

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday June 9th, 2020
Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Guy Surette; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Richard Donaldson, Calvin d'Entremont, Nicole Albright, Roderick Murphy Jr Lucien Leblanc, and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise and Clerk/Recorder Lori Murphy.

Regrets: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:33p.m. by Warden Danny Muise

Agenda:

On a motion by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc the agenda was approved with addition 5d-speed limit reduction sign letter to TIR in Eel Brook and 7F-financial request community grant Mt Pleasant Cemetery.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Danny Muise asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared

Presentations

None

Adoption of Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2020

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that the May 26, 2020 minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Special Council Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2020

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that the May 28, 2020 minutes of the Special Council Meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

None

For Decision

Temporary borrowing resolution

CAO Muise explained that this relates to the temporary borrowing resolution that we are required to fill in for the Province of NS for them to lend us the low interest loan. This has been negotiated as a group of municipalities to offset any sort of unanticipated delays in tax payments.

First step was to pass the policy which was done at previous meeting. The policy and program will be promoted as early as this week. There is an application process. Some businesses were forced to close, and others were significantly impacted by COVID. Some were able to access funds through other forms of supports. We want to make sure we borrow enough money to support our operations.

Looking at resolution to borrow 1.64M and it is an operating loan for 36 months but can pay quicker if our projections are off. Interest rate is 1.1%. This borrowing will have no impact on capital borrowing that we are already committed to.

WHEREAS the Municipal Finance Corporation is offering a temporary short-term operating loan to clients who are experiencing cash flow challenges for the 2020-21 fiscal year due to the impact of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS in accordance with the policy of the Municipal Finance Corporation, the Council of The Municipality of the District of Argyle has deemed it necessary and expedient to seek approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to take part in this short-term operating loan program offered by the Municipal Finance Corporation; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 84 of the Municipal Government Act, a Municipality may borrow to cover the annual current expenditures to an amount not to exceed fifty per cent of the combined total of the taxes levied by the Municipality for the previous year and the amounts to be received by the provincial and federal governments; and

WHEREAS the summary amounts and descriptions of the cash flow impact of COVID-19 on the Municipality are contained in Schedules 'A' and 'B' (attached) to support analysis by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Municipality shall provide officials from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing with reports and information deemed necessary to support this request;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Council of The Municipality of the District of Argyle borrow a sum or sums not exceeding One million, six hundred and forty thousand Dollars (\$1,640,000 Dollars) for the purpose set out above; and,

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Thirty-Six (36) Months from the date of withdrawal from the Municipal Finance Corporation; and,

THAT the borrowing will be under the terms and conditions of the agreement as determined by The Municipal Finance Corporation.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Richard Donaldson to accept the resolution as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Grants to Organization – Round one

Council reviewed the list of organizations which applied to the Grants to Organizations program. CAO Muise explained the staff recommendations as it relates to the festivals because it is uncertain if they will go ahead.

Council must be clear on which ones to fund now and which groups council wants to re-visit. Some festivals already have accrued expenses. Staff to check with festivals which may have already accrued costs. Council will revisit the festival requests.

Staff will need to keep track of which festivals received funds and festival didn't happen. Council is reminded that this wave of approvals is the first, and that other applications will be considered in the future, as the deadline has been extended to September 15, 2020

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve the Grants to organizations staff recommendations and staff look at festivals to determine if they have incurred costs.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

East Side Community Centre-Community Hall Grant

CAO Muise explained that this was the only applicant and all halls have been contacted. If any other applications are received, we can defer that request until the new year, or consider the request if funds allow it.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that the Community Hall Grant Application for \$10,000 for the East Side Community Centre be approved.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Speed limit reduction sign in Eel Brook

Warden Muise explained the request and the concerns of the resident. Councillor LeBlanc would like to know how the community feels about this before he approves this request. Council would like to have a petition brought forward before a decision is made.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council approve a letter to TIR to request a reduction in speed to 50km/hr in Eel Brook

Motion to table the motion by Lucien Leblanc and seconded by Guy Surette to a future date.

(9 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Unightly Garbage Bins

Councilor LeBlanc spoke about the wooden garbage bins and residents' concerns over the unsightliness of waste bins in the area. Would like to have them moved back off the roadway for safety reasons. Will gather more information and bring to next meeting.

No motion required

YMCA

No action, for information.

Council and CAO have been receiving numerous letters and emails regarding closure of YMCA.

Press release was issued stating that Municipality of Argyle would support any engagement that involves federal and provincial governments. CAO Muise has not been in contact with Provincial government regarding the status of the YMCA.

Council would like support from all three municipalities and the group of 9 would be adequate to represent the municipalities.

CAO Muise spoke about what the Town of Yarmouth is doing as the lead. They are doing a lot of work at political and administrative level and we are communicating more regularly.

Financial Requests

Community grant request \$500- Pubnico light monument society

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to provide a \$500 community grant to the Pubnico light monument society

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Community grant request \$500 - Lower Argyle Harbour View Cemetery

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to provide a \$500 community grant to the Lower Argyle Harbour View Cemetery

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Community grant request \$500 – Glenwood Hall

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to provide a \$500 community grant to the Glenwood Hall

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Community grant request \$500 - Green Grove Rd Cemetery

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to the Green Grove Rd. Cemetery

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Community grant request \$500 – Memorial Park

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to provide a \$500 community grant to the Memorial Park

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Community grant request \$500 – Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None

Question Period

Question regarding makeshift boat shop on Surette’s Island in residential area. Complaints about noise and smells. This issue has been brought to Public Works. CAO Muise ensures Council that staff will find out details of this complaint. CAO Muise will follow up with Deputy Warden Surette.

Councillor Bourque would like to thank residents of French lake who went to clean up the landing. A No Dumping sign will be posted in the area.

In Camera

None

There being no further business, it is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:51p.m.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____