

Municipal Finance Solution

The Magnificent Nine

THE TOWN OF
ANTIGONISH

The logo for the Town of Antigonish features the word "ANTIGONISH" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized green circular icon consisting of a central dot and several concentric, segmented rings.

Background

- Association of Municipal Administrators Regional Group – 9 Municipalities
 - Municipality of Antigonish
 - Municipality of Guysborough
 - Municipality of Inverness
 - Municipality of Richmond
 - Municipality of St. Mary's
 - Municipality of Victoria
 - Town of Antigonish
 - Town of Mulgrave
 - Town of Port Hawkesbury



Accounting Software

- Thistle Software
 - 6 of the 9 municipalities used Thistle
 - Older system
 - One man operation
- Management Letters
 - Several management letters noting significant risk to supporting AS400 financial applications
- Need for immediate solution



Province and 9 Municipalities

- AMA Regional Meeting identified need
- Municipal Advisor took to province on shared service potential for funding of \$200,000
- Municipality of Antigonish agreed to co-ordinate
- Inter-municipal Agreement
 - Registry of Joint Stocks
 - Board comprised of Administrators
- RFP for Project Manager
 - Needs analysis
 - RFP's for software and server host



Diamond Software

- Major savings, less than \$1 million for 9 units
- Separately \$350,000 to \$400,000
- Alignment of practices and services
- Continuous training
- Continuous peer support
- Outstanding Innovation Award from Diamond



ABM Integrated Services

- In the Cloud data storage
- Access municipal accounts from anywhere
- Cost savings and security



Diamond Features

- All municipal financial services
 - Accounts payable
 - Property tax
 - Utility billing
 - Cash receipts
 - Interface with payroll
- E-billing
- Utility bills with interface with hand held meter readers
- User friendly, easy to use



Biggest Advantages

- Work on this project has developed close working relationship between 9 municipal finance departments
- Monthly meetings
- Sharing of ideas and taking full advantage of the power of the Diamond Program
- Storage on the cloud allows staff to work from anywhere



Next Steps

- Records Management
 - Electronic Records Management
 - On the Cloud
 - One contract
 - One machine
- Other shared services?
 - Discussions continue



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

They fought like seven hundred



STEVE MCQUEEN

JAMES COBURN
"BRITT"

HORST BUCHHOLZ
"CHICO"

YUL BRYNNER
"CHRIS ADAMS"

BRAD DEXTER
"HARRY LUCK"

ROBERT VAUGHN
"LEE"

CHARLES BRONSON
"BERNARDO O'REILLY"