

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Tuesday April 27th, 2021

Via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Guy Surette, Calvin d'Entremont, Gordon Boudreau, Richard Donaldson, Ted Saulnier and Kathy Bourque, Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, and Municipal Clerk/Recorder Eilidh Canning.

Regrets:

The meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m. by Warden Danny Muise.

Agenda:

On a motion by Calvin D'Entremont and seconded by Nicole Albright the agenda was approved as circulated.

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.

Presentation

Rob Stephenson - BusinessNOW lead, WREN

Rob briefly discussed the role of the WREN, and the different sectors within the WREN, including the BusinessNow sector. BusinessNOW is about helping our businesses, keeping and creating jobs and economic development in our region. Rob then discussed the Continuous Improvement / Lean Manufacturing initiative BusinessNow is facilitating which analyzes a company's internal processes and recommends changes. This initiative also creates a mindset trained into the management team and that continues and grows in the company long after the consultant finishes. This program is offered by the WREN via the Virtual Advisor Program in association with the BoomerPlus Organization. The Virtual Advisor Program consists of 4-6 calls between the advisor and the business owner over a span of 2-3 months. This program is free and the advisor is selected to match on the most pressing issue for the business. Rob then advised Council to reach out to him if there are any businesses within the Municipality of Argyle that may be interested in this program.

Presentation attached (042701)

Adoption of Minutes

141st Annual Council Meeting – April 13, 2021

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Nicole Albright that the April 13, 2021 minutes of the 141st Annual Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Eel Brook Volunteer Fire Department Fire Station

Warden Danny Muise reviewed the letter attached to the agenda and discussed with council the funding concerns the Eel Brook Fire Department raised in their letter. He also discussed this letter is here for information, with no action required.

Deputy Warden Albright then advised Council that the Eel Brook Department now has to go back to their architects to redesign their new fire station due to not being able to afford their current design and having exhausted all funding avenues.

CAO Muise then advised Council that there may be newly announced federal funds available, one being the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund. He also advised that the applications are listed as first come, first serve. He then advised that the Municipality, as a whole, is looking into all Municipal buildings to get applications in for any shovel ready project. CAO Muise also advised Council that staff will advise the team responsible for the Eel Brook Fire Department of these new funding opportunities.

Attachment 042702

Financial Statements

CAO Muise reviewed the March 31, 2021 financial statements attached to the agenda. He then advised Council of two important statement points which are:

- Deed transfer tax revenue up \$156,000 from the budget
- Expenditures better then expected

CAO Muise than advised council to review the last page of the attached financial statements, where they will see a capital reserve transfer of \$175k plus the \$135k. This is almost due entirely to the deed transfer tax increase. CAO Muise is proposing a one-time transfer towards the capital reserve.

CAO requested a motion to transfer an additional \$175k into the Capital reserve.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque that staff approve the financial statements as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson that staff transfer an additional \$175,000 from operating into the Capital Reserve.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 042703

Grant Allocation and Approvals

2021 Spring Grants to Organizations

Warden Danny Muise told council they were to stay under \$52,500 for the Grants to Organizations spring allocation. Based upon the applications that were received, Council did stay under this number.

Deputy Warden Albright advised that Ground Search and Rescue will be funded via a funding stream outside the Grants to Organizations which is why it doesn't show an amount on the attached document.

CAO Muise then discussed for Festivals and Activities, and due to Covid, that Council can approve an amount but on an administrative side, staff will not pay out until they have confirmation that the festival and / or activity has occurred. CAO Muise suggests a conditional approval of funding based upon the confirmation of the activity and / or festival occurring prior to paying out any approved funds.

Councillor Richard Donaldson asked if we fund cemeteries via the Grants to Organizations policy. CAO Muise advised that under our current policy, the Municipality cannot fund cemeteries if they are part of a church. Councillor Saulnier advised that the Plymouth Cemetery Co is nondenominational, and he checked with staff as well prior to advising Plymouth Cemetery Co to apply. CAO Muise then advised that we also have the District Community Grant funds available for cemeteries that are a part of a church, so they do have funding available if needed.

Councillor Diggon suggested staff review the existing policy and possibly amend to reflect cemeteries that are not a part of a church to be able to apply for Grants to Organizations.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette that Council approve the 2021 Spring Grants to Organizations, as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council increase the budget to \$20,000 for the Community Halls.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Glenn Diggon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the \$3,000 funding request for Federation culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Ecosse.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 042704

For Decision and discussion

Grant to Organizations policy - Notice to Council of changes in policy

Warden Muise advised that this is the first reading, so therefore no decision is to be made tonight. CAO Muise then suggested we table this policy in order to reflect proposed changes surrounding cemetery funding discussed during the Grants to Organizations approval earlier on the agenda.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council table the Grants to Organizations policy until proposed changes are made regarding what funding cemeteries can apply for.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Destruction of Documents – MODA Records Disposal 2021

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Ted Saulnier that Council destroy documents as outlined on Destruction of Documents affidavit attached to this agenda.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 042705

Mariners Center – Letter of Concern

Warden Muise reviewed the survey attached to this meeting's agenda. In short, the survey that was done by the Municipality of Yarmouth (MODY) regarding the Mariner Center was done without the Municipality of Argyle's (MODA) knowledge. Deputy Warden Albright then advised that she is the chair on one of the Mariner Center committees, and she was not aware of any survey going out to residents of the MODA. She also advised that the Town of Yarmouth had no input or knowledge of this survey either. She also mentioned that this survey sets our Municipality back with regards to trusting neighbouring municipalities and working along side those municipalities.

Councillors Surette and Bourque advised of their displeasure with the letter, and how they agree with Deputy Warden Albright with regards to now having a lack of trust with the MODY due to this survey.

Councillor Saulnier then asked CAO Muise that since MODA is partners with MODY and this survey was sent to our residents, would we not receive a bill from MODY for this survey? CAO Muise advised that this was a unilateral decision by MODY so the MODA will not be receiving a bill for this survey.

Councillor Diggdon then stated we cannot change the past, we can only learn from it. Trust and communication is going to be the main pillars as well as public engagement for the Mariner Center project, among others, and this is the biggest project that these three municipal units will work on. He hopes that all three units are able to come together as a team. He advised that he believes we have to move on from this survey, get the trust back and improve communication to improve the Mariners Center project as a whole.

Councillor d'Entremont also stressed the need to move on from this survey but is also in agreement with staff writing a letter to the Municipality of Yarmouth regarding MODA's displeasure with the letter and also requested to remove all information received from the residents of MODA.

Warden Muise then stated that he is also disappointed that this survey went out without the knowledge of the MODA. He believes the survey was tailored more towards the bridge facility, as opposed to the expansion project, in his opinion.

CAO Muise then advised that there isn't any conversations with funders that the opening of 275 Main Street will delay the Mariners Center expansion project. The Expansion is not a tomorrow project, it is a 5 year away project, in all likelihood. This is a \$30-\$35 million dollar project and therefore will take time to ensure it is done right.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that staff draft a letter to MODY to express our dissatisfaction about the survey that went out to MODA residents without the knowledge of the Council or staff of MODA.
Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Letter from Resident regarding Bill 4 – Biodiversity Act Legislature

No action, for information.

Insurance – Fire Chiefs

No action, for information.

Socioeconomic and Demographic Profiles – Argyle Community Profile

Council reviewed the attached document and requested Staff make this document available to the public via the Municipality's Facebook page as well as the Municipality's newsletter.

CAO Muise agreed with this recommendation.

Attachment 042705

Summer student employment opportunities – Argyle Courthouse

No action, for information.

Municipality of Barrington – Letter regarding proposed amendments Re: Lobster Storage Facility and Proposed Development Agreement – Duramax Holdings Inc.

No action, for information.

Notice of Approval – Land Use By-Law Amendment to enable a Micro Cannabis Production Facility – March 30, 2021

No action, for information.

Home Warming Application NS Power March 2021

No action, for information.

Financial Requests

None.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Community Wells - CAO Muise advised that he has a meeting this week regarding community wells. In order to do this, it comes at a considerably higher cost than originally anticipated. REMO recommends not buying drinking water to everyone and only to those truly in need. This discussion will be a part of budget deliberations, occurring May 6, 2021.

Question Period

None.

In Camera - Personnel

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette recess the Annual Council Meeting and go In-Camera at 8:43PM.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Recorder
Eilidh Canning

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____