance at Mayfest, but not financially. Brief discussion took place. Mayor L. Boucher noted that the County is sponsoring at the Gold Level.

"It was Moved and Seconded to sponsor the 2018 Mayfest at the 'Gold Level' for one time only." Motion approved with Deputy Mayor D. Roberts voting against the motion.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts questioned the CAO as to what the Town Engineer was referring to in his report regarding lower Hawthorne Street, with the CAO stating he would follow up and get back to her.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts had a question as to what the Field of Dreams referred to, with Councillor M. Farrell responding.

CAO J. Lawrence noted that an application for funding for the Field of Dreams has been filed with the Blue Jays Central Program and are hopeful of being successful.

CAO J. Lawrence responded to Councillor J. MacPherson's concerns regarding street lighting.

Committee Reports

- Fire Committee

Councillor W. Cormier stated he had nothing to report.

- Waste Management Committee

Councillor J. MacPherson advised Council that a street clean-up will be taking place on Saturday, April 28th and that they could use additional help. He noted the Fuel Fund organization will receive money in return for the clean-up.

Council was advised that the Town is doing an excellent job in recycling (the best in the province) and the need to encourage people to not use plastic bags. He further noted that media advertising will be taking place on the matter.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray made reference to a recent meeting with A. Williams of the Town of Truro, who discussed similar problems and solutions regarding town trees.

Council was advised that Councillor A. Murray will be doing an interview with K. Kingston, that the colours for flowers will be those of the Nova Scotia flag, and that they will be asking people to use those colours in their gardens, and that they will be trying to get new business signed up for the flower basket program as a result of hosting the Special Olympics.

- Police & License Meeting

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts advised that the Police & License Committee had met and had discussed the Vending By-law line by line.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts responded to Councillor W. Cormier's question regarding the mobile speed sign.

- Recreation Committee

Councillor M. Farrell advised that she had attended Volunteer of the Year event with Len P.D. MacDonald. She noted they are still looking for volunteers for the Special Olympics.

It was noted that an application for funding had been made to the Jays Care Central for the Field of Dreams, and if successful, could be worth a significant amount, and it was noted that they had received a response to the application and requested that the Committee tune in to the pre-game show.

At 8:07 PM it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn.