

**Regular Town Council
February 26, 2018
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Absent with Regrets

Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor D. MacInnis

Media

Presenters

Members of the Gallery

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone. Round table introductions took place

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 January 15, 2018 (Regular and In Camera) as presented." Motion carried.

Presentations

- E. Stephenson, Active Living Coordinator

E. Stephenson advised that she was present to provide Council with an update on Physical Activity Strategy for the year to date. A PowerPoint presentation was made outlining the various actions taken and ongoing. She highlighted Operational Goals Initiatives including Active Transportation Education, Equipment Loans, 'Try Something New', a focus on Older Adults, Facility Access Program, Solstice Rock and Roll, Games in the Park, Physical Activities Special Events, Outdoor Opportunities, Children and Youth, Improving Parks, Fields and Playgrounds, and Special Days for Physical Activity. She then reviewed the In Progress Goal Highlights. She noted that depending on the skill set of the person coming in during her leave, some of the items may be put on a back burner.

On behalf of Council, Deputy Mayor D. Roberts thanked E. Stephenson for her presentation.

- Ms. C. Briand; Re Emergency Communications Plan

Ms. C. Briand introduced herself noting that she had a client stranded during the recent flood, and tried to reach out to Town staff to no avail. She noted that the Town has Facebook and

Twitter, however no information was available. She noted the difficulty in assessing information from the Town's insurer.

Mr. C. Briand stated her dismay as her business was affected for two (2) days during which time the Town didn't reach out. She noted the Town needs a plan, and that she would be willing to help.

At 6:26 PM Ms. Briand concluded her presentation

Business from Minutes

- African Heritage Month Launch

Deputy Clerk D. Wilson reported on a successful African Heritage Month Launch which took place on January 30th at the MacKay Room, St. FX Campus. It was noted that the event was well attended.

- Engage Antigonish (Update)

CAO J. Lawrence spoke on behalf of S. Scannell, noting approximately 140 people were in attendance, comments are listed on the Town's website. Another public event is tentatively scheduled for April 5th. Engage and the Town are looking to communicate with the students prior to the next Engage Session, and a tentative meeting date has been scheduled for March 23rd.

- Business Improvement District (Update)

CAO J. Lawrence noted that approximately 30 of the 200 votes have been returned to the Town, with a March 2nd deadline for voting.

R. Burelle, Antigonish Chamber of Commerce, noted the Chamber would like to be more involved and questioned what would happen on and after March 2nd. CAO J. Lawrence responded noting they should communicate with S. Scannell, noting the votes will be tabulated, then set out at an open meeting, after which time a decision would be made by Council.

R. Burelle noted they were hoping for a document that could be analyzed, and that Council would seek the opinion of members of the Chamber of Commerce. CAO J. Lawrence suggested that If the Chamber wishes to submit something, that they have the information prior to the next Council meeting, to go out with Council package. The CAO noted he would be willing to meet with the Chamber and S. Scannell to discuss the matter further.

New Business

- Application for Registration as a Fire Dept. or Emergency Service Provider

CAO J. Lawrence advised that the document is to put forth the level of service the fire service is prepared to offer and that once signed it will be submitted to the province as required.

The matter was Tabled to the March Agenda.

- Request for Funding for School Trip

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts acknowledged that a letter seeking financial support for a school trip had been received, and read the letter. It was noted 24 students from the County are attending the trip and received 'discretionary funds' from the County, while four students from the Town are seeing financial assistance from the Town.

Discussion took place with Councillor W. Cormier noting what the Town has supported historically, and further stated the Town has not supported individuals in the past. He noted he felt it was too narrow a focus, and would not support it, with Councillor J. MacPherson agreeing.

Councillor M. Farrell noted that the Town does things differently through their grants program, and noted the trips are a privilege and that the students do fundraising, and further she would not support a motion in favor of giving individuals funding, with Councillor A. Murray agreeing.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts noted she did send out an email in this regard and noted she would support it.

“It was Moved and Seconded approve a request for funding of a school trip.” Motion defeated.

- Antigonish Arena Inter-Municipal Agreement

CAO J. Lawrence noted that the Antigonish Arena Inter-Municipal Agreement had been approved at the recent Joint Town and County Council meeting and was being brought forth for ratification by Town Council.

“It was Moved and Seconded to adopt the Antigonish Arena Inter-Municipal Agreement as presented.” Motion carried.

- Request to the School Breakfast Club

Brief discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town support the School Breakfast Club to the amount of \$500.00, with a stipulation that the organization apply for funding through the Community Grants Program in the future.” Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to his past knowledge of this type of program.

- Antigonish Midget AA Bulldogs

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts noted that in the past the Town had supported the Bulldogs by way of advertising.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Town donate \$500.00 from the discretionary grants fund to the Antigonish Midget AA Bulldogs towards advertising.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the economic spinoff to the Town during this event.

- Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

It was noted a request had been received to support the Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre Gala Dinner. Following brief discussion Councillors A. Murray and M. Farrell agreed to attend.

- Request for Grant (in lieu of taxes)

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts read correspondence from a local organization seeking assistance by way of a Grant-in-lieu of taxes in the amount of \$1,733.02

“It was Moved and Seconded that a grant equal to taxes in the amount of \$1,733.02 be approved for the Howe Club.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Municipality of the District of Guysborough; Request for Letter of Support
Diane read motion “that the Council

Discussion took place with comments from some Councillors and the CAO. CAO J. Lawrence indicated that any pilot project should have the support of the affected municipality. It was generally agreed that the CAO write a letter and that it be brought back to Council for more wholesome discussion.

Staff Reports

- CAO Report

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

CAO J. Lawrence took the opportunity to introduce B. Luciano, Manager of Accounting, and provided a brief overview of his duties.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to approving the Capital budget prior to the approval of the full budget. CAO J. Lawrence noted there will be an interim capital budget before Council in March, which would allow staff to move forward with tenders earlier.

Committee Reports

M. Farrell reported on various new and ongoing recreational activities, and noted they are seeking volunteers for Special Olympics.

Council was advised that Len P.D. MacDonald has been named the Volunteer of the Year, and that one application has been received to date for Youth Volunteer (closing end of February).

- Police & License Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council allow for an exemption to the Noise By-Law to allow for an extension in hours to 1:00 am to facilitate a wedding reception on June 23, 2018 on the grounds of the Victorian Inn.” Motion carried.

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council consider an adequate budget to maintain the flags and buckets at the six crosswalks and allow an additional three locations to be added to the Crosswalk program.” Motion carried.

The Deputy Mayor noted she does have an amount that she will forward to the CAO for consideration to the budget.

- Planning Advisory Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded that a Change in Notification be added in the Land Use ByLaw to include that a letter be sent to residents within 100 feet of the property seeking rezoning or a Development Agreement.” Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to the matter.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council carry out an accessibility audit of Town Hall.” Motion Carried

The CAO noted he assumed this would be part of next years budget.

“It was Moved and Seconded on the recommendation of the Accessibility Advisory Committee that a four-month special needs position for the Town Recreation Department be funded from the Accessibility budget.” Motion carried.

Councillor M. Farrell noted that in the summer programs that are offered, it has been difficult to have a counselor to assist children with varying needs, and that it is important. CAO J. Lawrence noted that last year the Town had to turn away a couple of applicants with special needs as the Town did not have the staffing. Brief discussion took place.

- RCMP Advisory Board

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council adopt the RCMP Advisory Board Terms of Reference as presented.” Motion carried.

- Waste Management

Councillor J. MacPherson, noted that the Town was one of only two municipalities that received funding for their efforts in waste reduction within Eastern Region 2A.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town support a ban on plastic bags and write the Environment Minister to acknowledge the Town’s support and further request that the province move toward an Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic bags.” Motion carried.

Councillor J. MacPherson further noted China will no longer buy plastic bags and encouraged more people to use their reusable bags.

- Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee

Councillor A. Murray advised that the Beautification Committee had met and had their first report/presentation from the tree sub-committee. He further noted they are working on a voting system for budget priorities

- Police & License Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded that Council allow for an exemption to the Noise By-Law to allow for an extension in hours to 1:00 am to facilitate a wedding reception on June 23, 2018 on the grounds of the Victorian Inn.” Motion carried.

- Fire Committee

“It was Moved and Seconded hat the Town purchase new fire helmets as required.” Motion carried.

- Police & License Committee

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts reported that the Police & License Committee had met, with lots of discussion taking place. She noted the Taxi By-law is under review, good comments are being received on the new traffic lights. Council was advised that lighting at crosswalks is being improved, and that line painting is being done by Public Works staff, noting they can do everything but centerline. Brief discussion took place, with Deputy Mayor D. Roberts providing comment.

Councillor W. Cormier spoke to the quality of paints for lines and suggested that HRM be contacted. CAO J. Lawrence spoke to the struggle of using water-based paints versus oil-based paints.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.